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THE POST

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Harmful substance reduced at lake

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — In the 1980s and early 1990s, algae blooms threatened the lake's health and viability. As chemicals and solids from lawns, roads and stream banks flowed unchecked into the state's largest naturally occurring lake, residents began seeing pungent blooms with regularity.

Eleven years and \$300,000 worth of projects later, the amount of contaminants enter-

ing the water has been dramatically reduced, said Dr. Fred Lubnow, one of the scientists working to correct the problem.

Studies performed in 1993 determined 230 excess pounds of phosphorus were washing into the lake each year, creating an

aquatic environment ideal for algae. Regular blooms brought undesirable odors, pockets of lime green water and for some people, an uncomfortable allergic reaction.

The borough, its Environmental Activities Council and con-

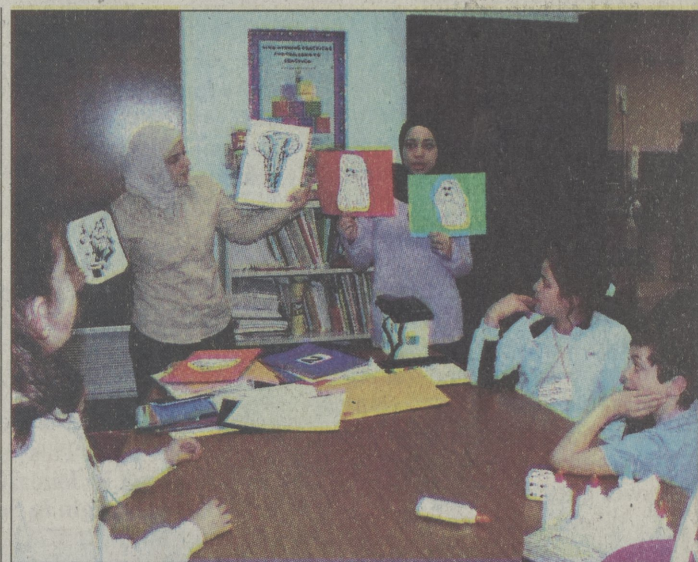
tracted firm Princeton Hydro set to work on solving the problem. Lubnow said last month that as a result of a series of projects begun in 2000, a third fewer pounds of the chemical are entering the water. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of additional projects are in the works.

"Harveys Lake has had some problems in the past. It's getting better, but it's going to take time," said Lubnow.

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"It's getting better, but it's going to take time."

Fred Lubnow
Princeton Hydro



POST PHOTO/ ERIN YOUNGMAN

College Misericordia Sophomore Suzanne Kazimi (left), assisted by Dallas High School student Noreen Sariieh, teaches Arabic to a group of elementary students enrolled in the district's new Foreign Language Academy. From left: Emily Collins, Suzanne Kazimi, teacher; Noreen Sariieh, Tamara Nijmeh, Omar Nijmeh.

Speak Arabic anyone?

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

DALLAS TWP. — Nina Desilva has learned a lot in the two months she has been attending Dallas School District's new Foreign Language Academy. As interested passersby look on, the second grader proudly recites numbers one through 10 in Hebrew.

One of the classroom's visitors is Superintendent Dr. Gilbert Griffiths, who periodically stops in to see how the district's newest afterschool program is coming along.

Desilva's Hebrew teacher, Einat Davidowitz, comments on her students' enthusiasm for learning the language and notes how quickly they are picking it up.

"These girls are such good students," comments the teacher. "They are already learning to pose questions."

As Davidowitz moves from teaching numbers to animals, her own enthusiasm is infectious.

From one room to the next, children of all ages are singing, playing and having a

ball learning Arabic, Spanish, French, Italian and Hebrew from teachers, many of which are native speakers.

The students' families have paid \$100 to enroll them in the new afterschool Foreign Language Academy, the brainchild of high school foreign language chair Candyce Fike.

Fike has many reasons for spearheading the program, from socio-political to economic, to just her sheer love of other languages.

"Children accept different cultures much more readily than adults. We all know when we get them young, their minds are like little sponges," she commented.

Fike has been working to organize such a program for several years. She tried a pilot program of sorts over a summer break and found parents very receptive.

