

Stony Creek improvements slated

By LEM MESESE
Outdoors writer

Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester is due for some improvements in 1981.

Additions to the bike-hike trail, road system and parking lot were announced by Charles R. Shafer, who represents Oakland County on the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority board.

HCMCA awarded a \$131,000 contract to Stolarvik Corp. of Southfield to:

- extend the bike-hike path by two miles. When completed the path will provide 6.5 miles of total trail with an eight-foot pavement width.
- Add 1,000 feet to the park road system.
- Expand the winter cove parking lot by space for 150 vehicles.

outdoors

Stony Creek is second largest of the 10 HCMCA metroparks in the five-county region. It covers nearly 4,000 acres around Stony Creek Lake.

PHOTOGRAPHERS visiting Oakland County parks can compete again for prizes up to \$200 this winter.

Open to amateur photographers of all ages, the contest has categories for black-and-white prints, color prints and color slides. Deadline is Feb. 16.

Possible topics are ice skating, ice fishing, sledding, woodland trails, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

You may submit as many entries as you wish but can win in only one category.

Entries may be taken in any of the eight county parks: Addison Oaks near Oxford, Glen Oaks in Farmington Hills, Greendale Oaks near Holly, Independence Oaks near Clarkston, Red Oaks in Madison Heights, Springfield Oaks near Davisburg, Waterford Oaks and White Lake Oaks, both west of Pontiac.

All photos must be identified with the contestant's name, address and phone number. Obtain entry blanks by writing to the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Pontiac 48054.

REVENUE for Oakland County parks operation is expected to be nearly \$4.9 million, up \$457,000 or 10 percent over 1980.

Parks Manager R. Eric Reickel called the increase "very moderate" in view of inflation and the disappearance of federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act funding.

Parks money comes from user fees and a quarter-mill property tax which voters in 1980 renewed for five years.

Reickel said there would be a "limited increase" in fees next year.

The county parks system will mark its 15th anniversary in 1981.

WAITING UNTIL the last minute to make ski lodge reservations?

You may find lodge space in northern lower Michigan, where bookings are down 10 to 20 percent because of the recession. That's what lodge owners tell the Automobile Club of Michigan.

In the Upper Peninsula, however, ski resorts have heavier-than-normal bookings. All five ski areas will be full except possibly Ski Brule near Iron River.

The difference is that the western UP draws its customers from Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, while the northern lower peninsula draws from southeast Michigan, Auto Club said.

Ski areas with overnight accommodations in northwest lower Michigan all report some vacancies except Hilton Shanty Creek, near Bellaire, and Mt. Manselona. Motels and hotels in these areas report lighter bookings.

Local pianist goes Hollywood

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

David Syme has gone "Hollywood." It may sound funny that an established, and respected, concert pianist would seek the frills of southern California. But that's the kind of exposure Syme wants for himself, his music and the people he entertains.

Syme returns home as the featured guest artist 7:30 p.m. Sunday with the West Bloomfield Symphony.

The 31-year-old pianist remains a familiar figure local music lovers. Syme's parents, Rabbi and Mrs. Robert Syme, live in West Bloomfield, and he enjoys coming home to visit friends and perform for area concert lovers.

But Syme finds himself busy establishing new roots in Hollywood — with a new musical philosophy. He wants to entertain people by combining his classical music talents with popular music.

It wasn't easy to sell this idea. But like most Hollywood-type careers, Syme finally met the right people who gave him the needed exposure.

"I THINK OF myself as part of the audience," Syme said. "I want to be entertained. It's like a sporting event. I want to see a diving catch."

"I was kind of frustrated," Syme said after a successful European concert tour from 1975-1978.

"I wanted to test the validity of my music. I wanted to play for people who didn't know a lot about this kind of music."

The European tour included nine concerts. It resulted in many excellent reviews. Critics from Holland, Germany, England, Italy and Poland praised Syme for his "direct, unambiguous approach," and his "great vitality."

One critic said Syme "seems to possess just the qualities to give the most brilliant and convincing interpretations."

He was labeled as a bright, young star of the future — but all those superlatives didn't satisfy him.



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