

Farmington has a heart, AHA

A division of the American Heart Association is forming in the Farmington area.

An organizational meeting is planned 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at The Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River. The meeting is open to the public.

Area AHA members voted unanimously to establish their own division at a meeting Dec. 12. Farmington and Farmington Hills has been involved with the South Central Oakland di-

vision, which includes Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham.

The move allows local members to concentrate on educating people about the dangers of heart disease, said temporary chairman Bill Hartsock.

"I think we were too stretched in terms of geography," said Hartsock, who is also a Farmington City Council member. "I think we can better serve a smaller area."

Farmington area has hosted

the association's annual "Cardiac Arrest" fund-raiser in the spring. People are taken into custody and raise bail money by calling friends and co-workers.

Last year's event at Farmington Hills City Hall raised \$2,300, which supports research and education in combating cardiovascular disease and stroke.

For information on the American Heart Association, call 557-9511.

Information superhighway yields dangers for children

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER

The Internet offers an exhilarating and educational ride on the information highway. But any where there is traffic, albeit electronic data bytes, there must also be caution.

The Internet is no different, educators say.

Recent reports about "cyber-space predators" — including the Farmington Hills man charged recently with molestating an 11-year-old boy — has police, teachers and parents worried.

The Internet links computers around the world, providing a wealth of information and research material. Are the Internet's educational capabilities outweighed by risks posed by going on-line?

Not if children are supervised, said one Farmington teacher.

"You want kids to be exposed to new technology," said Hillsdale Elementary teacher Jean Warner, "but there are limitations. I wouldn't let my child wander out in the street."

Through the Internet, students

can access the Smithsonian Institute or download a Christmas card from the White House, Warner said.

Hillsdale Elementary students work on the Internet regularly. The school has even put together its own site on the World Wide Web.

Children work with a teacher in doing research on-line only as part of classroom instruction, Warner said. Students don't have free access.

Farmington Public Schools is developing similar district-wide Internet guidelines.

The district is undergoing an extensive \$3.8 million technology overhaul, which will see all buildings wired for Internet capability.

Students, staff and parents will have to sign a technology code of conduct before going on-line, said Kathy Jones, director of Data Processing/Information Management.

While installation of wires and computers takes place, district is also working with other agencies to make use of the Internet appropriate for students.

Oakland University will help Farmington schools block questionable listservers and Usenet groups, Jones said. Software also exists to block searches and sites on the World Wide Web that contain sexually explicit or offensive material.

"We're very concerned about this," Jones said. "As the Internet is a good learning tool, there are some features we don't want our students to see or information about our students we don't want someone else to be able to access."

Commercial on-line services — such as Prodigy, Compuserve and American On-line — provide parental controls for Internet use.

Software is only part of the solution, said a Michigan State Police computer expert. Parents need to monitor what they're children are accessing on the Net.

"The disadvantage is parents who don't know much about computers or don't even like computers," said Michigan State Police Sgt. Robert Peplinski. "When they see their child working on a computer, they think have nothing to worry about."

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