

# Spring will bring children's farm

By LEM MESESE  
Outdoors writer

A new children's farm — smaller and less commercial — will be opened at Kensington Metropark in warm weather.

It will be operated by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority itself rather than a private company.

Don Beem, HCMA's chief of resources, said it would have fewer animals and a smaller overhead than the Children's Farm and Village, which was closed down last month after HCMA bought some of the assets of the private operator.

Children's Farm and Village, Inc. leased 100 acres at the north end of the 4,300-acre metropark in Milford Township of Oakland County and was to pay HCMA a percentage of the revenue with \$25,000 a year guaranteed.

"It just didn't work out. It never showed a profit," said Beem.

"They had to develop the farm first. That was never a break-even operation. They needed the rides to go with it."

Children's Village ran afoul of the zoning ordinance of the township. The fight went to circuit court. In a consent judgment last April, the parties agreed on a restricted number of rides.

But before even those rides could be put in, said Beem, a homeowners group attacked the operation in another court case, and the company was unable to expand even to the limits of the consent judgment.

The firm gave up and asked HCMA to buy its assets. It kept the sleighs, a swan boat, a fire engine and the animals. HCMA acquired the steam engine, pens, the restaurant and other buildings for \$550,000.

All the lawsuits have been dropped, said Beem, except for one by state Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley, who challenged HCMA's legal right to enter into a lease agreement.

HCMA staff will study until March what to do next with the property, Beem said. One question is who should operate the farm (the naturalists?) and the restaurant.



While the state grants concessions to store operators at state parks, HCMA runs the boat livery, beach bath-houses and food stands at metroparks. An exception is Kensington's cross country ski rental and instruction, which is run by Raupp Campfitters.

IF IT SNOWS, Independence Oaks County Park will offer a series of cross country ski nature interpretive programs Saturday, Jan. 12.

The first, on animals in winter, will run from 10 a.m. to noon, guided by naturalist Kathleen Dougherty.

Bring your own skis because no rental equipment is available. Register in advance by calling the park office at 625-0877. The park entrance is off Sasabaw Road north of I-75 near Clarkston.

Future programs: Jan. 26, introduction to cross country ski touring; Feb. 9, winter survival and snow shelter; Feb. 23, scavenger hunt on skis; and March 21, owl.

SNOWMOBILE accidents claimed 25 lives and injured 734 persons last winter, state police report. But that represents a reduction from the peak of 39 deaths in 1974-5 and nearly 2,000 injuries in 1971-72.

One reason may be the safety instructions that are becoming more and more common.

Addison Oaks County Park near Oxford is showing safety films Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 aimed at the age 12-16 group, said Gerald Lee, assistant park supervisor.

Films start at 2 p.m. in the basement of the Addison Oaks warming shelter and concession building and last 15-25 minutes.

Addison Oaks, whose entrance is off Romeo Road west of Rochester Road in Addison Township, boasts 700 acres of woods and 13 miles of winding snowmobile trails. Trails are patrolled.

When the snow base is sufficient, snowmobiling is allowed Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Check snow conditions by calling the park office at 693-2432.

Park admission is \$2 per car and snowmobile and \$1 more for additional snowmobiles.

Bob Hope knows just how much Red Cross helps veterans.



"Red Cross also helps many veterans upgrade their military discharges... and that holds the key to getting a job. Just last year, Red Cross represented more than 2000 veterans before discharge review boards. "And discharge review for an additional 6000 veterans is in process. "Giving a hand to veterans is another powerful reason for us to help keep Red Cross ready. "I and a hand."

"If you're a veteran, the role and scope that affect your benefits can sometimes be baffling. Where to turn for help. By Red Cross. Yes, the Red Cross. Last year, American Red Cross helped tens of thousands of former servicemen and their families get their educational, disability, assistance and medical benefits.

**Keep Red Cross ready.**

## CHIMNEYS



427-3981

BUILT NEW • REPAIRED SCREENED • CLEANED WATERPROOFED ROOF LEAKS STOPPED ANIMAL REMOVAL. LICENSED • INSURED • GUARANTEED. **KARNEY DERDERIAN CONTRACTORS**

## WE PAY FOR YOUR OPINIONS

MEN - WOMEN - CHILDREN Market Research Needs Your Opinions - No Sales Ever!

