

# Parks commission responds to amusement park charges

By TIM RICHARD

Far from becoming an amusement park with a lousy look atmosphere, Oakland County's Addison Oaks park will actually preserve a disappearing bit of Americana—the interurban trolley.

John Kipke, deputy director of the county parks and recreation program, replied to charges by CAPE, an acronym for Citizens Against Park Expansion, a group in the Oakland area that has been critical of the park's program.

CAPE opposes renewal of the quarter-mile property tax for county parks on the May 18 ballot. Kipke spoke Tuesday to Southfield Jaycees in support of the five-year tax renewal.

"LOTS OF PARKS in the country have trolley systems to reduce vehicular traffic in the park," said Kipke, citing the small train in the Detroit Zoo.

"It's not an amusement park ride," he said of the planned historic exhibit at Addison Oaks. "It's an historic electric trolley system and a non-pollutant."

Kipke said that this year patrons of the three county parks which have entrance fees—Addison, Independence and Groveland—will be able to purchase 10 season passes for their cars, the same as for state parks and Huron-Clinton metroparks. Previously, those three Oakland parks had a flat \$2 per auto admission charge.

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Here are some of the Jaycees' questions and the Oakland parks officials' answers:

Q. Do non-residents pay more?

A. Yes. Non-residents pay \$2 per vehicle. The U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation almost made us give that up. Once you accept federal or state aid, they think your fees should be the same for everyone.

We think it's fair to charge a differential because Oakland residents pay taxes for park development.

Retirees get free entry to the three fee parks from Monday through Friday, and their golf green fees are reduced at the other parks. Kids under 17 get reduced golf fees at certain times and days.

Q. Any plans in mind for southwest Oakland County?

A. That's the next area we'd like to look at. We don't have any funds now. If we have a nice piece of property—800 to 100 acres—that's one area we'd be interested in.

Q. At Groveland Oaks, your group camp sites are all right, but I wouldn't give you two cents for the individual camp sites. They're so cramped.

A. I agree, but you'd be surprised—they're the best ones to go to (to the public). We want to update Groveland; that's definitely in the master plan. It's kinda cramped. We bought it when it was a private campground. We want to reorient it, put more space between sites.

We also would like to get all 600 sites served with electricity. About half the sites now have electricity.

Q. What's the purpose of a county parks system when we have local parks, regional metroparks and state parks?

A. Well, the wave pool is a good example. Not too many communities could do it.

We're opening a wave pool at Waterford Oaks (west of the county service center in Waterford Township) by the end of June or the Fourth of July. It will hold 600 people in the water and 600 on the deck and have four-foot waves. People will be able to ride on air mattresses. It's the second of its kind in the country.

The degree of conservation between recreation professionals in Oakland County is very high. We have a recreation profes-

## Dairy scholarships available to students

A new scholarship program for high school seniors interested in careers in the dairy industry has been announced by United Dairy Industry Association (UDIA).

The scholarship, administered by the Dairy Shrine Club, is funded by employees of UDIA.

One student per year will be awarded \$1,000 toward the freshman year study of dairy marketing, dairy manufacturing, home economics, agricultural journalism or related field.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained from Miles R. McCarry, secretary, Dairy Shrine Club, c/o Curtis Breeding Service, Cary, Ill. 60013.

To be considered for fall term 1978, forms must be completed and returned by June 15.

sional organization and must once a month to discuss mutual problems.

City parks are for neighborhood programs, where you wait something 10 or 15 minutes away from your home.

But you could put a small pool in each community. It's a county type of program.

The Huron-Clinton metroparks system is serving a five-county area. They are for day use, picnicking, swimming, people are on their own.

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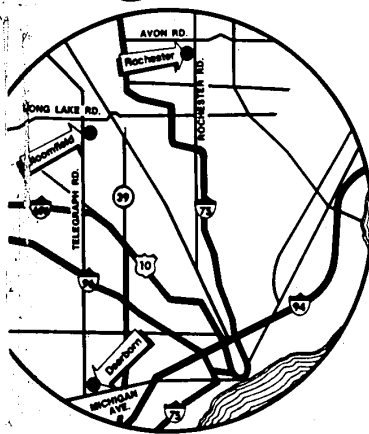
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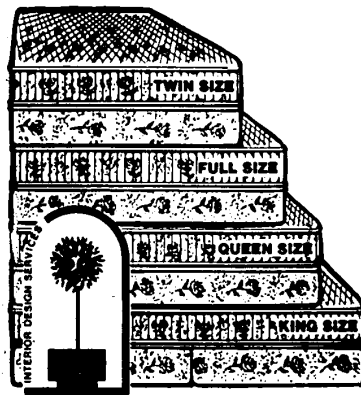
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