

# County parks do what community alone can't

By TIM RICHARD

With state parks, the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan and local parks, why does Oakland County have a parks system?  
R. Eric Reickel, manager of the eight-park system, answers quickly. "The county provides a medium-sized park system that complements local programs, not duplicates them."  
"The county park concept was never intended to replace or displace local responsibilities for day-to-day operations. The county's concept is to provide intermediate-sized parks within an hour's drive from home to complement local municipalities' parks."

**REICKEL THEN gets specific:**  
"Many communities can't afford a full-time naturalist."  
"No one community can afford a wave pool," he said, pointing to Michigan's only wave pool at Independence Oaks park.  
"Most communities can't afford the mobile units we have," Reickel went on. He cited the swim-mobile, used in the summer months; the skate-mobile, which can turn a parking lot into a skating rink; the

show-mobile, an outdoor stage for plays, concerts and shows; the puppet-mobile, sports-mobile, art-mobile and movie/nature mobile.

OAKLAND COUNTY parks differ from the five-county regional metroparks, too.  
"Metroparks serve more than one jurisdiction. They provide open space on the metropolitan fringe. They have larger picnic and swimming areas, and they are not as heavily into recreation," Reickel said.

"We teach people how to use parks — not just develop a park and say, 'OK, people, here it is.'"  
The parks system manager thinks Oakland County's work isn't done yet.

"The energy situation is forcing most of us to seek more recreational pleasure close to home. As the parks' use increases, so does the need to provide adequate space and facilities," he said.

FIVE YEARS ago, some 400,000 persons used county parks. This year, park usage is expected to top one million.

Thus, park usage is increasing far faster than population. It means more of Oakland's one million residents are using parks, and using them more often.

That is why Reickel is working this year to win voter renewal of a quarter-mill property tax for another five years. If it's rejected Aug. 5, the loss would come at a highly inappropriate time because future plans are being laid.

The county parks system gets most of its money from local sources, with only a small amount of capital money coming from Lansing and Washington.

Park admissions fees (\$2 per car for Oakland residents, \$3 for non-residents) help cover operating costs. The quarter-mill property tax goes mostly into land acquisition and development, but is also used to help cover operating costs.

**WHAT HAVE** Oakland parks users received for their money since the last time the millage was renewed?

- Reickel listed:
- The opening of Independence Oaks County Park, with its traditional picnic-swimming-fishing facilities, play equipment, three nature trails and a naturalist.
  - The wave pool at Waterford Oaks.
  - The Red Oaks golf complex in Madison Heights.
  - The purchase of Glen Oaks Golf Course, with its clubhouse, in Farmington Hills.
  - A "court center" at Waterford Oaks — for tennis, platform tennis, horseshoes and shuffleboard.
  - Modernized campsites at Groveland Oaks.

**THE QUARTER-MILL** currently raises about \$2.5 million in revenue, Reickel said.

Some \$858,000, roughly one-third, is used for capital development and the rest goes into the \$3.5 million operating budget. The entire \$1.88 million raised from user fees goes into operations.

The owner of a \$60,000 house, assessed for taxes at \$30,000, would pay \$7.50 per year. The parks tax has remained at a quarter-mill ever since it was first authorized 14 years ago.



## Correction

James F. McCarthy of Waterford Township is one of three candidates for an Oakland County Circuit Court judgeship. His quote, "I believe in capital punishment. I believe it is something that would enhance justice," was printed with an incorrect photo in the July 24 Oakland County editions of The Observer & Eccentric. McCarthy, 42, an assistant county prosecutor, is seeking election for the first time.



## Stamp out forest fires.

It doesn't take much to start a forest fire. A cigarette ember nestled in some leaves. A match that's not completely cooled. Or a campfire cinder that has made its way into the brush. That's all it takes to destroy millions of acres, and thousands of living creatures.

It doesn't take much to prevent forest fires either. Making sure your cigarette or

match is absolutely lifeless, and that your campfire has been doused with water, and covered with soil.

Carelessness with fire affects all of us who love the forest. And we think it's about time we all put our foot down.

A Public Service of This Newspaper & The Advertising Council

# WANTED

## YOUR OLD GOLD & SILVER ITEMS WE STILL PAY MORE! NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY

CHECK OUR PRICES FIRST!

