

Hills Parks and Rec may lose member

recreation news

Each week the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department will present a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For further information regarding our programs, contact our office at 474-6115.

KAYAK SLALOM RACE - The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Canoe and Kayak Club along with the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is sponsoring a kayak slalom race at the Waterford Oaks wave-action pool on Saturday, Sept. 11. The event will include C-1, C-2, K-1 open, K-1w novice and K-1m novice (no open canoes) competition.

Registration and practice will take place 8:30-11 a.m., and the races will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m.

Awards will include participation awards, first and second place and prize drawings. The fee is \$5 for the first event and \$2.50 for a second event.

PARKEY THE PANDA - The Parks and Recreation mascot, Parkey the Panda, has a special service to offer area residents and businesses.

Parkey will deliver flowers, candy or his colorful balloon bouquet to that special person on their birthday, anniversary or any special occasion. Parkey also will assist at your child's birthday party, at a company picnic or hospital visit.

YOUTH SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION - Registration for fall swim lessons will begin Monday, Sept. 13, at the Parks and Recreation office. The fall session will take place at the North Farmington High School pool beginning Saturday, Oct. 2, and continue through Nov. 20.

The class schedule will consist of levels 1-5 at 9 and 10 a.m. and levels 6-12 at 11 a.m. Fee for all sessions is \$17 per participant.

Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

SENIOR ADULT TRIP, PETOSKEY-TRAVERSE CITY - The senior adults will be taking a trip to Petoskey and Traverse City Sept. 13-16.

The group will travel via deluxe motorcoach to lodge at the Holiday Inn in Petoskey, visit Duffy's of Charlevoix, shop in Petoskey's famous gaslight district, enjoy a buffet at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island plus a tour and buggy ride, lunch at Dill's in Traverse City and enjoy an overnight stay at the Waterfront Inn.

The fee for the four-day trip is \$269 per person, double occupancy.

COMMUNITY CHORUS - The Farmington Hills Community Chorus will begin its fall season with open rehearsals beginning Tuesday, Sept. 7, 7:30-9:30 p.m. All adults and high school students who enjoy music are welcome to attend.

The 13-week session will conclude with a holiday concert for the community. The site of rehearsals is North Farmington High School. The registration fee is \$18 per participant, which includes music. You may register at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation office or up through the third rehearsal.

AMUSEMENT PARK DISCOUNT TICKETS - In cooperation with the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department is offering a variety of fun tickets at a savings.

Tickets are on sale at the Parks and Recreation office and the city of Farmington's finance department. Ticket discounts include: Bobo, Cedar Point, Darian Lake, Geauga Lake, Great America, King's Island, Michigan State Fair, Pro Football Hall of Fame and Huckleberry Railroad.



John (Jeff) Farland, Farmington Hills recreation superintendent, was the choice of the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission for its new director.

By Mary Lou Callaway special writer

John (Jeff) Farland of the Farmington Hills parks department was selected from a field of four finalists by the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission Monday as its new director.

The parks personnel committee and Farland met last night to negotiate contract terms and a starting date. If both sides fail to reach an agreement, parks would offer the job to its yet unnamed second choice.

The 31-year-old Farland has worked for the Farmington Hills department, which serves more than 69,000 residents in Farmington and Farmington Hills, since 1975. He is superintendent of recreation working under an overall parks department director. His current salary is in the mid-\$20,000 range.

The Plymouth resident has a bachelor and masters degree in recreation

and parks administration.

The West Bloomfield parks department has been operating without a director since May. Former director Fred Woelkers was asked to resign after the commission learned he loaned an employee \$850 from parks funds without commission approval.

Patty Riney, parks' adult programmer, has been acting manager in the interim. Woelkers was making \$26,378 when he left. The commission declined to reveal the salary range it would negotiate with Farland.

THE PERSONNEL committee, consisting of commission Chairman Wenzel Koch, Treasurer Dallas Haun and Secretary Bernadine Edwards, publicly interviewed the finalists using identical questions in one-hour sessions.

Joining the commission in the questioning, but not the final vote, was Eric Reikel, Oakland County Parks and Rec-

reation manager.

Eleven of 21 applicants for the post were interviewed by the personnel committee, which chose three men and one woman to appear before the full commission, Koch said.

Farland spoke confidently of his qualifications, and with humor described himself as "good looking, but humble."

Teamwork with staff, commissioners, schools and local government was stressed. "I don't believe efforts should be duplicated," he said.

Asked how he would handle matters potentially embarrassing to the department or commission with the media, Farland said, "I believe in giving honest, up-front answers to the press. I have a good rapport with the two (Farmington) papers."

HE WOULD supplement present parks and recreation programs in West Bloomfield, he said, with cultural arts offerings such as music and dance.

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