Call now to register for future studies to be held in our Birmingham Office

**METROPOLITAN DETROIT MARKET RESEARCH, INC.**  
Call Mon.-Fri. 9-7 645-5611

**YEAR-END CLEARANCE**

'135 VALUE **\$48** 2 for '92

**TWO PC. & 3 PC. VESTED SUITS**

Fantastic values at our year-end Clearance Sale! Garbards, Swedish Knits, Tweeds in Stripes, Plaids, Solids, etc. In Designer & European styles. Many other items specially priced for this sale!

Rated Four Star by the Underground Shopper

**JACK'S FACTORY OUTLET**  
335-8277  
Miracle Mile Shopping Center  
Telegraph North of Square Lake Rd.  
Open Mon., Tue., Wed. 10-6  
Thurs., Fri. 10-6 Sat. 10-7 Sun. 12-5

**YEAR-END CLEARANCE**

**Need to get away?**

Call our Observer & Eccentric Travel Desk  
591-2300 Ext. 244  
for information about our Caribbean Holiday.  
Do it for yourself.

## Subways

The underground railroad, a secret system involving the transport of runaway slaves from the Southern to Northern states, had no definite name until the introduction of the steam railway.

Because of the mysterious nature of the operation, fugitive slaves appeared to have been shot through an underground tube. This idea, along with the system's image as a network of railroad lines, is believed to have originated the name "underground railroad." More than 25 underground railroad stations were located in Michigan, according to the travel bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce.

**Local News?**

**Read it Here**

On Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

**STUDY french**

WITH THE ALLIANCE FRANCAISE OF DETROIT

Conversation classes in metropolitan locations. Native French teachers.

**REGISTER NOW**

FOR WINTER TERM

Alliance Francaise of Detroit  
Institute of French

PHONE 292-2750

**Need to get away?**

Call our Observer & Eccentric Travel Desk

Ext. 244 for information about our Caribbean Holiday.

**Do it for yourself.**

**GARAGE DOOR OPENERS**

**Genie**

NEW! IMPROVED! MODEL GS409D **\$185.00**

MODEL GS459D **\$195.00**

INSTALLED DIGITAL CONTROLS

**1 YEAR WARRANTY** Sales & Service

**ALADDIN "GENIE"**

722-0610 PARTS & SERVICE 335-9075

NORTHVILLE-NOVI WEST BLOOMFIELD TROY-PONTIAC

PLYMOUTH-CANTON ROCHESTER-BIRMINGHAM

FARMINGTON-SOUTHFIELD

**THE U-M SERVES ADULT STUDENTS IN BIRMINGHAM**

**With a Great Lineup of Winter Term Courses**

Announcing our best course schedule ever at the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education! Graduate and undergraduate credit in such offerings as History of American Art, Women in American Literature, Technical and Professional Writing, and Language and Culture. Also a special European history course, The Holocaust, plus Group Dynamics, The Family, and several others. These evening courses begin the week of Jan. 14; no formal admission to the University required.

Real Estate: Interested in beginning or advanced work in real estate? U-M's Birmingham program is the biggest and best around! A five-week term begins Jan. 14.

Personal Enrichment: Book Collecting, Architecture Styles and Getting Published are a few of the fun, noncredit courses in Birmingham beginning in late January. Eight more courses in West Bloomfield. For full information call:

**642-9727**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN EXTENSION SERVICE**

**Ethan Allen winter sale**

... Your Best Home Furnishings Value ... Now Even Better! save 10% to 20%

**Choose from 8 stunning living rooms....**

**7 magnificent dining rooms...**

**and 4 beautiful bedrooms!**

Sale ends Sunday, March 2nd.

VISA • MASTER CHARGE • CONVENIENT TERMS

OPEN MON. THURS. FRI. TIL 9 TUES. WED. SAT. TIL 5:30 SUNDAY 12 TO 4

**the Hearthside**  
Michigan's Largest Ethan Allen Dealer

LIVONIA • 15700 Middlebelt Road • PHONE 422-8770  
UTICA • 50170 Van Dyke • PHONE 739-6100  
SOUTHFIELD • 15600 W. 12 Mile Road • PHONE 557-1800