

Schools strive to make closed lunch palatable

BY TIM SMITH
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Student safety is the primary reason why all three high schools in the Farmington district will go to a closed lunch campus beginning in the 2000-01 school year. But efforts are continuing to make sure the change won't be a bitter pill for students to swallow.

According to an update made Tuesday night to the Farmington Board of Education by the district's closed campus committee, food offerings would be many and varied under the new setup. A possible menu featuring Taco Bell, fruit smoothies and submarine sandwiches could be augmented by field trips and other lunchtime activities to allow for what the committee promises will be a "pleasant experience for students."

Mary Rodriguez, appointed Tuesday to replace the soon-to-retire Debra Lar-

son as the district's food services supervisor, also reported that the addition of several service lines at each high school is expected to increase efficiency.

The committee is made up of high school students, parents and district staff members. One of the students, Alex Duncan of Farmington High School, took part in the presentation to board members at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center.

Duncan said students still hold a wide range of opinions about losing the privilege to leave campus and drive to nearby restaurants for lunch.

Mostly opposed, he said, are juniors, who next year will be the first senior class so restricted.

"But people are starting to accept that this is the way it is," said Superintendent Bob Maxfield. "This is the way it has to be."

According to Maxfield, the committee

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did consider a so-called senior privilege.

"But there was a feeling that, if truly what we're concerned about is student safety, kids rushing around, then who are the largest number of drivers? Seniors," Maxfield said. "It had to start somewhere."

The report updated the board on several issues discussed at a previous meeting.

Architectural plans and drawings were revised to "increase speed and efficiency of service in the kitchen and serving areas," stated a memo from Jim Myers, executive director for K-12 school and student services.

Cafeterias will feature seating patterns to "comfortably accommodate" as many students per lunch period as possible. There will be three lunch periods per day, necessitating a split lunch for some classes.

During lunch, teachers will help monitor and assist with supervision of the cafeteria and hallways, to provide for a better flow of students through the lines.

With the onset of block scheduling, as of next year at all three high schools, the committee is looking at how to avoid a split lunch period.

Options include shortening classes and adding time to the lunch period or

adding a designated lunch period that would meet every day.

In the report, it was estimated that salaries for lunch supervisors under the closed campus plan would total about \$81,000 per year. That would include Farmington, Harrison and North high schools.

One-time expenses include: Cafeteria tables, \$60,000; walk-in coolers, \$8,000; picnic tables, \$7,000; and hall benches, \$5,700. It was not yet determined how much it would cost the district to pay for architectural changes.

In conjunction with the closed campus committee, a Nutritional Advisory Panel was established, with students, administrators and nutrition services staff participating.

Myers' memo said the panel is studying food selections and ensuring those items meet state-mandated nutritional guidelines. Ethnic food days, lunch activities and cafeteria ambience also are being discussed.

Reunion from page A1

Meanwhile, Rochon said Farmington's Kern was one of the hardest guys to find, inexplicable given the proximity of their Michigan homes.

Rochon, working to find the LCIG-450 crew from a master list supplied by Captain Brady, sent a letter to the Detroit address for Kern's parents. The reply stated that the family had since moved to Ohio.

He drove down to the address, rapped on the door, and found the Kerns moved to Pennsylvania. But no forwarding address existed. Rochon went to a library to find one. He couldn't find any kind of listing for George Kern.

"I was at work one day, sitting at my desk, and ... just for the hell of it I picked up a phone book and started looking for George Kern," Rochon explained. "And there he is in the damn phone book. He never left Michigan."

But Rochon still had work to do. He called Kern and asked him if he was in the LCIG-450 during World War II. Kern answered that he didn't know the person speaking on the other end of the phone.

Finally, Rochon asked Kern if he was at Two Jims on Feb. 17, 1945. "He (Kern) says 'yeah.' Then he said he'd meet me at a (Farmington-area) church yard."

Back at the Holiday Inn Sunspire, the fun-loving, irreverent bunch made light of a cramped parking situation, which was made even worse by road construction in front of the hotel.

Half-jokingly, Kern pointed at three people and yelled "You, you and you, go pick up one of those orange construction cones and bring them here" to block off a space or two.

They just laughed off the order, not wanting to invite trouble from local police.

Then, two wives took a small table and carried it to one of the few remaining empty spaces - to "reserve" it for one of the cars late in arriving back from the jazz party.

Perfect nightcap

On Saturday evening, the reunion-goers made a drive to the home of John and Cathy Witt for the culminating event - a backyard barbeque. Cathy Witt, George and Betty's oldest daughter, grew up in Farmington and graduated from Our Lady of Sorrows.

Strolling on a pier behind the Witts' rainforest-esque property, George Kern talked about how he



More kibitzing: At the reunion old buddies Mike Ross (left) and Nick Grosso crack jokes and swap stories.

thought the reunion was going.

"Perfect," Kern said. "Everything has been beautiful."

Well, not all was perfect. "We were arguing up in the meeting today about where we're going to have next year's," he said, leaning against a post and looking down into murky swamp water. "We're waiting for someone to volunteer."

