## Warm reception for ice

### Farmington Hills ice arena opens on schedule with free skate

By Bill Courter processing the second secon

y," asid arena Manager Jerry Nelson. Skaters of all levels and siz-es took to the new loc niks at the \$6 million multi-purpose facility at Founders Sports Park on Eight Mile. And with few screptions, the verdict was two thumbs up. "The icc is really hard for this time of year," said Tom Mannino, a Hills resident and hockey enthusiast. Mannino and his 2-year-old son David were smong these who tried the facility on open-ing day.

who tried the facility on open-ing day. Jon Ciprisni, 14, and a stu-dent at St. Paul's School in Farmington Hills spent much of the day at the arens. Cipris-ani, a Farmington resident, said the new arens is better than others in the area. He then returned to his practice with fedanda. with friends.

then returned to his practice "You have to work hard if you want to make it to the NHL," said the enthusiastic hockey player. Staff pro Janet Shafer had son Andrew, 3, on the ice for their first-work raket. The kids and mom agreed that the two-rink arena came just in time. "I love it," said the Hills resident and former competi-tive skater of 14 years. "It's so trying to give ice time to every-"Gaster who will teach new

Shafer, who will teach new

Taking a spill: Power Middle School student Chris Vukonich reacts after falling on the ice. He said it was his first time skating.

skaters as well as accom-plished figure skaters is not concerned about the facility

concerned about the facility making money. "It's such a nice arena and the demand, just in Farming-ton Hills much less in the area, will be enough, "shesaid. Kimberly Cook, a staff mem-ber and accomplished figure sketer said she looks forward to waring several hats at the arena.

to wearing several hats at the errens. "("II be learning to drive the Zamboni (ice surfacing ma-chino)," she said. "I'II be spending a lot of time here." Doe of the more satisfied pa-trons had to be Susan McKen-drick. As a member of the ice erens atuity committee and ice arens advisory committee, the figure skater saw the facility from idea to reality. "To's a real specific facility from idea to reality. "To's a real specific facility from idea to reality. "It's a start as we had planned it," she said. "Hills City Manager Bill Cos-tick said the arena, which was built in less than a year thanks



Ico is nico: Jackie Albin of Farmington Hills helps her 4-ycar-old son Ryan back on the ice with her husband Frank at the just-opened Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

'it's a real good feeling to walk in here and see how it turned out just as we planned it.'

to a new for Farmington Hills-maneged construction sched-ule, was up and running de-spite some heavy rains last month. "It (building schedule) was ambitious, but realistic," Coa-tick said. And Assistant City Manager Dave Call seen went so far as to don a pair of akates and try to keep upright after not skat-ing for 22 years. Officials are hoping other

skaters in the area won't wait quite as long between lacing up the skates. To that end, the arena has several scheduled times for public skating. Lunch skate is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday; open skating is available 1:30-

3 p.m. Ssturday and 3-5 p.m. Sunday; teen sketing is avail-able 2:30-4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and family skating is available 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday and 7-9 p.m. Thursday. The concession stand and

Susan McKendrick

pro shop will be open this week, there will be skate rent-als and a full schedule of adult and youth hockey games along with figure skating and learn with figure skatin to skate programs.

For further information, call the arena office at 473-9577. The arena's ribbon cutting and grand opening are sched-uled for Sept. 29-Oct. 1. There will be free public skating that weekend weekend.



#### More obituaries, 9A

### BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER

When someone was undecided about buying a car, Roger Peck's enthusiasm could often seal the

deal. Mr. Peck died Sept. 5 of conges-tive heart failure in Tolfree Me-morial Hospital in West Branch.

two neart isilite in Toliree Me-morial Hospital in West Branch. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, their two sons and four children, and 10 grandchildren. Mr. Peck owned and operated Roger Peck Chevrolet in Farming-ton Hills. He'd often join the con-versation between a salesperson and a potential customer, sharing his knowledge about automobiles. When he wasn't taiking to cus-tomers and salespeptie, he'd be in chanica. Automobiles were his passion. "He enjoyed every minute of the time he spent as a dealer," said his wife, Carolyn. "He proba-bly would have stayed on forever. He opened Roger Peck Chevro-let in 1967, which became Holiday Chevrolet/DEO st 30250 Grand River Avenue in 1984. He left the business in 1984, but continued selling autos with his son Robert at Bob Peck'a Show and Go In Parmington Hills. Mr. Peck also operated a rental

He's 'Winthrop'

at too.

to that, too," His other roles include "Aladdin," "The Prin-His other Goblins," "Beauty and the Beast"

## **FARMINGTON FOCUS** He's 'Winthrop' Folks involved in "The Music Man" are really tooling their horns about the communitywide pro-duction to be staged at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.Satur-day, Bept. 7:3, in the sudicotium of North Farm-ington High School on 13 Mile Road. The show's player come from many parts of the Farmington area, including Beechview Elementa-ry School. Matthew Britten, a Beechview fifth-ingther, player Winthrop in "The Music Man." It's his fifth role on stage. "Matthew mas thrilled to get the part of Win-throp and has really enjoyed working with the di-rectors, Dean and Sue Cobb, and all the students, and community members appearing in the slow," seld his mother, Namy Brittan. Matthew, now 10, first saw a how at the Mar-rules Thesite in Northwills at age 4 while on a Bield trip with his prachool, his mom said. "When he saw the children performing, he said he wanted to do that, too."

#### "The Princess and the Magic Pea." Dolan's office hours

State Rep. Jan Dolan, whose 37th District in-udes the Farmington area, has announced new

State Rep. Jen Dolen, whose 37th District in-cludes the Farmington area, has announced new office hours: Beginning Sopt, 8, Dolen will meet with constit-uents every second and fourth Friday of the month 1:2 p.m. at the Farmington City Heil, Grand River and Liberty, and 2:30-4 p.m. at the Farmington Hills City Heil, 11 Mils and Orchard Lake roads. Constituents can also phone Dolan's Lansing office at 1-517-573-1703, or write here at P.O. Box 30014, Laning 45005. "Many key issues face state lawmakers whom we return Sept. 12," Dolan said. "Office hours provide an opportunity for me to answer questions and discuss concerns of my constituents." *Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer. Jost 10: Grand River, Farmington 48335, faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer li-terate, the Internet e-mail address is: packy@ocon-line.com.* 





# car business in Fort Lauderdale, Fia, and was president of the De-troit Auto Dealers Association. "He enjoyed that, going to the meetings and talking to the other dealers," his wife said. Mr. Peck always wanted to be a Chevy dealer, Carolyn asid. So, he started out by getting a job with General Motors. He worked as a alse promotion manager for Chevrolet from 1053 to 1067.

Roger D. Peck

When a dealership became available in Farmington Hills, Peek bought 10 acres of land on Grand River. He moved bis fami-ly to Independence Commons was not limited to the ground. The factors of the second of the Alf Force Result work of the Lake Ogenma Vasco align and Mary Peck of Dearborn Heights and Robert and Laurie Pecks settied in nother and Laurie Peck of Farmington Hills. Surviv-ing daughters include: Sharen Oliver of Oxford, Linda and Scott Farley of Rochester Hills, Detra and Steve Brock of Farmington Hills, and Carolyn Beth and John Thele of Rochester Hills. Funcai Lavel Scaren Commu-nity Church of Troy will officiate. Visition 18 4-8 pm. Thure-and come sent to Lighthouse, Box 430425, Pontiac 48334.