Discount cards for seniors

Multi-Purpose centers, nutrition sites and senior citizen housing will be used in January to issue Oakland senior citizen discount identification cards.

Business people who would like to have their business used as a camera location, or a group which wants a camera location in its area, may telephone Gayl Meger at 858-5171. Seniors may have their photographs taken at the sites and laminated into plastic identification cards.

The ID cards include a picture of the person, signature, address, birthdate, social security number and the official County Seal.

THE CARDS will enable senior citizens, 60 and older, in Oakland County to take advantage of discounts from 4 to 50 percent offered by local merchants.

A directory of participating merchants is available for 65 cents at the camera locations and senior centers. Persons who wish to order the directory by mail should send a check for $1.20 to: Discount Directory, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, 196 Oakland, Pontiac 48058.

HERE ARE camera locations for January:

Farmington — Friday, Jan. 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Farmington at the Farmington Gathering Place at Mercy Center, 28600 E. 11 Mile Road, Gate Four.

Southfield — On Monday, Jan. 12, from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1-4 p.m at Tel-12 Mall, 28690 Telegraph Road.

Rochester — On Monday, Jan. 19, from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1-3:30 p.m. at Winchester Mall, 1160 Rochester Road (corner of Avon).

This holiday week will be for the birds

By LEM MESEE
Outdoors writer

outdoors

New Year's means hunkering down indoors for most folks — but not for bird watchers.

Bird counts will be made at two Huron-Clinton Metroparks in the coming week.

This Sunday, Oakwoods Metropark near Rockwood will be scene of the seventh annual "Christmas Bird Count" from dawn to dusk.

Co-sponsors are the metropark nature center and the Lower Rouge Nature Club. Any interested bird watcher may attend. Preregister by calling the nature center at 782-1255.

Oakwoods' count has traditionally been one of the highest in the state, the metroparks folks tell us. Oakwoods is one of the three southern Wayne County parks easily reached by either Telegraph Road or I-275.

Kensington Metropark, north of New Hudson, will start its bird count at 8 a.m. on the following Saturday, Jan. 3. Naturalist Bob Hotaling will lead the all-day count, which is not an official Audubon Society tally but is conducted in much the same manner.

Register for the Kensington count by calling the nature center at 685-1561. Follow I-96 west just into Livingston County, take the Kensington Road exit and follow the signs.

Bring binoculars and a lunch. Follow fitness columnist Barry Franklin's advice on today's op-ed page on dressing for cold-weather exercise.

The programs are free, but you'll need a park vehicle-entry permit. It's a good idea to buy your 1981 permit early if you can just in case the price goes up on Jan. 1.

TWO OTHER programs are coming up at Kensington this Sunday.

At 1 p.m., visitors will show nature slides for two hours in the nature center building. Each participant who wishes to show slides is asked to bring up to 20 favorites and be prepared to comment on each. Register in advance by calling the nature center at 685-1561.

At 7 p.m., interpreters at the Farm Center, at the north end of the park, will demonstrate soap making, candle making and spinning of fibers. Basic techniques will be discussed in this family program. Register in advance by calling the farm at 685-9105.

THE PINEWOOD nematode? Chances are you've never heard of this microscopic roundworm which attacks pine trees.

But chances are you will in the next year.

The pinewood nematode was discovered in Kalkaska County in early September, said George W. Bird, professor of entomology at Michigan State University.

"This is the first reported case of its presence in Michigan, and it makes us the 17th state to detect the pest," Bird said.

The pest, which can kill pines, was discovered in 1969 in Japan. A decade later, it appeared in the United States. It is carried by long-horned beetles.

It attacks all kinds of pines found in Michigan — red, white, jack and scotch — as well as sand, shortleaf, slash, Austrian, longleaf, ponderosa, loblolly, Virgina and Japanese black pines.

Its signs: reduction of resin flow from wounds, wilted needles, retention of brown needles and/or death 30 to 60 days after attack.

What to do? Remove and burn dead and dying trees. Keep trees healthy by watering, pruning and fertilizing:

If you have a pine with symptoms, take a core wood sample, enclose it in a self-sealing plastic bag and send it to: MSU Nematode Diagnostic Laboratory; Michigan State University; East Lansing 48824.

Check the local MSU County Extension office for bulletin E-800, "Nematode Detection."

More in store at AAA

While 1980 has not been a prosperous year for Michigan's economy or for persons whose lives are affected by the auto industry, Automobile Club of Michigan grew by 17,000 members to a record 1.3 million, according to Auto Club Board Chairman James H. Wineman.

"This year's growth is a remarkable achievement considering that car registrations in Michigan were down for the first nine months by more than 33,000 compared to 1979," said Wineman, adding that Auto Club's membership renewal rate remains near its historic high of more than 90 percent.

"Despite those positive signs for our organization, everything is not perfect for motorists," said Wineman, who pledged that the Auto Club will fight for motorists' interests in many areas during the upcoming Michigan legislative session.

"We will work to see the diesel users, both trucks and cars, pay more not less than motorists who use gasoline," he said. "Although the diesel fuel tax was dramatically cut to five cents a gallon for trucks, it was increased to 11 cents for cars."

Anticipating attempts to increase the size of trucks, Wineman said the Auto Club will point out strongly to the Michigan Legislature that longer and wider trucks are more dangerous, particularly with cars getting smaller.

"Truckers should pay more per mile, per pound for the privilege of using highways," he added.

The Auto Club also will closely monitor the establishment and implementation of a mandatory auto emission inspection law in Michigan and will work against attempts to repeal the state's compulsory helmet law for motorcyclists.

"We also will vigilantly guard our rights in protecting motorists whose autos are insured with us when the Essential Insurance Act takes effect Jan. 1," Wineman stated. "As we have done in the past, we will guarantee that all Michigan motorists can obtain auto insurance rates which are fair and as reasonable as experience and prudent financial judgment allow."

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