

Area parks fill gas gap

By LEM MESEE
Outdoors writer

The silver lining in the sad tale of soaring gasoline prices is that many local folks are discovering Oakland County's fine parks system.

Attendance at day parks is up 10 percent this year — 357,000 visits compared to 324,000 last year. When you add visits to the mobile recreation sites and the county golf courses, there's a 14 percent increase in county park use.

One forthcoming event will help stimulate interest in county parks.

"FISHING FOR Fun Day" is Thursday, Aug. 23 at Independence Oaks County Park on Sashabaw Road north of Clarkston.

Parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles will pair up with youngsters to form teams for this fishing contest. It will take place on the 68-acre, spring-fed Crooked Lake, home of largemouth bass and northern pike as well as panfish.

Activities begin with a fishing demonstration at 3:30 p.m., then a fish identification clinic and awards to the youngest and oldest anglers, the longest fish and the largest catch.

You have to register by Aug. 17. Cost is \$3 per team. To register by mail, send your check or money order to: Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission Fishing for Fun Day, Independence Oaks County Park, 9501 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston 48016.

There are piers for shoreline fishing and a boat for unpowered craft. Boats may also be rented. (On a 68-acre lake, you don't need a motor.)

Bring your bait and tackle. Worms can be purchased at the booth.

Team members must be related. One member must be under age 16. The older angler, of course, must have a license.



Outdoors

GROVELAND OAKS Park in the northwest part of the county is accounting for some of the increased business, with its 600 sites for tents and camping vehicles. Groveland Oaks is on Stewart Lake east of Dixie Highway at Grange Hall Road near Holly.

Some families get to be known as "regulars," carping there as soon as it opens in spring until it closes in September.

Besides traditional camping, swimming and fishing, there are ping-pong tournaments, pedal boat races, crafts and volleyball games under the guidance of Cindy Moon, acting recreation director. The mobile recreation program comes there with skate, swim, puppet and nature mobiles.

There are Saturday night hayrides, weekly movies, an annual corn roast and Thursday night square dancing.

County parks have fees that run a bit more than state parks. But when you consider the facilities and the gasoline you can save, it's worth looking into.

Mobile moguls hail appeals court order

The Michigan Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Institute has hailed the State Court of Appeals decision to dissolve a preliminary injunction against 20 mobile home dealers in the metropolitan Detroit area.

State Attorney General Frank Kelley had asked the injunction against their renting or mobile home sites, charging the dealers engaged in illegal antitrust activity. Kelley alleged the dealers refused to lease sites unless customers agreed to purchase mobile homes from them.

The appeals court dissolved a lower court's preliminary injunction, holding that Kelley failed to present evidence to implicate the dealers in any illegal activity.

In the trade association's Livonia headquarters, Robert G. Pelkey, executive director, praised the appeals court's decision, saying:

"I am confident this decision will prevent the attorney general from trying to stop these dealers from engaging in otherwise legal business practices by improper use of the injunctive power of the court."

Fenton joins DT&I railroad

Jerome L. Fenton of Farmington Hills has been appointed director of legal affairs of Detroit, Toledo & Irontrain Railroad, headquartered in Dearborn. He will have responsibility for all litigation and general corporate legal matters.

Fenton is a former Oakland County assistant prosecutor and legal advisor to the probate court. He was previously with The Taubman Co. in Troy, where he was responsible for managing property and negotiating shopping center leases and real estate contracts.

A native of Detroit, he earned his law degree from Detroit College of Law.

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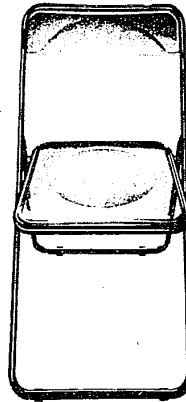
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