

The County Health Department

No bedside care, but teaching

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Need to know how to care for a cardiac patient? How about a diabetic? Or a newborn infant?

If you call the Oakland County Health Department at 624-7859, a visiting nurse will make a free house call of charge to assist you.

Homebound nursing for preventive health care is one of many functions performed by Health Department personnel.

"We don't give bedside care, but we'll help families learn the care. We teach and counsel," said Rita Moulton, chief field nurse.

The 47-person nursing staff will help anyone in Oakland County, regardless of their financial status, if they call or are referred to the health department.

"If a family has a handicapped child and thinks the child needs some assistance at school, we'll help," Moulton said.

MOST PEOPLE are familiar with the health department's immunization program, but many don't know about its other ancillary services, said Elaine Bevan, administrator of personal and preventive health services.

Oakland County resident. Children can't go to school without their shots," Bevan said.

For those who can't afford pediatric care, or dental care, the county will pay for the services through certain doctors.

"People can find out if they're eligible by filling out an application," Bevan said. "About 8 percent of our dental clients are senior citizens on Social Security."

Approximately 3,000 people are served through the county's preventive health services department annually. The department operates on a \$2.1-million budget. Of that, 85 percent comes from the county general fund.

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OTHER SERVICES the preventive health department provides include venereal disease testing (free); woman, infant and child care; blood-pressure screening; family planning; hearing and vision testing, and cancer detection.

"We'll do pregnancy tests at no charge, for people under 18 years old and give them family-planning counseling," Bevan said. "But for free adult family planning, persons must meet

the financial qualifications." In addition, Bevan said, the department offers nutrition and health information as well as child-care training to persons who need financial assistance.

The hearing and vision testing is done in school to all county residents. Persons out of school can be tested at the health department.

Free blood-pressure screening and breast cancer detection are available at the Southfield health center as well as in surrounding cities. For an appointment, call 424-7108.

LIT offers pro insurance program in fall

Beginning this fall, Lawrence Institute of Technology will become the center of professional insurance studies for the Detroit area.

A new program of courses in a variety of insurance areas — co-sponsored by the LIT School of Management and the Detroit Chapters of Certified Life Underwriters and Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriters — will be offered in the evenings at the College starting Sept. 2.

Classes will cover general principles of insurance, property insurance, casualty insurance, insurance company operations, principles of risk management insurance and legal environment of insurance will be available for continuing education credit.

The program will also include courses leading to the new Chartered Financial Consultant designation. These classes will be appropriate not only to those in insurance, but also to all professional planners.

For course descriptions and more information, call Eugenie Beall at LIT at 356-0200.

outdoors

Pontiac Lake's prognosis good: Fishing will be back next year

By Lem Maseo
outdoors writer

Pontiac Lake again will be loaded with fish, especially the popular largemouth bass.

The prognosis is good to excellent fishing by mid-1983 and excellent angling again by 1984.

Pontiac's waters were drawn down last winter for repairs to the dam which creates the 985-acre impoundment. During the low water time, an aerator malfunctioned, and much of the fish stock perished.

RON SPITLER, state Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist, gives this prognosis for anglers at Pontiac Lake:

• Bass — "Good reproduction is giving us fast-growing fingerlings, and the 2,000 to 3,000 five to eight inchers stocked earlier will be pushing legal size by next summer. The 1,300 or more adults are short of the desired goal, and nearly impossible to get in numbers. . . More will be stocked."

• Bluegill — "More than enough spawners and adults assures a good future fishery, and some nice ones are being caught now."

• Crappie — "Good spawning success assures a future fishery, while efforts will continue to get another 2,500 or more adults stocked."

• Perch — "An excellent hatch of young is bringing on a good population, but few adults will be available until more are collected this fall."

• Pike — "The fast-growing survivors of the fry plant should give plenty of action by mid-1983, while some of the adults may 'bust tackle' with weights of 10 to 15 pounds."

• Catfish — "Good fishing continues (creel limit: five) with a few available to 15 pounds. If natural reproduction occurs — and it should — look for a good future for these fish."

IN MID-JULY, Spitler's efforts suffered a damaging setback.

"A Michigan DNR hatchery crew picked up a shipment of bass from a private catfish farmer in Arkansas, noting that the bass were roughly handled by the private hatchery," he said.

"Some 325 bass that flushed out of the large hatchery truck were dead. Many others appeared healthy, others obviously stressed. My crew picked up the dead bass that morning, and I collected several specimens to send to our fish pathologist at our Wolf Lake Hatchery."

The pathologist's report: Some bass were suffering badly from stress (damaged fins and gill covers, missing

scales, external hemorrhaging). Many were infected with a roundworm parasite that is not damaging to humans and a bacteria that is non-transmittable to humans.

In short, one-third of the 2,000 bass died, but Spitler added, "The fish are safe to eat, and the lake is not polluted."

LAKE ORION, long infamous for small crappies, is now great for bigger ones averaging 9 1/2 inches. Drop your minnow or pinkie jig in deep water.

WALLED LAKE is also good for crappie, bluegill and perch. Minnows are the best bait choice.

Lake Orion is a good place for smallmouth and largemouth bass, crappies and some small bluegills. Some are 13-14 inches in size, but the catch is slow moving so you will be waiting longer for success.

If you're on the St. Clair River, try drifting and deep trolling in the daytime, using night crawler harnesses, for walleye. The evening catch has not been good.

HURON-CLINTON Metroparks have plenty of nature programs in the next two weeks.

Every Saturday and Sunday at 5 p. m., the Kensington Farm Center, at the north end of Kensington Metropark near Milford, features goat milking demonstrations. Farm hands show participants how a goat is milked and discuss the processing that milk goes through before it is ready for human use. Participants can try their hand at milking. The program is free.

On Sunday, Aug. 8 at 10 a. m., Stony Creek Metropark northeast of Rochester, will have a "Nature Creep." With naturalist Bill Thomas leading, participants will get down on hands and knees to study tinier plants and animals. Register in advance by calling the park office at 781-4621.

On Sunday, Aug. 8 at 2 p. m. in the nature center of Kensington Metropark, naturalist Mark Szabo will offer a program called "Insects That Bite and Sting. The 90-minute program is free, but advance registration is required by calling 685-1561.

On Wednesday, Aug. 11 at 6:30 p. m. in the nature center of Kensington Metropark, a program called "Nature by Bike" will tour five miles in 1 1/2 hours. Naturalist Mark Szabo will conduct the tour along the paved bike trail which will feature sights and sounds of the outdoors. The program is free, but advance registration is required by calling 685-1561.

On Wednesday, Aug. 11 at 9 p. m., the Stony Creek nature center will hold a "Meteor Watch." Naturalist Thomas will point out such sky wonders as the Perseid meteor shower. It's free, but register in advance by calling the park office at 781-4621.

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