



Ice time: Former Detroit Red Wing Alex Delvecchio plays a scrimmage with other hockey old timers at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena Tuesday night. The game is Saturday night when the arena officially opens.

Opening festivities

Ice arena plans grand weekend

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The community response has been better than expected at the new Farmington Hills Ice Arena at Founders Sports Park in Farmington Hills.

The new, \$6 million, two-rink facility will be officially dedicated Friday although it has been in heavy use since Sept. 1.

"The turnout has been especially good, especially for the open skate," said arena Manager Jerry Nelson. "We could use some improvement in the 9-9:30 a.m. adult skate."

Nelson said early morning drop-in hockey has also been well-attended, but said more players would be welcome for the 9 a.m. drop-in session.

"We're trying to get those third shifters who get off work between 7 and 8 in the morning to come in," he said. "And the noon skate has been a little light, although it is building."

With continued exposure, word of mouth and this weekend's events, Nelson said the arena will draw well.

The events include:

- The building dedication ceremony from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday.
- Free open skating for the first 250 skaters who show up from 10-11 a.m. Saturday. Skate rental is \$2.
- Staff tours of the arena from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday.
- Teens are invited to skate from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday.
- A learn-to-skate program introduction by the school of skating professional staff at 12:15 p.m. Saturday.
- Special introductions of the mayor, city council, administration, arena staff, members of the Farmington Hills Arena Advisory Committee, Farmington Hills Hockey Association, and Farmington Hills Figure Skating Club will be conducted at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.
- Complimentary open skating to the first 250 skaters from

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Jerry Nelson
arena manager

12:30-2 p.m. Saturday.

■ A figure skating demonstration from the area's best skaters including senior pair Steven and Danielle Hartzell at 1 p.m. Saturday.

■ A Farmington Hills Youth Hockey demonstration at 3 p.m. Saturday.

■ A Detroit Red Wings Alumni game at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, featuring Red Wing greats Alex Delvecchio, Dennis Hextall, John Osgood, Gary Bergman, Nick Libett, Johnny Wilson and other former NHL stars playing a select team of Farmington Hills "30 Something All Stars" including NHL veterans Robert Picard, Ken Holland, Jim Nill, Art Trottler, Mark Accettura and Walt Dimattia.

Tickets are \$3 and are available at the Special Services Department at 31555 11 Mile Road or the ice arena. The proceeds go to Red Wing Charities.

■ On Sunday, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. there will be an introduction to power skating.

■ At 1:30 p.m. Sunday, the Farmington Hills Hockey Association travel teams will show their skill.

■ Another complimentary open skate will be from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Sunday.

■ There will be another figure skating exhibition Sunday at 4 p.m.

There will be door prizes at the event. For information, call 478-8800.

Today's ribbon caravan promotes drug awareness

BY AILEEN WINGBLAD
STAFF WRITER

A red ribbon caravan of Farmington-area high school students will ride through our streets today, Thursday, Sept. 28, on a special mission: promoting Drug Awareness Month which begins Sunday, Oct. 1.

The students will travel by school bus to the three Farmington public high schools and place giant red ribbons on each school's press box above the football field. The ribbons will be displayed throughout the month to show support for a drug-free community.

And once again, residents are urged to follow suit and "tie one on" — a red ribbon, of course — either on their car antennas or pinned on their lapels to echo that support.

The red ribbon campaign is just one of several activities planned for Drug Awareness Month, sponsored by the anti-drug group Farmington Families In Action (FFIA) and several other local organizations.

This year's theme — "Parents Do Have A Choice" — reminds people that drug education and awareness, FFIA's major thrust, is vital to halt the spread of substance abuse among young people, said FFIA's Betty Nicolay.

And, Nicolay added, parents need to get involved and stay involved in their children's lives.

"The choice really is theirs," she said. "Parents can either sit back, not get involved and not get educated about substance abuse, or they can get some good drug education to help their kids prepare for situations they will face. It's all about prevention, starting

early so kids know how to handle at a snap these actions that result in negative behavior."

The traditional kick-off breakfast for Drug Awareness Month, scheduled for 7:15 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 2, at Glen Oaks Golf Club on 13 Mile Road, will feature speaker Michael "Karp" Karpovich.

The nationally recognized Karpovich is known throughout the community for the GRIP workshop which he brought to Farmington middle schools last spring. GRIP (Generations Responding to Issues and Problems) was deemed a success with students and parents alike, Nicolay said.

"Mr. Karpovich is highly recommended and really understands issues facing young people today," she said. Tickets for the breakfast are available through FFIA for \$12.

Other FFIA events planned throughout the month include: ■ Sixth Grade Night, from 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, for parents of sixth-grade students. Issues like peer pressure and the transition from grade school to middle school will be discussed.

■ Red Tulip Day, Monday, Oct. 10. Students will be planting red tulips, donated by Steinkopf's Nursery in Farmington Hills, around their schools to advocate drug awareness.

■ TWYKAA (Talking With Your Kids About Alcohol), a four-session seminar for parents of pre-teens and teenagers, will be offered at Dunckel Middle School on Monday nights, beginning Oct. 10, or on Thursday mornings at the Farmington Training Center, beginning Oct. 19.

■ Ice Skate Night at the new Farmington Hills Ice Arena from 7-9 p.m. on Oct. 24. Anyone wear-

ing a red ribbon will receive \$1 off admission.

Various fund-raising activities for substance abuse awareness will also be held throughout the month including the popular Celebrity Server Night at Big Boy.

On Wednesday, Oct. 11, local celebrities such as Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer, Judges Fred Harris and Maria Parker, Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci and Farmington School Superintendent Maxfield will be among those serving customers between 6-9 p.m. at the restaurant located on Farmington Road near Eight Mile. All tips and a percentage of the sales will be donated to FFIA.

"Around \$1,000 was raised last year so we hope it's successful again," Nicolay said. "And Celebrity Server Night is really a lot of fun. We even had people contacting us this year asking if they could be servers, so you know it's enjoyable for everybody."

Also planned is a benefit sponsored by Valvoline Oil Change at 32688 Grand River. On Oct. 13-14, Valvoline will donate \$3 from every oil change to support FFIA's activities.

"Each year more and more people in the community are becoming involved in these kinds of activities. Awareness is just so critical, so we keep plugging away," Nicolay added.

"And in Farmington and Farmington Hills we have such wonderful cooperation with the schools and our police departments. The zero tolerance attitude by the police, schools and city councils that minor use will just not be tolerated makes such a difference. Not all communities have the type of support that we do."

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