



Farmington Hills parks and recreation employee Mike Hapgood talks with Michelle Lorenz, 16, and her 11-year-old brother, Daniel, telling them not to go down the sled hill with more than two on a sled. They had just studded in a group of four and were not aware of the rules.



Eleven-year-old Jim Bohrer of Farmington Hills comes up a marked walkway made of hay and plastic fencing, carrying his saucer. The walkways were put in to keep people and sleds from colliding as people climb back up the sled hill.

photos by SHARON LAMUEUX staff photographer

Safe sledding

Schools remind kids to follow rules on hill

By Casey Hans
staff writer

After last week's big snowstorm, Farmington school board members are watching the district-owned sledding hill with mixed feelings. They are happy the community is enjoying it, but are also concerned that some people are not following the rules posted at the hill, which prohibit the popular ski boots and potentially dangerous items like toboggans, and show hours of operation.

The hill operates under a cooperative agreement between the school

district, the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and with the volunteer help of the Farmington Area Jaycees.

Hundreds of area kids jammed the hill on Tuesday after the season's big snowstorm and throughout the week. The area attraction made several television newscasts.

"It's great to see the kids using it," said trustee Lathrop Webb. "But I saw one kid sitting on a snowboard and I also saw kids walking up the hill on out in the safety area."

In the spirit of cooperation and safety, they need to follow the rules.

SCHOOL TRUSTEE Susan Renels suggested the district send home safety tips and sled hill rules in newsletters published by individual schools and parent groups, or that they be sent home in weekly folders.

Superintendent Michael Panagan called on parents to go over the rules with their children, so somebody doesn't get seriously hurt.

Notes posted on the hill show, whether it is open or closed and advise visitors sled at their own risk; prohibit toboggans, skiing and snowboards; prohibit alcohol consumption and "horseplay"; requires visitors to

'In the spirit of cooperation and safety, they need to follow the rules.'

— Cathleen Webb
school trustee

use specific, marked areas to walk up the hill, require use of "appropriate sleds only" and allow only two persons per sled.

The three government agencies

came to an agreement last year in which:

- Farmington Hills would provide an attendant to monitor the sled hill from 3-7 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends with the cost to be shared.
- The school district would pay for fencing, straw bales, bumpers and materials necessary to maintain the hill. Farmington public services department employees would install and maintain these. The school district would inspect the hill to assure materials will remain in place.
- The city of Farmington would

adopt an ordinance detailing set hours of operation on the hill. In addition to the hours the attendant is present, the hill is also open from 7-10 p.m. unattended.

The school district considered closing the hill, which is behind the district's central office, in 1990 because of concerns about safety and liability issues. Injuries have occurred each winter as sledders gather speed on the short, steep incline and rain into fencing at the bottom of the hill.

It was decided to keep the hill open with restrictions after many residents came forward to comment.

obituaries

DR. PETER TAIT GREIG

Dr. Greig, 62, of Bloomfield Township died Jan. 5 in an airplane crash in Venezuela.

Born in Detroit Dr. Greig was a graduate of Michigan State University, University of Detroit Dental School and did graduate work in guidance and counseling at U-D.

He was in practice in Southfield for over 30 years.

Dr. Greig was a member of the Oakland County Dental Society, President's Club of Oakland University, Economic Club of Detroit and Michigan Dental Association.

He was an avid scuba diver, golfer, traveler and sailor. He belonged to Nomads.

Survivors include his wife, Helen, daughter, Cynthia Greig of Bloomfield Hills; son, Robert Greig of Farmington Hills; brother, Richard Scott of Moscow, Idaho.

A memorial service was held Jan. 11 at the A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, Troy.

Memorials may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen or the Salvation Army.

HEATHER C. TABACZKA

Mrs. Tabaczka, 46, of Farmington died Jan. 14.

Born in Windsor, Canada, Mrs. Tabaczka was the manager of the kitchen at Warner Middle School in Farmington Hills. She was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, William, daughters, Gena and Valerie, mother, Marcelline McIntosh; brother, Ronald McIntosh.

Mass was celebrated Jan. 17 in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Msgr. Walter Hurley officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

Memorials may be made to the American Lung Association. Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

'Golden Days' musical program set for Feb. 4

The Rochester Tuesday Musicals will present a musical program at 8 p.m. on Feb. 4 at the Older Persons Center, 312 Woodward Ave. in Rochester.

The "Golden Days of Youth" will be the emphasis of music presented by club members. Selections from

"Student Prince," "Annie," "Mary Poppins," "The King and I," "Sound of Music," and "Fiddler on the Roof" will be featured. The moderator will be Dottie Spitsbergen, assisted by her child-sized puppet "Katie." The student performer will be Jacqueline Hasechke presenting a piano selection. Please call 731-3263 or 651-1742 for further information.

A welcome invitation is extended to guests who wish to enjoy an evening of music. A token contribution to the scholarship fund is requested. Call 731-3263 or 651-1742 for further information.

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