

Parks cut fees for senior citizens

By LEM MESESE
Outdoors writer

Kensington Metropark currently has five miles of bike-hike trail from the east boat launch through the woods near Island Road. The new project will extend the trail to the west boat launch.

Park entrances are on Kent Lake Road and Kensington Road north of I-95 in western Oakland County.

DOGS USUALLY aren't welcome at beaches. Besides, beaches are bad for dogs — so says the Humane Society of the United States.

"Dogs can't sweat as people do," said Phyllis Wright, director of animal control and sheltering.

"Sand is also a prime offender. If the sand is hot enough to burn your feet, it's hot enough to burn your dog's, too. To make matters worse, a dog will often lick the burnt foot, ingest the sand and make himself sick in the process."

Fleas and ticks abound. If your dog begins to pant heavily and his tongue turns deep red or purple, heat prostration may be setting in. Douse him with water or wrap him in a wet towel. Feed him ice cubes or ice cream, but don't let him gulp too much water.

METROPARKS programs coming up in the next week:

• "Animal Legends" at Kensington's nature center at 7:30 tonight. Naturalist Bob Hotaling will use slides to separate fact from fiction about spiders, snakes, bats and wolves. Preregister by calling the park office at 685-1561 (Milford).

• "Preparing, Spinning and Dyeing Wool" at the Kensington Farm Center from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2. Interpreter Karen Winalis will spin stories and wool. Call the farm center at 685-9105 to preregister.

• "Flowers of the Field" at the Stony Creek nature center northeast of Rochester at 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 3. Naturalist Leslie Sutton will lead a walk and talk about field flowers, their medicinal and food value. Preregister by calling 781-4621 (Washington).

• "Gardening with Field Flowers" at the Kensington nature center at 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3. Bob Hotaling will tell you how to prepare the soil, which flowers to plant or not to plant, and sources of wildflowers. Preregister by calling 685-1561.

• "An Evening Nature Cruise" aboard the Island Queen excursion boat at Kensington's west boat dock at 8

Rates are reduced at county golf courses — at Springfield Oaks, Glen Oaks in Farmington, White Lake Oaks and Red Oaks.

p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5. Charge for the one-hour cruise is \$1.50. Preregister by calling 685-1561.

• "Bats of Michigan" at Kensington nature center at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6. Naturalist Steve Horn will use slides and skins to tell about the flying

mammal. Preregister. Huron-Clinton Metroparks programs are generally free, except for the boat cruise, once you have paid the vehicle entry fee. Advance registration gives the staff a chance to avoid overcrowding.

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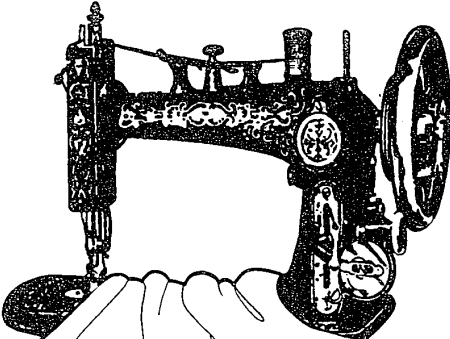
Senility not true diagnosis

Dear Jo: How many people are there over age 65 in the U.S.? Also what is the life expectancy?

Dear Jo: Does the word senility refer to all mental illness in the elderly?

There are 23 million people older than 65 in this country, or about 10.5 percent of the total population. This percentage is expected to increase further in response to new medical discoveries, improved health care and the present, declining birth rate. A marked difference exists between life expectancies in men and women and blacks and whites in the U.S. population. White women's life expectancy is 76 years, white men's is 68 years, while for black women the life expectancy is 67 years and for black men 60 years.

Dear Forgetful: Mental illness at any age should be specifically diagnosed by a qualified person. Senility is not a diagnosis. The term has been used by many for any sign that older people display reflecting a decline in mental function, even forgetfulness. It has been used carelessly at times, implying that a decrease in mental function is an expected outcome of the normal aging process. This is not so. Should a person have symptoms of mental illness prompt therapy is needed.



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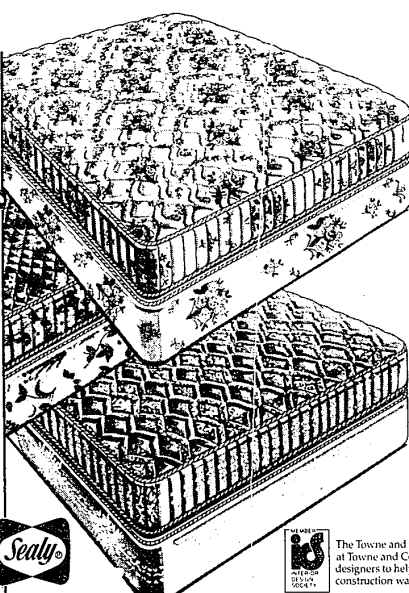
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