

outdoors

Pine Knob's no sale

By LEM MESEE
outdoors writer

Owners of the Pine Knob recreation complex near Clarkston have withdrawn their offer to sell the 343-acre entertainment center to Oakland County.

The county Parks and Recreation Commission had planned to vote on the proposed purchase Wednesday.

"It's moot. It's not for sale," said Parks Director R. Eric Reickel.

"I'm disappointed, but if it's going to be held (for recreation by the current owners), I have no argument.

"I still think it's threatened (financially). I don't know how long the people of Pine Knob can hold on."

Reickel was prepared to recommend the county buy the Pine Knob outdoor music theater, ski resort and golf course.

A report prepared last month by the county's budget office proposed Oakland County could buy Pine Knob for \$17-19 million. Owners Joseph Loricchio and Gary Francell, partners in the Pine Knob Investment Corp., reportedly wanted \$20 million.

The owners last month filed Chapter XI petitions in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, seeking temporary protection from creditors while trying to pay off an estimated \$12 million in debt.

Reickel said some "pretty inflammatory" newspaper articles regarding Pine Knob's bankruptcy and its bearing on a possible county purchase caused the owners to pull the complex off the market.

The county had proposed to pay for the complex by issuing general obligation bonds. But the bond market has tightened up considerably since the county prepared its feasibility study. Investors have been shying away from the bonds, whose interest rates are close to 9 percent.

The county purchase would have required voter approval.

GLEN OAKS Golf Course in Farmington Hills is slated for major renovations in the county parks system's new development budget.

Glen Oaks, which became county property last year, would get a complete modernization of kitchen facilities, including new equipment. Glen

Oaks operates a lounge and restaurant and provides banquet facilities for groups of up to 350.

It would also get men's and women's locker rooms and restrooms, a new golf pro shop and remodeled interior entrance and office space. Work is expected to be completed by May 1, Reickel said.

Altogether, the county parks commission budgeted \$321,000 for development in 1980. Among other projects:

- 55 new modern campsites at Addison Oaks park near Oxford.

- Exploration of a solar mechanism to reduce heating costs at Waterford Oaks, which has the state's only wave action pool.

- Improved irrigation on the greens of White Lake Oaks 18-hole golf course on Williams Lake Road near Pontiac.

New this year will be a new tennis complex at Waterford Oaks. It will include eight tennis courts, four platform tennis courts, 10 shuffleboard courts, horseshoe pits and an equipment rental center.

Groveland Oaks will have 52 modern campsites with electricity and water hookups. They were completed last year and will be open this summer.

Addison Oaks will have a new boat rental booth, dock and ornamental pedestrian bridge.

HURON-CLINTON Metroparks have a pair of nearby programs coming up this weekend.

An "Owl Prowl" featuring the great horned owl will be conducted at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at the nature center of Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester. This predator begins nesting in mid-February. Naturalist Roger Barker will use slides and tapes. Register in advance by calling the nature center at 782-1255.

"Conservation Wise" is the title of a special program at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 23, at the nature center of Kensington Metropark near Milford. Naturalist Dave Mollanen will talk about alternative energy sources, pollution and toxic wastes. Register in advance by calling the nature center at 685-1551.

Both programs are free, but there is a vehicle admission charge.

'Austrian wave' to engulf LIT

Vienna, the romantic center of European culture, will spread its influence here this spring as a group of Austrian architects begins a limited tour of American colleges and other institutions.

Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield has been selected one of the sites for the series of six lectures beginning March 27 and continuing through May 1.

"The Austrian Wave," a program of international ideas exchange is being organized by the national tour program of the Institute of Architecture and Urban Studies in cooperation with the LIT School of Architecture.

The tour is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and

the Zentralsparkasse and Kommerzbank Wien in addition to private funds provided by each of the host institutions.

The program will begin on March 27 with an introduction by Andrew McNair, editor, Skyline Magazine and director of the IAU's National Exchange Program.

Following McNair will be: April 3, Otto Kapfinger, "The actions of Vienna: Meditation and architecture"; Thursday, April 10, Rudolph Koboutek, "Lessons from the Ringstrasse: Therapeutic Nihilism"; April 17, Renate Prochazka, "The Austrian Flag: Monotony and Beauty"; April 24, Heinz Tesar, "From Freud to Jung: The Architectonics of Type"; and May 11, Herman Czech,

"Before Otto Wagner and after Adolf Loos."

All of the lectures will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the architecture auditorium on the LIT campus, 21000 West Ten Mile Road (near Northwestern) in Southfield. The presentations will be free and open to the public.

Also being presented in conjunction with the "Austrian Wave" will be an exhibit on "The New Viennese Architecture." Highlighted will be each of the speakers' own architecture as well as several other Viennese architects.

The exhibit will be presented in the School of Architecture Gallery from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., weekdays, March 25 - April 17.

OCC election
deadline nears

Filing deadline for candidates for the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees is 4 p.m. April 22.

On Monday, June 9, three trustees will be elected to the seven-member board for six-year terms. Current trustees whose terms expire June 30 are Barbara J. Willing, David W. Hackett and Gordon C. Henderson. Trustees are unpaid.

Nominating petitions are available at the college's George A. Bee Administrative Center, 2489 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills. To qualify for the ballot, candidates must have at least 50 petition signatures from registered voters of the community college district.

The nominating petitions must be filed with Helen S. Kaiser, secretary of the Board of Trustees.

The college has four campuses throughout the county, including Orchard Ridge at 27055 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, Auburn Hills, east of Pontiac, Highland Lakes in Union Lake and the Southeast Campus System.

Students teach
blind to ski

Students from Michigan State University are using their love of skiing to help handicapped students.

About 40 MSU students are volunteers in a therapeutic recreation program for handicapped students from the Michigan School for the Blind (MSB) in Lansing.

Each Monday and Wednesday, from December through March, the MSU students and other volunteers assist 46 handicapped children and young adults, ages 7 through 28, in learning downhill and cross-country skiing. Students with other handicaps also participate.

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