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Skate tourney for Motown area could be reality



Bill McShane

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington resident Bill McShane wants Detroit to take its rightful place next to the great skating centers of New England and the West Coast by bringing the 1987 World Figure Skating Championships to the Motor City.

"If we could bring the 'worlds' (championships) here, it would show off Detroit as a super place," said McShane, president of the Plymouth Figure Skating Club, the organization behind Detroit's latest bid for hosting the skating greats.

"It would be a big boost to help us promote the sport here."

THE "WORLDS" is the international skating competition that boosted amateur skaters such as Peggy Fleming and Dorothy Hamill into the public eye.

Known in the skating world as "Mr. Detroit" because of his efforts to bring skating events to the city, McShane is armed and ready to convince the United States Figure Skating Association in Colorado that there is no better place to hold the 1987 world championships.

SO ON Sept. 29, McShane, representing the Plymouth skating club, as well as representatives from the Detroit Convention Bureau, Renaissance Detroit, and Olympia Arenas Inc. will make their formal bid presentation before the 54-member skating association's board of directors. The Detroit City Council already has given its nod of approval to host the 1987 skating event.

"Our job now is trying to convince the skating association to bring the championships to Detroit," McShane said about the professional entourage of promoters that will accompany him on his crusade.

"We wanted to get this professional entourage involved in it," McShane said. "It's bigger than an amateur group can handle."

THE BID package, now on its way to the board of directors in Colorado, includes information about attendance of past events at the riverfront arenas, transportation, lodging at the Westin and Pontchartrain hotels, food, security and even facts about the medical lab that would be set up to test the athletes for drug use.

The world skating championship would draw about 150 young people from the Soviet Union, Japan, Britain, the United States and other countries to compete for the title of world champion figure skater.

"The entourage is about 600 people that just make up the competitive block," McShane said. This includes the coaches, chaperones and trainers who will accompany the 14- to 24-year-old athletes.

THE 10-DAY skating event attracts an enormous viewing audience and is the third largest advertising money maker in television, McShane said.

ABC holds the current contract for covering the skating event, and will have Peggy Fleming and Chris Schenkel as commentators.

"It has great appeal," said McShane. The athletes who will be competing in the world championships, McShane said, are the cream of the crop in the skating world, with many moving on to the Olympics.

THE THING to remember about amateur figure skating and Detroit's bid for the world championships is that it is a sport of wealth and integrity, very similar to polo, McShane said.

Great care is taken, wherever the event is held, to "take care of creature comforts," he added. "By and large, these people have money."

So although the skating association turned down McShane's bids to bring the 1979 and 1985 national skating championships to Detroit, he is convinced the city has a very good chance of outbidding Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Hartford, Lake Placid and San Diego — Detroit's competition for the 1987 world skating event.

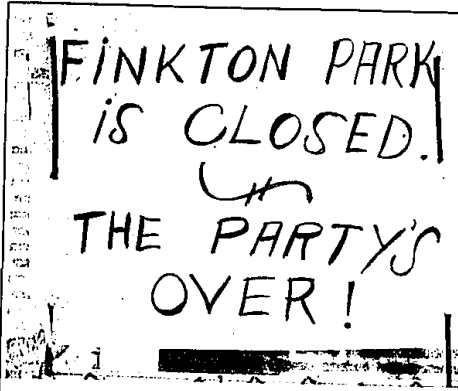
"ALL OF these (competing cities) have hosted a national championship," said the skating enthusiast. "We've never hosted one (a national or world skating event). That could work good or that could work bad."

When the skating association turned down Detroit's bid for the 1983 national championships, McShane said, the board of directors nonetheless called Detroit unique because of having both the Joe Louis and Cobo Hall skating arenas.

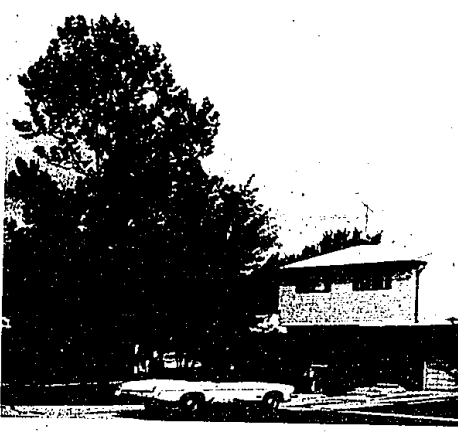
"Well, they went crazy over it and said this is where we should hold the 'worlds,'" McShane said.

