

## Overeating explored

More than 260 years ago, Benjamin Franklin put food into perspective. "Eat to live, and not live to eat," Franklin said. But even the famous Philadelphia of portly proportion would have agreed that it's often easier said than done. After all, everyone overeats some time.

This month Botaford's Health Development Network will sponsor a talk on "Why We Eat Too Much." The talk explores ways to control of

appetite as well as waistline. Presented by eating disorders expert Amy Pershing, the session discusses why — without discovering what psychologically triggers the desire to overeat — the seduction of food can be far more powerful than any diet program. The programs will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, at HDN at 39760 Grand River in Novi. The cost is \$6 and pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call (248) 477-6109.

## Election from page A1

to 8 p.m. Absentee ballots — an indicator of voter turnout — are down from last year's election, which also included an Oakland Community College trustee race. "I have no idea why (more people don't vote)," said Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for Finance. "People go on vacation, I guess."

"You have to have it on that date (second Monday in June) by law. So, we can't move it."

Board of education trustees are equally perplexed. Voters don't show up unless it's a presidential election or a tax issue.

But even a money question isn't a guarantee people will vote in droves. Only 12 percent of registered voters took part in the district's \$110 million bond request in March. The measure was defeated by 195 votes.

"Democracy gives the opportunity for participation, but doesn't require it," Trustee R. Jack Inch said. "Those people who are interested enough come out to vote and those who don't have a deep interest in things don't."

Inch likens it to companies where the shareholders receive proxy cards. They either vote with the trustees or don't return their cards at all.

"I'm willing to bet the return on proxies is about the same as the return on votes," Inch said.

Politically, school board elections are tepid affairs. In terms of a political springboard, non-partisan school boards tend to have the elasticity of a sumo wrestler's boxer shorts.

Nonetheless, a trustee's responsibilities carry a lot of weight.

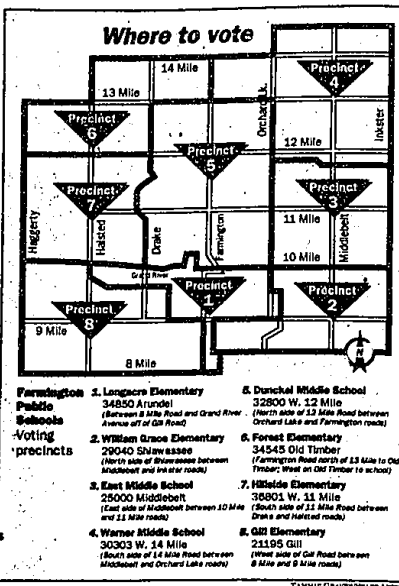
"Not only do Farmington trustees oversee a \$116 million operating budget, they set the educational agenda, which is a hot topic of debate in national circles."

"As a political science student, I see it as a trend not only in school elections but municipal ones in general," said Trustee Cathy Webb, who is working on her degree at Eastern Michigan University. "It's a national epidemic that needs to be addressed."

Webb and other board members don't favor moving school race to November when there are general elections. The main reason is partisan politics.

"I don't think changing it to the general election would do anything," Inch said. "Because what would happen is it would be on the bottom of the ballot and people wouldn't go for it."

"(Also), it would tie it in with the partisanship and I think it gets close enough as it is to partisanship in some school boards."



## AGENDAS

**Farmington Hills City Council**  
City Hall, 474-6115  
Regular meeting  
Council chambers

7:30 p.m. Monday, June 9, 1997

Agenda items include:

■ Presentation on the American Cancer Society "Discovery

Shop" and upcoming Relay for Life charity event at Harrison High School on July 18.

■ A public hearing on 1997-98 city budgets including the general fund, major and local street funds, special revenue funds, capital improvement funds, debt service funds and the Farmington Hills Ice Arena enterprise fund, and the establishment of the fiscal year 1997-98 property tax rate.

■ Consideration of entering into a consent judgment between the city and Oakwood Hills LLC (the Power Road development).

■ Consideration of approval of the water supply system rates

for 1997-98.

■ Consideration of approval of 1997-98 sewage disposal rates.

■ Consideration of making the Commission on Children, Youth and Family a joint commission with the City of Farmington.

■ Consideration of adoption of a resolution approving submission of a ballot proposal regarding renewal of the parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Millage.

■ Consideration of adoption of a resolution approving the submission of a ballot proposition to electors regarding the dedication of Woodland Hills Park as a nature park.

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