

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.

ICE SKATING LESSONS — Learn to improve your skating techniques this winter. Our lessons include the beginner to the advanced and meet for 30 minutes once each week for five weeks. Registration should be made at the Parks and Recreation Office by Feb. 3. Class fee is \$25 per person.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI LESSONS — The Parks and Recreation Department

will offer advanced cross country ski lessons for intermediate skiers, Saturday, Feb. 4 at 12:30 p.m. at the Glen Oaks Ski Center. All lessons are one and a half hours long. The fee for the lesson will be \$17, including ski rental; \$5 with your own equipment. Ski lessons are pre-registration only at the Parks and Recreation Office.

BILL KOCH SKI LEAGUE — The Bill Koch Ski League is a cross country ski club directed to boys and girls, 7-13 years of age. The league offers lessons, games, races, club patch, newsletter and more. This added season will begin Feb. 7, from 4-6 p.m. for three consecu-

tive Tuesdays at the Glen Oaks Ski Center. Fee for this three week session is \$23 and includes ski rental; \$13 with your own equipment.

MOONLIGHT SKI TOUR — Looking for something new and different to do? Here it is. Cross country ski beautiful Glen Oaks Golf Course by moonlight on Friday, Feb. 17, 7-10 p.m. No extra fee will be charged for this special event. A snack bar and ski rental will be available. Ski rental is \$5 per person. No pre-registration necessary.

SENIOR ADULT CENTER — Norah Martin, Manager of Corporate Affairs with Michigan Bell Telephone Compa-

ny, will speak Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Center pertaining to changes that have taken place at Michigan Bell in the last year. Bring your questions to this informative talk.

SLEDDING AND HOT CHOCOLATE - ADAPTIVE RECREATION — All mildly to moderately, mentally and/or physically impaired individuals, 9 years of age and older can enjoy an afternoon of sledding on the slopes at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Southfield Civic Center, then warm up with a cup of hot chocolate. Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, Feb. 14. Registration fee is 50 cents per participant.

Brotherton reserves judgment on budget

State Rep. Wilbur V. "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, said the proposed 1984-85 fiscal year budget that Gov. James Blanchard presented to the state Legislature last Monday contains too many increases to be tagged a "zero-growth" budget.

Brotherton said that nearly every department will be experiencing increases in program funding and that insufficient cuts will not cover those additional funds.

"I am urging my colleagues in the House of Representatives who have praised Gov. Blanchard's proposed budget to reserve their judgment of the fiscal plan until it has been thoroughly scrutinized," Brotherton said.

"The governor is using incredibly op-

timistic figures relating to welfare reductions and decreases in unemployment that could destroy this budget if they don't pan out."

HE SAID an example is the department of labor budget, which is being cut by nearly 50 percent.

"This reduction is being based on the assumption that the labor department will see 100 percent participation in a new program that will allow those receiving workers' compensation to collect benefits through a tax credit system rather than direct reimbursement," Brotherton said. "This is simply not going to happen, at least this year, but the governor anticipates that everyone eligible will use this new sys-

tem. Right away we see that one of the major cuts is premised on a weak forecast from a clouded crystal ball."

Brotherton was pleased, however, over plans to increase aid to education by \$147 million.

"This promised increase is long overdue and it is something we have wanted for years," Brotherton said. "This renewed interest in education has sparked a new determination on the part of teachers, school officials, parents and students to do what is necessary to improve our quality of education, and I am personally pleased that the Blanchard administration is making this commitment, too."

"HOWEVER, this new budget repre-

sents only a small percentage increase in overall funding for education, compared to other department increases. Kindergarten through high school will receive a 7.5 percent budget increase, while the attorney general's office will receive a 15.4 percent increase, civil service a 15.3 percent increase and natural resources a 23.4 percent increase.

"Now, I ask you, how can we call this a zero-growth budget when virtually every department will experience budget increases, department expansions, and the introduction of new programs, while the proposed budget cuts needed to fund these increases are based on overly optimistic forecasts relating to welfare caseloads, unemployment declines and economic growth?"

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