

Cross country skiing makes a hit in the Hills



Ski instructor Carol Fink shows how it's done when a person comes out to the San Marino to try some cross country skiing. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

With heavy snow warnings forecast for the rest of January, residents can either stay under wraps until the spring thaw or vigorously face winter's wrath. Some adventurers are braving their way to the San Marino golf course on Halstead Road in Farmington Hills where the recreation department is sponsoring its second season of cross country skiing.

RECREATION SUPERVISOR DAVE JUSTIS said cross country is nearly surpassing downhill skiing in popularity. "Our program has been very successful," he said. "This is a convenient rental site and you don't have to drive out of town to try it. It's also less expensive than downhill skiing. It's a sport that attracts both young and old, too."

San Marino's 73 rolling acres are covered with a 10-inch base of fresh snow. The ski season opened last weekend, coinciding with the first major snow storm of the year.

"We couldn't open earlier because we didn't have snow. Our phones were ringing constantly. Everyone wanted to know when the season would begin. One man wanted to know why we couldn't use a snow machine."

"Seriously, there has to be at least a five inch base over the course so that it isn't ruined," Justis said. First time skiers are welcome, even encouraged with such offerings as beginners instruction classes (\$3 for adults, \$2 for children) and complete equipment rentals (\$4.50 for adults and \$3 for children under 12). A \$10 deposit is required on all rented equipment.

The cost of ski rental includes use of the facility. For persons with their own ski equipment, the cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Justis said the season will run as long as there is snow on the ground.

Skiers may glide freely across the grounds, there are no set trails.

"BEING OUTSIDE IN winter, out enjoying nature is a beautiful experience," said instructor Carol Fink. "You can hear muffled sounds of the animals and the wind howling through trees, it's very different than summertime."

Fink is one of four instructors. Hour long classes for beginners and intermediates are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m. and weekends at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Special group rates, for ten or more people, are available through the recreation department.

Justis said skiing is also offered at Glen Oaks country club, on Thirteen Mile between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt. The Glen Oaks program is offered in cooperation with the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

"We're planning to hold races and special events there," Justis said.

As part of the Michigan Cross Country Ski Federation, Farmington Hills is in competition with Farmington, Southfield, Troy and Howell. Races are categorized according to experience. There are even races for novices. Races are advertised through the recreation department and registration is required a half hour before the event.

"I tried to get a cross country ski-golf tournament here last year," Justis said. "The participants would use tennis instead of golf balls. But there weren't enough people interested."

While inexperienced downhill racers are subject to serious dangers, Justis says it's smoother sailing for cross country skiers.

"We had one sprained ankle last year. A sprained ankle is about the only injury that can happen, unless you hit a tree."

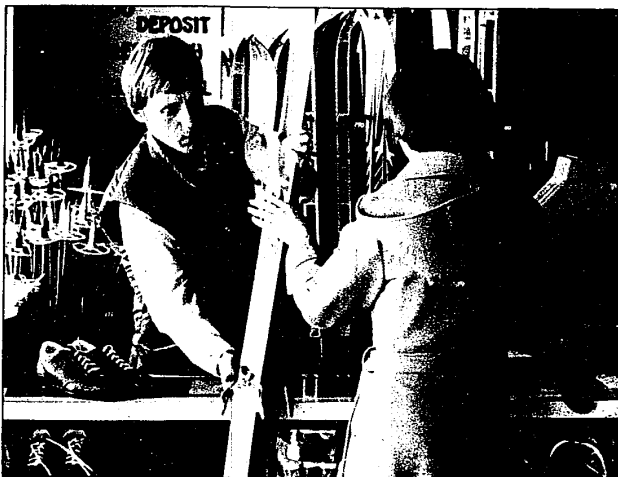
An extra attraction to the season's



May Forberg, of Farmington Hills, changes into her cross country skiing shoes in preparation for the slopes. (Staff photo)

calendar is a moonlight ski tour slated for Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. Justis will lead a pack of hearty skiers over the hills after dark.

For skiing conditions or more information on rentals, lessons or special events, call 474-6115 or 476-5910.



Parks and Recreation employee Dave Justis shows a customer at the San Marino pro shop some of the wares needed to cross country ski. (Staff photo)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

THE THIRD ANNUAL NEW PRODUCTS PARADE sponsored by the Detroit Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute will be conducted on Feb. 13 in the Roma Hall of Livonia, 2777 Schoolcraft. Three technical seminars will be held concurrently from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. The exhibit area will be open from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. There is no charge for the seminars or exhibit but registration for construction industry professionals is recommended.

JOHN GLICK FANS will be interested in knowing that a color film about the Farmington potter will be shown on channel 56 at 10 p.m., Jan. 27. Detroit filmmaker Sue Marx made the film with a grant from the Michigan Foundation for the Arts.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED Citizens will conduct its annual awards dinner on Feb. 25 at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus, Farmington Hills. The purpose of the program is to honor individuals and organizations who have worked to improve programs and services for the mentally retarded citizens in the community. The association is seeking nominations for the awards from the Oakland County area.

