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Deer hunting becomes safer

By LEM MESEE
Outdoors Writer

Figuring out deer hunting. Only one hunter of every seven will get a deer in Michigan this season—about the same as last year.

Some 72,000 hunters will take to the woods for the Nov. 1-30 firearm season and they are expected to get the same number of deer as last year—about 18,000.

The State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) estimates the deer population is more than a million this year. That is the unlikely event every licensed hunter killed one deer, one-quarter of the deer population would still survive.

Actually, it would be impossible for every hunter to get one deer. For most hunters, only bucks are legal. Only a handful of hunters have permits to take antlerless deer. That is all mature bucks in the state are killed, there wouldn't be enough to go around.

EVERY YEAR, hunting becomes less dangerous. Only 43 fatal accidents occurred in 1975, involving 46 of one in every 26,000 sportsmen a day.

In general, the accident rate per 100,000 hunters has been declining steadily for more than 10 years.

In part, this is due to hunters thinking safer. In addition, more sportsmen are wearing hunter's orange, a thing to make themselves more visible.

BOW HUNTERS at the Oakland County

Sportsmen's Club confirm there is an unusually good deer supply this year.

The woods are full of healthy deer, said Clifton Smith, president of the Archery Club. Several of our bow and arrow hunters already have their deer in hand and virtually all club members have seen lots of deer.

Two hunters saw 25 deer, including three bucks in a water wheat field eight miles south of Rogers City.

Archers season runs until Nov. 1 and ends Dec. 1 after the Nov. 1-30 firearm season.

THE CHILDREN'S FARM at Kensington Metropark has two deer services.

One is the Farm House Restaurant, which features chicken dinners and home-made pies and the other is hayrides and hayride parties. Hayrides cost \$2 per person and include a chicken dinner.

Hayrides are Tuesday through Friday from 11 to 1 and weekends from 10 to 6. The farm is closed Mondays.

Activities at the Children's Farm include the natural home, a rural pony ride, a deer farm, farm animals and farm plants.

BIKE TRAILS in Kensington Metropark near Midland and New Creek Metroparks have been announced by the DNR.

Director Don J. LaFave said DNR is seeking applicants for the trails. The trails would be about 12 miles long.

DNR makes the trails available to the public for hunting. The trails are in the Metropark Archery Club area.



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Delinquent taxpayers to receive more notice

In a move to give delinquent taxpayers a better chance of making good on their overdue tax bills, Governor William Milliken has signed H.B. 474 into law.

As signed by Milliken, the law will give increased protection to persons in danger of losing their homes for high tax sales.

The governor said the amendment to the delinquent property tax bill is necessary to protect tax sale procedures and to conform with a recent Michigan State Supreme Court ruling.

The law will affect tax sales beginning May 1.

The law will require that a notice be sent to the property owner when taxes are delinquent.

Within a second notice one year after the first notice if the taxes remain delinquent.

Township to give sewer grant money

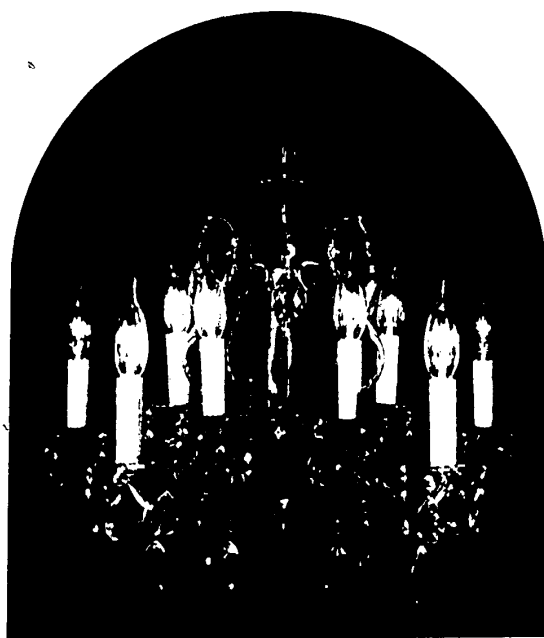
Bloomfield Township officials have considered to give \$100,000 for engineering work in an application for federal funds for sewer construction. It is approved.

The township, along with several other local communities, has applied for federal pollution control money. If the application is approved, some \$124 million worth of downstream construction work could be accomplished with 75 per cent federal funding.

In June the board estimated \$182,000 for its share of the first stage of the grant application process—a feasibility plan.

Plans will be drawn for some 91 miles of sewer lines, says town planner Homer Case said.

The board's action Monday would allow the township to pay for engineering fees if the grant is approved. The township would be reimbursed at a later date by Oakland County, which is the lead applicant in the grant request.



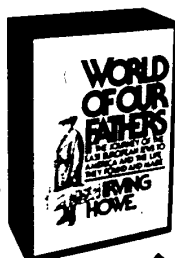
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