



PHOTOS BY BILL BRUESLER | OBSERVER

Cescily Spann-Smith crawls under the bar during the agility run.



Mom and Dad, Lori and Todd White admire Jessica's first place ribbon. Jessica White's time for the 50 yard dash of 9.41 beat the times of many boys.

Hills hosts 24th Youth Olympics

About 90 children attended the recent 24th annual Farmington/ Farmington Hills Youth Olympics at Heritage Park last week.

At the event, kids participated in an agility run, 50-, 60- and 75-yard dashes, a softball throw, running long jumps and chin ups.

The first, second and third place winners received ribbons. And the first place winner in the different events will be allowed to participate in the Metro Youth Fitness Championships at Kensington Metropark, said Jeff Morris, intern at the Hills Parks and Recreation Division.

"Everybody seemed to be enjoying it," he said. —by staff writer Paul Pace



Cordellio Dessert makes a long jump of eight feet, five inches.

Environmental program's fate rests with voters

Michigan voters will decide the fate of the state's most popular environmental program with their vote on Proposal 2 on the Aug. 6 primary ballot.

If Proposal 2 fails, local governments could face an estimated loss of \$15 million in grant funding annually from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. If Proposal 2 passes, the fund could gain more than \$500 million over the next 20 years with no tax increase.

In Oakland County, places like Paink Creek/Clinton River Trail, Independence Oaks and Oakland Township Park were funded by the trust fund.

Local units of government can apply for a three-to-one match in funding from the trust fund for acquiring or improving local parks, trails, nature preserves or other

recreational areas. Since 1978, Oakland County has received more than \$45.4 million from the trust fund.

"The trust fund has touched literally every county in the state of Michigan over the past 25 years," said Garret Johnson, director of government relations for the Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. "The success or failure of Proposal 2 will greatly affect the ability of local communities to provide these recreational opportunities for its residents."

If it passes on Aug. 6, Proposal 2 would:

Allow certain permanent and endowment funds operated by the state, such as the Natural Resources Trust Fund, State Park Endowment Fund and the Veterans' Trust Fund, to be invested as provided by law.

Increase the cap on the Natural Resources Trust Fund from \$400 million to \$500 million, and allow the continued annual expenditure of up to 33-1/3 percent of mineral royalties received by the Natural Resources Trust Fund on state and local outdoor recreation grants.

Allow interest and earnings, and not more than 50 percent of the money received by the State Park Endowment Fund to be annually spent for state park improvements.

Proposal 2 was placed on the Aug. 6 primary ballot by an overwhelming, bipartisan vote by the Michigan Legislature earlier this year.

"We hope voters will remember that a 'yes' vote on Proposal 2 is a vote for Michigan's parks, lakes and wildlife," Johnson said.

RECREATION NEWS

For more information on the following events call the Recreation Division at (248) 473-1900.

Mud Olympics

Here's your chance to play in the mud and not get yelled at. Join the City of Farmington Hills Special Services noon-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, at Heritage Park for a day of messy fun that will begin with lunch and end in a big muddy mess. Everyone is welcome from ages 6-99. Sign up with your team of five, or get assigned to a team. Please wear clothes that can get dirty and bring a change of clothes. The cost is \$10 per person (\$15 non-resident).

Hot Air Balloon Trip Experience the adventure of ballooning on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

Sky adventures and a certified hot air balloon pilot will give you an eagle's eye view of the countryside.

The group will then stop for a bite to eat (food not included in fee).

Please note that landings are generally gentle, however some landings can be quite rough. Passengers must be in good physical condition to participate. The cost is \$110 per person.

Open Gym

The Costick Activities Center Gym in Farmington Hills is open on Sundays for the following activities:

Adult basketball - 9-11 a.m.; Adult volleyball - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Teen basketball - 1-3 p.m.; and Ping Pong 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Residents 17 and under pay \$2, non-residents pay \$4. Eighteen and over is \$4 for residents and \$5 for non-residents.

Marshmallow Fly & Fry

Watch over 1,000 marshmallows fall from the sky and see the largest campfire ever in Farmington Hills 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22 at Heritage Park. Hot dogs and s'mores will be provided to be cooked by the fireside or precooked hot dogs will be available for purchase.

The Marshmallow Drop will take place just after 6 p.m. for all participants between the ages of 2 and 15.

The Farmington Hills Fire Department will be giving fire truck tours and the Police Department will have the Mobile Command Unit on site.

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