

# Don't smoke

## Laryngectomy patient warns youths of health risks

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER  
tsmith@wa.com



Listen up: Above left, Warner Middle School sixth grader Kyle Firlch tries to grasp the difficult message being delivered by laryngectomy patient Fred Charbonneau, who talks about what his life is like since the removal of his larynx.

**REC NEWS**

The following items are from the Farmington Hills Recreation Division. For more information, call (248) 472-4670.

**YOUTH BASKETBALL**  
Register now for Farmington Hills Recreation's Co-Ed Youth Basketball program that begins with two weeks of practice starting Jan. 3 before a 10-game season (Saturdays) starting Jan. 15. Divisions are made of 4th/5th grade, 6th grade, and 7th/8th grade. The deadline to register is Friday, Dec. 3. The cost is \$65 per participant.

**MEETINGS**  
Come and enjoy the performance of the Nutcracker at Farmington High School at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. The production will be put on by Eric Johnston's Detroit Ballet. Tickets are \$5 for children 12 and under and senior adults \$5 and over and adults are \$8. Tickets will be available at the door.

**CONSUMERS WILL DO SHOP DAY**  
Register now and dig out your old and outgrown sports equipment and sell it. Dec. 4. This annual event offers the opportunity to buy or sell used skates, downhill and cross-country skis, ski clothing, sleds, toboggans, in-line skates and other sports equipment. Concessions will be available for purchase. The event is 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Conick Activities Center. Anyone who wants to sell items at the event must register by Wednesday, Dec. 1.

**LOOKING FOR WINTER STAFF**  
The Recreation Division is in search of youth basketball referees, sled hill supervision, cross-country ski center attendants, and special events assistants. If you are interested, call the recreation division or call by the city of Farmington Hills, department of special services for an application.

**MEETINGS**  
Register by yourself or with a partner and enjoy an evening of culture in a round-robin tournament. Euchre night will take place from 7-10 p.m. on Dec. 10. The fee is \$8/person, \$12/team. Pre-registration is required, refreshments provided. The event will be held at the Heritage Park Visitor Center.

A laryngectomy patient spoke out about the hazards of tobacco use during a recent program at Warner Middle School in Farmington Hills.

Visiting the school were: Fred Charbonneau, a laryngectomy patient at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak; Ruth Dein, the Beaumont oncology nurse who has treated him, and Barbara Krieger, Beaumont speech and language pathologist.

The program was paid for by a grant from the Rose Cancer Treatment Center and Education Fund.

"This is near and dear to my heart," said Susan Ferrari, Warner media center specialist, about the presentation.

Ferrari explained that smoking contributed to the 1993 death of her mother, Mary Gabriel, after open-heart surgery. One of the health problems caused by smoking is restriction of arteries leading to the heart.

"Hopefully they (students) in the future will not smoke," Ferrari said. "I hope that this will impact them. It was a pretty graphic presentation. And maybe they will reach out to family members to get them to quit."

For example, during the presentation, sixth-grade students saw jars of lung tissue that had been discolored by smoking.

But they also listened to a dramatic and powerful message:

- Dein talked about the cancer-causing properties of tobacco products, along with the health, social and economic consequences.
- Krieger detailed what laryngectomy surgery entails and reviewed possible communication options laryngectomees may use. Those include an artificial larynx, esophageal speech or tracheal-esophageal puncture.
- And, perhaps most power-

### WARNER MIDDLE SCHOOL

fully, Charbonneau discussed his own story and answered students' questions. He related how he had cancer, required difficult treatment and ultimately lost his voice box - resulting in a drastically changed lifestyle.

Warner sixth-grade teacher Mary Smith arranged the visit from Beaumont, Ferrari said.

**'I hope that this will impact them. It was a pretty graphic presentation.'**

Susan Ferrari, media center specialist  
-Warner Middle School



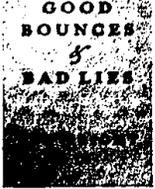
Explanation: Speech and language pathologist Barbara Krieger, of William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, explains the use of the artificial larynx.



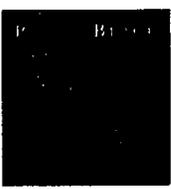
## Great Gifts for the Holidays



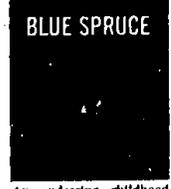
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