

Japanese kids savor first taste of U.S.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

In a month, some Japanese exchange students are getting acclimated to a Big Mac and fries, apple pie and the difference between ones and fives.

They're learning about America, Farmington-style.

Some 17 students are living with area families while taking a month-long intensive language and culture program at Farmington Community School. They're here until Aug. 28.

Then it's on to different settings as they become exchange students for the upcoming school year. Some are going to Texas, Florida, Indiana and even Canada. The program is designed to ease them into the swing of things.

"This is kind of to take the culture shock away," said Sharon Kelly, who is coordinator of the program, sponsored by American Scandinavian Student Exchange.

Students gain practical advice on such things as opening a bank account, exchanging money and which way to look when crossing the street. (In Japan, people drive on the left side of the road.)

English, obviously, is a major emphasis. Kelly said the students have a good grasp of the vocabulary and grammar.

"We have to fine tune their listening skills, though," Kelly said. "In Japan, they only hear Japanese students speaking English."

The students are also absorbing a good deal about their surroundings.

Kelly said they spent time learning about Michigan flowers and even made Verno's floats. There have been field trips to Greenfield Village, the Detroit Institute of Arts and Ebbets.

Students visited 47th District Court Monday and later had attorney David Trombley explain the judicial system.

Immersion into American culture wouldn't be complete, though, without putt-putt golf

'This is kind of to take the culture shock away . . . We have to fine tune their listening skills, though. In Japan, they only hear Japanese students speaking English.'

Sharon Kelly
program coordinator
Scandinavian
Student Exchange

outings, bowling and trips to the grocery store.

Those come courtesy of host families, who gush about their teenage Japanese visitors. Most are staying in the Farmington area, though some are lodging with families in Novi and Livonia.

Kelly put ads in the newspapers and church bulletins in search for hosts. The response was overwhelming.

Shiho Miyahara, who turns 16 in a few weeks, is staying with Robin and Bill Ray, the owners of Ray's Interiors.

They're teaching Miyahara how to play tennis; She's teaching them about Japanese people.

"They're brought up with better values," Robin said. "They have a lot of respect for older people. . . . She's very considerate."

Lynn Phenev of Farmington Hills said hosting Michio Ozawa has been wonderful. "She's a delight," Lynn said.

Phenev said one concern was what to feed her. Ozawa, though, likes chicken and pasta as well.

Kelly said in many ways the visitors are like typical teenagers. Some like classical music; some like rock 'n' roll.

"I haven't found too many who like country music," Kelly said. "We'll have to work on that."



Listen up: Above, Naomi Sato, a 16-year-old Japanese student, listens intently to a speaker. At right, attorney David Trombley addresses Japanese students at the Farmington Community School.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIKO

Hills designs additional engineering position

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

"An especially busy construction schedule this year, and more revenue from building and engineering fees, made it easy for the Farmington Hills City Council to hire a new civil engineer.

"We've had a backlog of small projects for seven or eight weeks now," said city manager Bill Costick. "These are the types of things that are labor-intensive as far as the engineering is concerned."

Costick said the city had eliminated one of its engineering positions three years ago during tough economic times. But with an unexpected increase in building and engineering fees of more than \$70,000, the city will be able to pay for the new position without any additions to the budget. Costick said the new engineer would work on the \$12-million Kendallwood drain project next year if he was not needed on smaller projects.

The council voted 5-0 to hire the new engineer, with council members Joanne Smith and Aldo Vagozzi absent.

'We've had a backlog of small projects for seven or eight weeks now. These are the types of things that are labor-intensive as far as the engineering is concerned.'

Bill Costick
city manager
Farmington Hills

Costick said city engineer Skip Otwell had already interviewed and selected a replacement for Greg McCaffery, who accepted a position as director of public services in Wilcom. Another candidate from that selection process will be offered the new position.

"We thought that would save going through the whole process twice," Costick said.

In other business, the council:
■ Heard a report on paving of Farmington Road between the entrance to Oakland Community College south of I-696 and Raphael Street across from Heritage Park, and on construction of an eight-foot safety path from I-696 to Heritage Park on Farmington Road.

The road project began Tuesday with underground utility work. Pavement will be milled between Aug. 30 and Sept. 2.

"That would be a time residents should consider an alternate route," said city engineer Skip Otwell.

That project should be complete by Sept. 20.

Bids for the safety path will be opened early next month, and the project is scheduled for completion by Oct. 1.

■ Heard a report from Mayor Nancy Bates on progress of the Unmet Family Needs Committee and voted to send Bates to a national conference on families Sept. 17-19 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Matt Brady's plans party with the real live Bunch

Matt Brady's Tavern on 10 Mile in Farmington Hills is joining the Brady Bunch.

The establishment will host a party 5-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, to celebrate the play "The

Real Live Brady Bunch," which is playing at the Strand Theater in Pontiac.

Cast members of "The Real Live Brady Bunch" and winners of tickets to the play will attend.

Radio station WNIC has been giving away tickets to the play. The winners, along with Jim Harper of WNIC, will kick off the evening with dinner at Matt Brady's Tavern.

THEY'RE OFF AND RUNNING — TO OUR GREAT POST LIGHT SALE AT YOUR GATE, LAWN, DECK, PATIO, GARDEN AND WALKWAYS, POST LIGHTS OFFER SECURITY AND A PLEASANT DECORATIVE EFFECT. ASSORTED STYLES AND SIZES. SOLID BRASS OR DIE-CAST METAL IN VARIOUS FINISHES. FLUORESCENT, HIGH-PRESSURE SODIUM OR MERCURY VAPOR LIGHTS. 7-FT. STEEL POSTS, EITHER CROSS-ARM OR WITH CONVENIENT WEATHERPROOF OUTLET ON POST. EASY TO INSTALL. (BROSE STOCKS UNDERGROUND WIRE, PHOTO CELLS, TIMERS.)

10% OFF
our already 40% - 50% discounted prices

POST TIME!

... AND THE WINNER IS...
YOU!

SALE LASTS 10 DAYS ONLY!

Lighting Fixtures For Every Decor • Wiring Supplies And Light Bulbs

BROSE ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.

37400 W. 7 MILE ROAD
LIVONIA, MI 48152 • (313) 464-2211

MON. - TUES. WED. SAT. 9:30A-5P
THURS. FR. 8:30A-5P