PLEASE BRING YOUR ITEMS TO THE NEAREST LOCATION - PLEASE COUNT AND SEPARATE YOUR COINS

### COIN INVESTMENTS OF WARREN

30100 Van Dyke - Suite 229-A  
In the Michigan National Bank Building  
N. of 12 Mile across from Chevrolet Engineering

**573-8020**

### MIDWEST COIN INVESTMENTS

725 S. Adams  
S. of Maple • Birmingham  
In the South Adams Square Mall

**642-5081**

### COIN INVESTMENTS OF LIVONIA

10988 Middlebelt  
2 Blocks S. of Plymouth Rd.  
Across from Wonderland Shopping Center

**525-4100**

## U.S. SILVER COINS

(1964 and Before)

## PAYING

HALF DOLLARS . \$6.25 each  
QUARTERS..... \$3.12 each  
DIMS..... \$1.25 each

## WE BUY AND SELL

- Gold Bullion Coins
- K-Rands
- 50 Pesos, etc.

**CALL FOR DAILY BUY/SELL QUOTES**

HALF DOLLARS - 1965-69...\$2.10 each

### SILVER WAR NICKELS

55¢ each...1942-1945

**DUE TO THE DAILY FLUCTUATION OF GOLD & SILVER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO QUOTE PRICES FOR THIS WEEK. PLEASE CALL FOR DAILY QUOTE.**

### SILVER DOLLARS WANTED

**PAYING \$15.00**  
EACH AND MORE FOR  
SILVER DOLLARS MINTED BEFORE 1935

BU SILVER DOLLAR ROLLS  
MINTED BEFORE 1921 WANTED  
PAYING \$600.00 PER ROLL  
TOP DOLLAR PAID  
FOR ALL RARE COINS

PAYING CASH FOR • Forks • Knives • Spoons  
• Plates • Serving Sets  
• Franklin Mint • Silver Bars

## STERLING SILVER

We buy anything marked sterling, .925 or .999—

spoons, forks, knives, plates, candlesticks, trophies, trays, frames, tea sets, etc.

.925 & Sterling...\$13.00 Oz.  
.999...\$16.00 Oz.

## DIAMONDS WANTED

**PAYING CASH FOR ANY FORM OF GOLD**

Anything marked 10K-14K-18K-BROKEN-Rings, Bracelets, Jewelry, Chains, Watches, Bullion, Nuggets, Placer, etc.

10K.....\$5.50 per gram  
14K.....\$8.25 per gram  
18K.....\$10.25 per gram  
DENTAL GOLD.....\$9.10

### DENTAL SILVER WANTED

We also buy goldfill and gold plate - jewelry or watch bands marked R.G.P. or G.F. or H.G.E. or 1/10 of 12K, eyeglass frames, etc. at 50¢ per ounce.

Electronic Scrap...gold, silver, platinum points....  
Please bring in for offer.

Platinum - jewelry or industrial...\$14.00 per gram and up

- YES! WE DO BUY FOREIGN SILVER COINS
- YES! WE DO BUY UNMARKED SILVER ITEMS

### U.S. GOLD COINS WANTED

\$225.00 each for \$1.00 GOLD COINS  
\$125.00 each for \$2.50 GOLD COINS  
\$525.00 each for \$3.00 GOLD COINS  
\$7000.00 each for \$4.00 GOLD COINS  
\$155.00 each for \$5.00 GOLD COINS  
\$325.00 each for \$10.00 GOLD COINS  
\$650.00 each for \$20.00 GOLD COINS

## BUYING

- Rings
- Dental Gold
- Gold Teeth
- Old Pocket Watches
- Foreign Gold
- Swords
- (Any Condition)
- Canadian Coins
- Diamonds
- Gold Watches
- Gold Rings
- Old Baseball Cards
- Sterling Silver
- Any Old U.S. Coins
- Franklin Mint
- Scrap Gold
- Old Music Boxes
- Silver Bars
- Class Rings
- Industrial Silver
- Proof Sets

### BUYING CANADIAN SILVER COINS MINTED BEFORE 1967

SILVER DOLLARS..... \$9.10  
SILVER HALF DOLLARS.. \$4.10  
SILVER QUARTERS..... \$2.05  
SILVER DIMS..... .82

## HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 10-5

Scales Certified by Weights and Measures  
SUBJECT TO MARKET