Griffiths said when the program idea was first tossed around three years ago, the issue was, "How can it have consistency?"

"With all of the new state standards coming down, it

See LANGUAGES



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Sure sign of spring

Ted Montross of Dallas gave the old buggy a springlike shine last week, on one of the first days since the year began that the temperature and sunshine made outdoor activities comfortable.

Lake's cottages are becoming rare breed

By ERIN YOUNGMAN Post Staff

HARVEYS LAKE — If Prudential Realtor Bob Cook gave you a boat tour around the lake, he'd likely whisk you past a small white home on Lakeside Drive. At \$239,000, the remodeled cottage is the least expensive waterfront home he has on the market.

"That little white one is a good candidate for teardown," he said. "It has 50 feet of lakefront — because of the way zoning is, you need 50 feet to build a boathouse cabana."

Cook, a real estate agent who specializes in lake properties, said he began to notice a trend about three to four years ago: People buy smaller waterfront cottages, demolish them, replacing them with homes up to twice their size on the site.

"I recently sold one in the \$350,000 range. They tore everything down but the foundation. They're now reconstructing it into a three-story home."

He estimates the lake's older cottages are being replaced at the rate of about one per year.

"The days of the small cottages around the lake are only going to be on the second tier (not the waterfront)," he said.

In addition to complete tear-downs, people increase the size of homes along the water in other ways, Cook said.

Some homeowners wait for their neighbors to sell so they can purchase the property and merge the two. Others reconstruct older, "more stately" homes.

There are a number of properties in the process of being torn down and redesigned, Cook said. Much of the activity is occurring near Point Breeze on the southwest portion of the lake, an area of preferred lakefront.

Along with a doubling of size comes a hefty increase in value, Cook said, estimating that retooled properties will likely fetch twice as much.

Even so, he doesn't believe the trend toward larger homes at Harveys Lake shuts out a class of homeowners that wasn't shut out before.

"People with money have always bought lakefront. Being

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Brownie Girl Scouts Abigail Downs, left, Troop 2610, and Kelsey Monahan, Troop 2615, finished their bracelets while they enjoyed a snack. Those attending were continually shuffled throughout the night to encourage them to meet girls from other troops.

Scouts celebrate Thinking Day

Over 100 Girl Scouts from Service Unit 119 attended the annual Thinking Day celebration recently at Dallas High School. The event commemorates the fact that every Girl Scout is part of a worldwide network of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. Katie Gilligan, Troop 2480, Dallas, organized the event as part of the requirements to earn the Silver

Award, the highest award for Cadette Girl Scouts.

Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts from 15 area troops proceeded through stations where they learned about countries that have Girl Guides; learned a song in French; and were taught how to focus on abilities. Each girl also made a braided Friend-

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Board to review project

By ERIN YOUNGMAN The Post

DALLAS TWP. — The school district's board of directors voted unanimously last week to hire the Gattuso Group L.L.C. to conduct a financial review of the completed middle school renovation project.

Grant Palfey, the district's business manager, said the review will examine all project-related expenditures. Gattuso will be paid up to \$10,000.

After the meeting, Board President David Usavage said the decision was sparked by board members' concerns that the district may have over spent on the renovations.

"We want to make sure if we have overspent, how it happened," he said.

Palfey said the original budget for the project was \$16.8 million. The renovation, which included the addition of a swimming pool, was completed last fall.

Board members Frank Natitus and Usavage said de-

termining where and why the district went over budget will help them prevent making similar mistakes with future projects.

Palfey hopes to have the final costs for the middle school project available at April's meeting.

In other news, members of the administration and board of directors congratulated several members of the high school diving team for finishing in top district spots. Alaric Eby, Whitney Bolton and Sarah Rupert will travel later in the month to the state competition at Pennsylvania State University in University Park. Eby and Bolton were first place district finishers, Rupert placed third and Shannon Dingle, twelfth. The group is coached by Kim Perez.

Ninth grader Alicia Evans was also congratulated by the administration and board for being selected as the First Place winner of the Times Leader Short Story Contest. Evans competed against 75 other entrants from Dallas as well as entrants from several other districts.

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