

Hockey from page A1

they were playing in a lot of different leagues. This is a very popular sport here."

Logistical problems, and high costs, are some of the bumps in the road facing the program. "You'll have three high schools going to a neutral facility off campus" for practices and games, said Holland about the former.

As far as expenses are concerned, Patterson emphasized that parents know up front that they'll be footing most of the bill for their sons and/or daughters to play. He estimated it will cost \$500-\$800 per player, per season. He did say

a hockey boosters-type organization will be formed to help families who cannot afford such a lofty entrance fee.

The district will only pay for coaches salaries, about \$7,000 per season. Total expenses for a season will run more than \$35,000, according to the committee's proposal.

Superintendent Bob Maxfield congratulated the hockey parents for "coming forward" with the proposal and awaits the first game. "The hockey folks said it's the right thing to do, and that they'll do it in a way that doesn't hurt the district."

Maxfield said that if hockey parents "are already making a huge commitment for their kids to play hockey, they'd rather keep doing it for our schools. There are two reasons, pride and the shorter season."

The district squad would only play about 24 prime-time games, possibly in the Western Lakes Activities Association. In the FHHA or other youth leagues, some teams play up to 60 games a season - often late at night during the school week, cutting into homework time.

The board approved the hockey pro-

posal 5-1, with Treasurer Joe Svoke casting the only no vote. Trustee Jack Inch was absent. The board also unanimously approved another proposal from the committee, setting parameters for adding or deleting a varsity sport.

Svoke expressed the most vocal concern about the hockey proposal during the Jan. 8 meeting, questioning whether the experience of playing the sport would help build the kind of responsible citizens Farmington Public Schools wants to graduate.

Apparently, Svoke didn't change his mind, even though the hockey commit-

tee and Holland ensured that students who play any district-offered sport should gain characteristics such as "leadership, teamwork, citizenship, character development, and individual responsibility to school community."

"It's like any other sport," Holland said. "It's something that's out there for kids."

The multi-school team will be patterned after existing programs in the Birmingham and Royal Oak districts, he added.

Pass the pasta for chamber mixer



All members and friends of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce are invited to bring business cards and attend a Taste of Italy Mixer from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at Macaroni Grill in Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door. Call 474-3440.

Chamber luncheon
The Farmington/Farmington Hills

Hills Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly membership luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at the Holiday Inn at 10 Mile and Grand River in Farmington Hills. Meet new Economic Development Coordinator, Teri Arbenowke.

The cost is \$15 before Jan. 26 and \$20 after. Call 474-3440.

McCabe expands library
McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills presented a \$500 check to the Farmington Hills Library to expand its bereavement book collection. "With the generous assistance of McCabe Funeral Home, the Farmington Community Library

has developed one of the most comprehensive Bereavement Collections of any public library in the state," noted Beverly Pappi, library director. "The Bereavement Collection provides needed information and inspiration during critical times in people's lives."

9 chances to feel good

Borders Books & Music in Farmington Hills, will host Judy A. Laslie, noted numerologist and holistic counselor, for a stress workshop at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28. Laslie's book, "9 Chances to Feel Good About Yourself," will be available.

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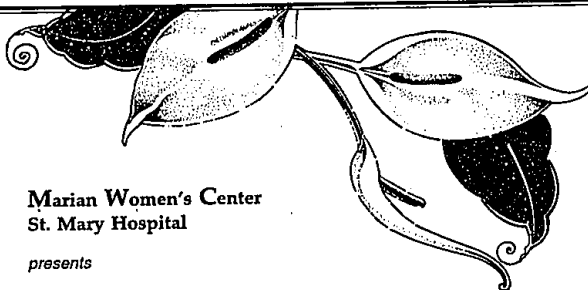
Attend the *Cigarette Send-Off* on January 28 at 6 p.m. Through self-hypnosis and relaxation techniques, smokers will learn how to ease the transition in becoming non-smokers again. Call the American Lung Association of Michigan to register at (800) 543-LUNG.



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