Nominations are being accepted in eight areas: volunteer of the year; youth volunteer; between 13 and 21-years-old and Special Olympics volunteer.

Distinguished service to a group or individual; employees of the year; contractor of the year; teacher of the year and the Hugh Graham Inspiration award, to a mentally retarded person will be given at the dinner.

Members of the Oakland County community are encouraged to make nominations. Forms are available for the Association for Retarded Citizens office, 2 690 East Maple, lower level, Birmingham, 48011. For further information, call 646-4522. Nominations should be submitted by Jan. 31.

THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM will help young women put a new face on things at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 25 in the library's Liberty street building. Cynthia Broom, a skin and make-up consultant will be the speaker. She will also demonstrate make-up techniques and answer questions. The free program is for women and girls.

ISRAEL CHAPTER, PIONEER WOMEN will conduct its monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m., Jan. 20 at the Labor Zionist Institute, 28555 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Ms. Aviva Mutchman, executive director of the Greater Labor Zionist Organization and a representative of the World Organization of Jews of Arab countries, will be the guest speaker.

ART CLASSES IN ADULT EDUCATION program at Madonna College in Livonia will begin the week of Jan. 22 and continue for 10 weeks. All classes are non-credit. Registration for the classes will be conducted in the art department, room 192, Jan. 19 from 1 p.m.-2 p.m. and from 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

The following classes will be offered: Lapidary and Jewelry, Mondays, from noon-2 p.m.; Advanced Painting, Tuesdays, from 10 a.m.-noon; Calligraphy, Wednesdays from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.; oil painting, beginners and advanced, Thursdays from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Tuition for each class is \$40 and there is a materials fee for lapidary and jewelry. Oil painting for senior citizens will be offered in two Thursday sessions from 9 a.m.-noon or from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. This class is funded by the Michigan Council for the Arts and is offered at no charge. For information, call Sr. Angeline, 591-1280, extension 8. Madonna is at the corner of Schoolcraft and Levan.

RANDI SANFIELD of Farmington Hills will appear in one of Shakespeare's early romantic comedies, "Two Gentlemen of Verona" which runs for two weekends beginning Jan. 26 at Wayne State University's Bonstelle Theatre. Performances are Friday and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Feb. 4.

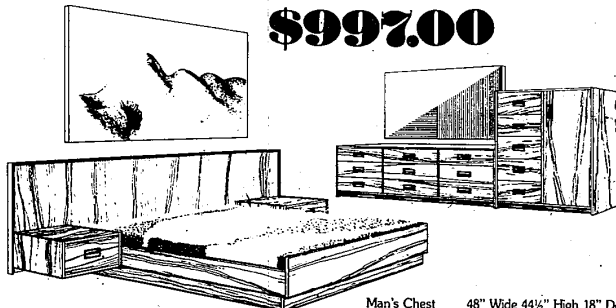
THE OAKLAND COUNTY SPECIAL Olympics will conduct its winter games competition from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Jan. 27, at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston. Events include cross country skiing, figure skating, speed skating, snowball throws, snow sculpturing and sled pulls. About 200 special Olympics will compete in age classifications and divisions consisting of advanced, intermediate and beginner. Volunteers are needed to assist the athletes and serve as instructors and coaches. Spectators are welcome to attend to cheer our athletes on and provide moral support to this group of very special people. If you are interested in volunteering for the winter games or would like to become a part of the Special Olympics program call Nancy Moran, area director of the Oakland County Special Olympics, 646-6220. Special Olympics is a program of year-round sports training and athletic competition designed to stimulate the physical, social and psychological development of mentally handicapped persons.

DEADLINE

Material submitted for Inside Angles, 22170 Nine Mile, Southfield, 48034, should include the name and phone number of the sender and should be typewritten if possible. Items should be received one week before publication. Photographs can't be used. All materials become the property of the Farmington Observer.

inter-continental-interiors
STORE WIDE WINTER SALE
10% TO 40% OFF ENTIRE STOCK
SAVE UP TO 15% ON ALL CUSTOM ORDERS

\$997.00



Man's Chest 48" Wide 44 1/2" High 18" Deep
Triple Dresser 75" Wide 29" High 18" Deep
Queen Size Bed 103" Wide

The bedroom shown represents an outstanding value now in stock at House of Denmark. The bed is queen size and includes attached night-tables, platform and headboard complete. The triple dresser and man's chest feature a multitude of deep drawer space and adjustable shelving. Specially priced during our sale at only \$997.00 for all 3 pieces shown.



house of denmark
893 SOUTH ROCHESTER ROAD • ROCHESTER
TUE. WED. SAT. 10:00-5:30 THUR. FRI. 10:00-9:00
SUN. 12:00-5:00 CLOSED MONDAY 651-9430
INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE AVAILABLE

CALL OR WRITE FOR FREE COLOR BROCHURE