

# Michigan Mirror

## Just 3 more months to puff at stuff

By WARREN HOYT

Blowing smoke at the bananas and puffing toward the potlucks and illegal howl. But come April 1, it will be against the law to stand around a grocery store with a lighted cigarette in hand or mouth.

The upcoming in grocery stores law is one of four enacted within past months to form a basic beginning of a "Bill of Rights" for folks who don't have to want the habit.

Another law taking effect April 1 requires all food service establishments with a seating capacity of 50 or more to post

signs announcing availability of a no-smoking section.

Smoking policies are required in hospitals and nursing homes as the result of the other two pieces of legislation which already are in effect.

Non-smokers have been trying for several years to keep the air in their directions clear from second-hand smoke. But they've only recently gained recognition in the halls of legislatures and city councils.

Thirty-one states, including Michigan, now have some type of anti-smoking regulations.

ALMOST TWO YEARS will pass before Michigan's recently voted throwaway bottle and can ban goes into operation.

But the ban will take effect immediately at all facilities of the department of natural resources, including state parks and recreation areas, harbors of refuge on the Great Lakes and office buildings statewide.

A Natural Resources Commission resolution put the early ban into effect, directing the department to demand in contracts with concession operators that they sell only reusable beverage containers.

Voter approval of the so-called bottle bill in November led to the commission action.

The commission is convinced that voter concern with energy conservation, resource recycling and a clean living environment motivated citizens to approval of the ban, the resolution said.

Thus it added, the State of Michigan should by its example move quickly and responsibly to the citizen mandate to conserve energy and curb the wasteful use of

laws on needless waste pickup and disposal costs.

WHAT'S THE WEATHER doing in whatever?

Motorists can get the answers to their stormy weather questions this winter on their car radios, as a result of a cooperative agreement with the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, the State Police and the department of state highways and transportation.

Thirty-five "Weather Info" signs—each carrying up to four frequencies of cooperating radio stations—have been erected.

Drivers will be able to turn their car radios to any of the listed frequencies and get up-to-the-minute weather information, fed by the state police to the cooperating stations.

The weather service began as a pilot program last winter. This year, it's been extended from the initial three freeways to include all interstate freeways in Michigan.

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**Dear Doctor:**

I was recently given a kitten as a pet for my children. I plan to keep it indoors all the time. Will she need vaccinations?

MT, Hazel Park

**Dear MT:**

Even though you don't plan on allowing your new puppy to wander freely, it is still very important that she be vaccinated against a number of disease-felting enteroviruses called cat distemper. A severe respiratory disease called feline tracheitis and feline leukemia. This is because all three of these diseases are caused by viruses and therefore have no known cure. Your only hope for the health of the kitten is to protect her by vaccination before she ever comes in contact with the diseases. Feline tracheitis could both be spread to an indoor cat through the air while she is sitting by an open window or from a person handling a sick cat and then visiting your home. Vaccination against rabies is important because people are also susceptible to it. Yearly boosters are given to be sure that her protection stays at an effective level.

R. R. KILB

## Home repair loans, grants offered

Low- and modest-income homeowners whose homes need repairs up can apply to either their local government or the county for a maximum \$500 loan or grant.

The loans are available through a federal Community Development Block Grant to Oakland County.

First Federal Savings of Oakland will make the final decisions on the subsidized three per cent loans.

In addition to application information, the bank will take into consideration the applicant's verification of annual earnings and credit rating and capacity to repay the loan.

The Oakland County Community Development Department will make the final decision on grants.

In order to be eligible, homeowners must meet family size income limits and live in an eligible rental tract. Total liquid assets cannot exceed \$20,000.

For a family of four, the maximum per

come limit for a loan is \$12,000, for a grant it would be \$2,500.

All applicants will be chosen on a first come, first serve basis, providing they meet eligibility requirements.

All applicants must have the following information to be considered:

- 1. 1975 signed income tax statement.

## SEMTA buses GTW commuters to the depot

SEMTA is seeking to win back Birmingham, Bt & merge into commuters to the Grand Trunk Western rail service by operating its own bus service from downtown Detroit to the depot.

Detroit officials are eager because they feel SEMTA is attracting on Detroit's franchise and because it's a bad reflection on the service Detroit's buses are providing.

SEMTA (Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority) operates the GTW commuter line from Detroit to Pontiac under a purchase of services agreement.

"THERE WILL BE no charge for the bus ride to the depot," said Daniel D. Morrell, who manages the transportation agency's bus programs.

Riders will just show their monthly passes or their tickets to Jefferson (Lake Shore) buses to get from Woodward Avenue to the intersection of Jefferson and St. Antoine, two blocks from the depot.

Morrell said GTW ridership had slipped in the last two years to a low of about 600 a day.

**CHIEF REASON:** he said appeared to be an unacceptable level of reliability for the Detroit buses which operate in the downtown rail depot of GTW.

He said SEMTA staff members had monitored the Detroit bus service for the past year and found it had failed to improve. Meanwhile, there were "consistent rider complaints."

Winter weather was another reason SEMTA officials sought improved bus service to the depot.

SEMTA will get around the problem of Detroit's franchise by offering its bus service as an extension of rail passenger service rather than as competition with Detroit buses.

SEMTA has been negotiating with De-

## Cross country ski tour in county park

Independence Oaks County Park will sponsor a noncompetitive cross country ski tour at noon Jan. 8. The family style outing will be held in the park on Sashabaw Road north of 123 in Independence Township.

Registration for \$3.50 per person. There are trails of 1 1/2, two and 4 1/2 miles to tackle as well as a special trail for children.

Those who complete their trails will be awarded a patch commemorating "Ski Tour '77." If there are any doubt about snow conditions, call the park at 624-0277.

There is a park admission of \$2 per car for Oakland residents and \$3 for non residents. Annual passes are available.

Independence Oaks is open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk. Besides 7 1/2 miles of ski

trails, it has warming fires a shelter and lake for ice fishing.

Add-on Oaks, another county park, is also open for winter sports. It is on Romeo Road in Addison Township, directly north of Rochester.

Add-on Oaks has 13 miles of marked and wooded trails for snowmobiling. It also has ice fishing, ice skating, a warming house, concession service with hot food and patrolled trails.

The same admissions prevail. In addition, there is a \$1 charge per snowmobile.

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