

RECREATION NEWS

SPRING SALE
It's time to sign up for the Spring Clean-up Sale on Saturday, April 29 at Heritage Park Day Camp Building. Call 473-0670.

OPEN GYM
The Costick Activities Center Gym in Farmington Hills offers the following activities and times: Adult Basketball, 7:30-9:03 p.m. Thursdays and 9-11 a.m. Sundays; Teen Basketball, 3-5 p.m. Saturdays and 1-3 p.m. Sundays; Adult Volleyball, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Family Gym and Swim, 12:03-3 p.m. Saturdays. The cost to participate for residents 17 and under is \$2 and \$4

for non-residents. For 18 and over residents pay \$3 and non-residents pay \$6. For more information contact the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services at 473-0670.

BASEBALL COMPETITION
Kids ages 7-14 can show their baseball skills in Farmington Hills and just might end up at the Diamond Skills National Skills Championship in Boston. Participants of this co-ed program will compete in batting, fielding/throwing and base running. Call 473-0670.

PUBLIC SKATING
Public skating is available at the following times:

Lunch skate Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:20 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 7-8:50 p.m.; Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-1:20 p.m.; Sunday, 4-5:50 p.m.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES
Now is the time to think summer in the Recreation Division. There's a wide array of activities including summer camps, children's tours, Safety Town, music programs, summer fun centers, art classes, tennis lessons, Karate classes, swimming, nature programs, special events and much more. Please refer to your summer brochure or give the Recreation Division a call at 473-0670.

FAMILY FEST RUN
On Saturday, June 24, Shiawassee Park will be the starting point for an exciting event, "The Farmington Family Festival 4-Mile Run." The race begins at 9 a.m. and participants will feel the excitement as the parade crowd cheers them on as they make their way back to Shiawassee Park and the finish line. Awards will be given in various age groups. This is an excellent way to get into shape and to set a very attainable goal. Pre-registered runners will even get a t-shirt that proves

they ran the race. Start training now for the big day. For an entry form or more information contact Herman Smith 473-9680.

KID'S DAY
Shiawassee Park will be the site once again for this year's Kid's Day event that will be held from noon-5 p.m. Thursday, June 22. Carnival rides, pony rides, refreshments, hayrides and stage entertainment including everyone's favorite clown, Professor Bloono, are just some of the exciting things kids can expect to see at this year's event.

Kids and zoo join forces

By TRACY BURKHHAUER
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, local children will expand their cultural repertoire by participating in the "Zoo to Zoo, Kids to Kids" program at the Detroit Zoo.

The program is part of WDIV-Channel 4 chief Keith Famie's "Adventure 2000 Down Under Adventure." The local segment was designed to link local students with those in Australia, host of the summer Olympics.

"This event will enable children from different cultures to learn about each other and I can't think of a better way than through the diversity of wildlife," Famie said.

Starting at 4 p.m., children from Farmington Hills, Detroit, Birmingham, Troy and Utica will meet at the Detroit Zoo to begin cultural activities, such as throwing boomerangs and playing children's games under a tent. At about 4:20 p.m., the children will get an exclusive tour of the zoo, examining animals native to Australia, complete with interesting facts about their habitats, diets and adaptations.

After a pizza dinner and discussion, at 7 p.m. the children will engage in a live Internet discussion with Famie, who's in Australia, and children from the Taronga Zoo in Sydney. WDIV meteorologist Tom Sorrells will moderate the discussion.

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presented by a 19-member commission appointed to determine whether remote sales are adversely affecting state tax collections.

However, he pointed out, "Most states today are operating with a budget surplus. State budgets ended fiscal year 1999 with a collective \$35 billion surplus."

While tax impacts concerned Hills officials, council member Jerry Ellis said Internet businesses operating at a sales tax advantage could deeply affect

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the community in other ways.

"If just 10 percent of sales to local stores are drained off, that oftentimes makes a difference between stores surviving and not surviving," he said, adding vacant store fronts could lead to a loss of property tax revenues and, ultimately, urban blight.

"It's an expanding type of situation," he said.

But like any issue, Internet taxation has two sides. Councilman Chris McRae's company is just weeks away from the Internet on-ramp.

The firm already struggles with figuring out the ins and outs of inter-state taxes because it does business via telephone and catalogue sales in 48 states.

"It's a mess trying to keep track of the accounting," he said. "It's important for the government to take a look at the big picture. There needs to be some unification as to how the laws are enforced from one state to another."

He pointed out some businesses have both brick and mortar and Internet facilities. "The rules have to be fair to both."

The Hills resolution stops short of establishing a position on whether the tax should be implemented.

It opposes any action to implement recommendations from the advisory commission that would pre-empt local authority, supports simplification of state and local sales tax laws and urges Congress to act within the moratorium's time frame, rather than extending it.

"This is a complex resolution because this is a complex issue," McRae said.

Councilman Barry Brickner stressed the Internet sales tax was not the same thing as a tax on Internet use or electronic mail. Nor does the resolution promote "double taxation," or taxing the same Internet transaction in different states.

"I'm not in favor of additional taxation," he stressed, "I'm in favor of fair taxation."

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