Detroit's problem in bidding for the 1985 national competition, McShane said, was "that we kind of scared the

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A sign of warning and an attempt to end a longstanding neighborhood battle was erected Friday in the Westlake subdivision.



This intersection at Fink and Stockton in the Westlake subdivision has been the scene of some unpleasant confrontations between neighbors.

Friction eased as neighbors meet with cops

By Steve Barnaby and Joanne Maliszewski staff writers

"Finkton Park is closed — the party's over." That sign posted at 30312 Fink expresses the hopes of most of the residents in the Westlake subdivision.

For four years the area has been plagued by rowdy parties featuring alcohol and drug use as well as physical abuse.

After a brawl between residents and partygoers on Aug. 19, about 15 residents demanded and got a conference with Farmington Hills Police Chief John Nichols last Friday.

"It has been a problem for almost a generation," Nichols said, quoting one of the residents' assessment of his neighborhood.

"It's a series of problems with juveniles, young people, with alleged drinking, drugs, raising hell, threatening people, loud parties and traffic problems," Nichols said.

Calling the meeting with residents

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15-year loan needed Mile road slated for facelift

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

A \$210,000 state loan will be used to fix 13 Mile Road by winter. The city received approval for the loan under a state program to sell approximately \$100 million worth of transportation bonds to pay for local road improvements.

The loan, which must be repaid over

the next 15 years, will cost the city about \$27,000 a year at 9.65 percent interest, Thomas Blaisell, director of public works, said.

"It is our feeling that the city would use this money to provide some improvements to our road system without having to bond for the improvements ourselves," said Blaisell.

13 Mile between Orchard Lake and just west of Farmington Road, as well as widening of the 13 Mile-Farmington road intersection.

Since the widening of the intersection will help provide more room in North Farmington High School's entrance on 13 Mile, Blaisell said, the Farmington School District has agreed to pay \$12,000, half the cost of improvements to the school's entrances.

Construction at the high school will include installing acceleration, deceleration and passing lanes at the western entrance, Blaisell said. That entrance will become an "in" road and the eastern entrance then will become the "out" road, he said.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS, BLAISSELL said, also agreed to put in a flashing

beacon for a crosswalk between the western and eastern entrances.

So students will use the crosswalk, however, the school district requested the city to install a sidewalk along the south side of Thirteen Mile Road, from paths running out of the Kendallwood subdivision.

The proposed 600-foot sidewalk would run along vacant land on the southeast corner of Farmington and Thirteen Mile roads owned by developer Stuart Frankel. The city has tentatively agreed to allow the sidewalk to lie on his property, Blaisell said.

Construction most likely will begin in October, Blaisell said. But some of the work such as installing an asphalt base on Thirteen Mile Road could be done before bids are awarded, he added.

8-state march seeks to quell nuke growth

By Diane Gale staff writer

Tom Sugrue of Farmington Hills walked 1,600 miles this summer to promote peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Sugrue, 21, was one of 12 people who began their trek through eight states beginning in Washington, D.C. Their destination point was Amarillo, Texas, at the Panlex plant, which produces nuclear weapons.

They began the pilgrimage May 22, Pentecost Sunday, which commemorates the day the apostles began actively spreading the word of Jesus Christ.

"The walk was a proclamation of the gospel message of peace, and it wasn't so much of a protest," Sugrue said. "There was more prayer than anything."

cluding priests, a teacher, students and a social worker. Many of the members live in the same house where they pray, do community work and help the poor.

The walk was planned and organized by the Plovanares Pilgrimage, which was initiated in the spring of 1982. Sugrue was instrumental in starting this group.

"The message we're trying to promote is that we as a people of faith believe that the arms race is a spiritual and moral issue that we have to examine," he said.

THE GROUP arrived at the plant on Aug. 4 and began a prayer vigil. They camped out in front of the nuclear production grounds from Aug. 6 — the 38th year since the bombing of Hiroshima — until Aug. 9 — the anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing.

A two hour mass service was cele-

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Tom Sugrue tells of his march to end the threat of nuclear war which took him through eight states.

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