Leadership in organizing the reunions rotates among the members, Kern said.

"Is that a gator out there?" said Kern, changing the subject for a moment.

Thoughts turn to those members of the gunboat who couldn't be there, particularly Captain Brady. "There'll be a toast to Brady, the

captain of the ship," Kern said. "You can toast him with whatever drink you have in your hand."

Back under the tent and by the grill, Kern and his crewmates couldn't help but reflect on past events, some on the sunny side. Ed Goossens said the time on LCIG-450 was 30 months of his life that was taken away. But "it was something I had to do and I was proud to do it. It taught me a lot of values that helped me later on."

Brady's leadership had a lot to do with how well the crew has managed to stick together over the years, Goossens added.

"Some of the toughest spots (during the war) turned out to be humorous after you thought about

it a while," Goossens went on. "But life can't be serious all the time."

One hilarious moment came to mind. Goossens and Rochon told the story about the hollowed out loaf of bread for Christmas of 1945. It was delivered to the ship, complete with red tie around it, and a bottle of Seagrams imbedded inside.

The bread was all moldy, though," said Rochon.

Here's to Wally

The weekend was great. But they agreed it was a little different without their leader, Capt. Wally Brady, who died this summer.

Before digging into their chicken or steak dinners, though, the group wanted to properly honor Brady.



Saluting Captain Wally: Following an emotional speech, Bob Main, who was an officer on the ship, offers a toast to Captain Wally Brady, who died this summer.

Hills residents reassured about storage of salt at Orchard Ridge

BY JONI HUBBARD
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Residents concerned about salt leaching from a storage facility on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus can rest easy, college officials say.

Located in the center of the community, OCC's campus borders Sy and Irene Kernicky's property on Power Road. They and members of the North Power Road Homeowners' Association have been concerned about tons of salt stored in the steel pole barn since early this year.

Sy Kernicky told Farmington Hills City Council members Monday that the building showed signs of corrosion, which could mean salt was leaching into the ground.

"We're all on well water," he said. "There's going to be problems."

Council member Jerry Ellis told him local officials couldn't do much.

"You know what jurisdiction we have over OCC, which is virtually none," he said. "What would you suggest we do?"

Kernicky proposed calling a meeting among the city, residents and college personnel, so that every-

one could have a look at the problem. That meeting may happen, but a college representative said it will be an opportunity to view OCC's solution.

Director of Marketing Dave Adams said Tuesday the building was recently redone as part of the school's ongoing construction and maintenance projects. While the outside shell hasn't changed, renovations have made salt storage safer.

"The last thing we want to do is do any damage to the environment around the college," he said. To prevent contamination, 4-foot-high concrete walls, reinforced with steel and treated with a neoprene sealant, now enclose the salt. They are a foot thick and topped with metal flashing to ensure nothing can get behind them.

"The only way any salt can get in or out of the building is through the front door," Adams said. "We've essentially sealed the building."

He plans to call Kernicky and said he and any other concerned homeowner is welcome to come and see what changes have been made.

"We'd like to be a good neighbor to him or anyone else around there," Adams said.

Elks Hoop Shoot winners named

The Farmington Elks hold their annual "Hoop Shoot" free throw contest for ages 8-13-year-old girls and boys on Dec. 11. Contestants were those girls and boys who won their school's contests for their respective age groups with over 700 students participating in their schools.

The winners in the contests for girls ages 8-9 were; Ashley Trotsky with runner up Farah Al-Kharsani; ages 10-11 were Karen Ternes with runner up Emily Hunter; and ages 12-13 were, Kristina Klucka among the girl contestants Karen Ternes made the most free throws hitting 18 of 25 shots.

The winners among boys ages 8-9 were; Jeff

Entin with runner up Eric Vincent; ages 10-11 were Bret Flusty with runner up Jake Himes; and, ages 12-13 were; William Riddick with runner up David Barash. Among the boy contestants William Riddick made the most free throws hitting 20 of 25 shots - Jeff Entin had 19 of 25.

The winning boys and girls for their respective age groups will now compete at the next level (district) in a contest to be held in January. Winners at the district level then advance to the statewide contest with winners going to a regional (multi-state) contest and then on to the national contest. Good luck to all of our local winners.

2000 Farmington meeting schedule announced

Following are Farmington City Council dates for 2000. All meetings begin at 8 p.m. at Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street.

Monday, Jan. 3
Tuesday, Jan. 18
Monday, Feb. 7
Monday, Feb. 21

Monday, March 6
Monday, March 20
Monday, April 3
Monday, April 17
Monday, May 1
Monday, May 15
Monday, June 5
Monday, June 19
Monday, July 3
Monday, July 17

Monday, Aug. 7
Monday, Aug. 21
Monday, Sept. 5
Monday, Sept. 19
Monday, Oct. 2
Monday, Oct. 16
Monday, Nov. 6
Monday, Nov. 20
Monday, Dec. 4
Monday, Dec. 18

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