

Like ice: These guys don't come in from the cold

Winter couldn't have picked a better time to return to southeastern Michigan.

It was holiday break for most school systems — Farmington's included — last week, and the kids were free to make optimum use of the facilities provided for winter sports activities in the Farmington area.

True, there just wasn't enough snow for the sleds and tobogganers who frequent that hill that slopes away from Farmington School Headquarters, and cross-country skiing was pretty much a wash around here.

It was, however, cold enough for ice skating on the pond at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills and on the rink that's flooded every winter at Shiawassee Park in Farmington.

Both have been in full use since the recent cold snap.

"We go from salting roads to icing rinks," said Don Gould, a Farmington DFW worker, as he sprayed water from a hydrant onto the Farmington rink.

Said Andrew Lang, recreation supervisor for the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, "It (ice skating) is something that's planned and created for people who want to enjoy winter activities."



On safe ice: Wednesday, Dec. 29, was the first day that the ice on the pond at Heritage Park was considered safe for skaters.

Lang also pointed out that a separate ice rink, away from the pond, is flooded for hockey players.

He added that skates can be rented on weekends at the cross-country ski shop near the pond at Heritage Park. Call 478-8670 for more information.



Cold campers: Parks and recreation day campers take a midweek skate on the pond at Heritage Park. Counselor Tina Chill helps Matthew Rodeghier as Daniel Schwartz helps them both. Counselors said that many of the youngsters had never been on skates.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

A good skate: Tony DeOrio of Farmington pulls his 3½-year-old Allison around the frozen pond. Wife Janet and sons, Andrew, 9, and Scott, 7, were also skating that day.



All iced up: A bundled up Don Gould sprays water from a hydrant on part of a parking lot at Farmington's Shiawassee Park.

Beechview parents, board to huddle on enrollments

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Survey says . . . time to have a meeting.

The Farmington Board of Education Building and Site Committee will meet with Beechview Elementary parents 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, to discuss enrollment projections and the placement of future kindergarten classes. The meeting will take place in the school's media center.

Kindergarten classes are a hot topic among Beechview parents, especially those whose children were bused to the Alameda Early Childhood Center this school year. The move of 82 kindergartners was a stop-gap measure to alleviate overcrowding at Beechview, school officials say.

A group of homeowners has opposed the move. Kimberley subdivision residents, in particular, said the transfer denies children an opportunity to attend their neighborhood school.

Building and Student Services director Don Cowan said he'll share the results of two surveys conducted by the district. Cowan

■ **This is something that came out of the blue in their Friday folder.**

Nick Waldecker

said both indicate the temporary move was successful.

"Clearly, number one, the surveys show the children adjusted nicely to the change and had a good educational opportunity," Cowan said, "and that the enrollment at Beechview has tapered off."

The latter could lead to a solution. Cowan said he has some proposals for the board to consider.

Asked if parents might be satisfied with the outcome of the Jan. 11 meeting Cowan said, "They should be."

Nick Waldecker, chairman of Beechview Community Homeowners Against Overcrowded Schools, is not pleased with the way the meeting was announced.

Notices were sent home with children before Christmas vacation. Homeowners who don't have children in the school weren't notified, Waldecker said.

"This is something that came out of the blue in their Friday folder," Waldecker said.

"We don't think it's adequately covered or notified by the board. The fact they're having it in the media center . . . The implication is they're expecting a low turnout."

Waldecker said he and other homeowners plan to get the word out, though.

One survey was conducted by Alameda Early Childhood Center principal Gayle Zimmerer. Parents, including those whose children would've attended Beechview, were asked if they were satisfied with the Alameda program. Most of the 187 people responding were positive, Cowan said.

Another survey of Beechview-area residents was conducted by mail, asking if they would be registering a child for kindergarten next fall. Cowan said 60 responded.

Siblings from page 1A

ments. York, who has a child at Highmadow, said allowing siblings to attend the same school encourages parental involvement.

Pruett pointed out sibling priority has also kept Gill's year-round program afloat.

"It's shown without sibling priority, it would have fallen on its face," Prutt said.

Steve Kaplan of Farmington Hills was the lone voice of opposition. He told the committee such a policy is unacceptable in a tax-supported public institution.

Kaplan said he's never entered his children's names in the Highmadow lottery, but has strong feelings about the policy nonetheless.

"Sibling priority is one issue

■ **The practice of giving preference to family members who have a sibling attending two of the district's elementary schools of choice programs — Highmadow Common Campus and Gill year-round — remains.**

here," Kaplan said afterward. "The real issue is taking the challenges and expectations of Highmadow and enforcing them districtwide."

After Colleton and a few parents spoke, the three-member committee didn't hesitate with its recommendation. Feldman said she was not a fan of sibling priority before the meeting, but added, "I see both sides of the coin now."

Parents supporting sibling priority commended the committee's

decision. Howard Wallach of Farmington Hills said his family had the option of attending Highmadow, Gill or Wood Creek. He chose Highmadow.

"We chose the one place where our children had the opportunity to go to the same school," Wallach said later during the regular board meeting. "I'm not sure I would've made the choice I made if there was a chance of my youngest daughter being excluded."

WHAT A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION SHOULD BE KEPT

And Oakland Mall can help, with everything from self-improvement to home improvement:

JAN. 7	Redecorate your home - Interior Designer Barbara Kopitz
JAN. 10	Change your look with Makeup Artist & Photographer Lara Ann Salter
JAN. 11	Develop Self-Esteem - Radio & TV Personality Mark Andrews
JAN. 12	Quit Smoking with Hypnotist Don Viano
JAN. 13	Manage Your Money - Kelvin Boston
JAN. 14	Shed Those Pounds - Fitness U.S.A.
JAN. 20	Explore Travel Options - Detroit News Travel Editor Nick Syvala
JAN. 25	Relieve Your Stress - Massage Therapist Carol Saba
JAN. 26	Enjoy The Great Outdoors - Kent Anghe, American Youth Hostels (Outdoors)
JAN. 27	Improve Relationships - Darren Powers, Professional Consultant in Communications and Relationships

Details available at the Information Booth, lower level.

OAKLAND MALL

Hudson's, JCPenney, Sears and over 120 great stores and services • Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. • Sun. 12 p.m.-6 p.m.