

# Road crews mow on Saturdays

Grass mowing crews worked their second straight Saturday last week to catch up with the weeds along Wayne County roads. Mowing crews are "about three weeks

behind," said Ed Mika, parks superintendent for the Wayne County Road Commission (WCRC). The reason, said Mika, was the extreme-

ly wet spring which prevented earlier mowing operations. April and May were among the worst in recent history for rain and flooding, said Mika. "Roads were flooded out, sewers were backed up, the Rouge River overflowed its banks, and there's no way you can put crews out cutting grass under those conditions," he said.

"IF THAT'S what's necessary, do it," said Grace R. Hampton, who chairs the WCRC, of the Saturday work. "We've been putting out more cutting crews each day for the last two weeks, but it'll be at least another week or two before we're fully caught up," said Mika.

This week, he added, "We're expecting to have approximately 200 young summer workers under SCORE, a federally funded program . . . and about 500 additional workers reporting the week of June 27 under Gov. (James) Blanchard's back-to-work programs."

MEANWHILE, a Wayne County commissioner is putting political heat on the Road Commission to apply chloride to dust-clogged roads this summer.

Commissioner Milton Mack, D-Wayne, got the county commission's public works committee to approve his resolution urging the WCRC to reinstate the program of treating township roads with at least one application of chloride at county expense.

Mack said the WCRC admitted reducing the "salting" program from \$4.2 million to \$3.4 million this year although the WCRC says its budget is the same as 1982 and will be the same in 1984.

The WCRC proposed matching funds with the townships up to \$400,000 for chloride work.

But Mack told commissioners that "the Road Commission's claim of lacking funds just doesn't add up."

## Surveillance system cuts motorist costs

Freeway drivers in metropolitan Detroit — particularly along the I-94 (Ford) — are getting more and better service from a traffic surveillance system, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The improvements include more scanning TV cameras, full-time use of message signs, more information on the signs and emergency telephones along the Ford Freeway.

And MDOT officials place the savings at \$500,000 in terms of reduced fuel usage, vehicle hours and air pollution.

"WE WERE operating with only four cameras before April," said Maurice Witteveen, MDOT's head of traffic and safety, who said there now are 10.

"Now we have a much broader range of freeway that the cameras can scan. This enables us to instantly display and verify messages on the signs about traffic conditions, ranging from accidents to stalled cars."

Having more cameras has enabled MDOT to increase use of its nine message signs by 60 percent, Witteveen said.

Federal policy now recommends using them full time and to suggest more alternate routes. Previously, the general policy was to use them only to relay information about unusual traffic conditions, such as major accidents.

PART OF the system is a batch of 70 emergency telephones every one-third of a mile along the Ford Freeway. They were installed in 1980.

In the 27 months they have been in use, Witteveen said, motorists have placed 10,889 calls and state police have responded to 8,615. Most were for disabled cars (6,789). Others were to report 723 accidents, 110 fires and 23 medical emergencies.

Michigan Emergency Patrol (MEP), a volunteer organization which monitors Citizen Band Channel 9, assists state police by answering weekday rush-hour calls.

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Computer classes for youngsters will be offered by both Schoolcraft College and the Wayne County Intermediate School District this summer.

In addition, the intermediate district is offering one-day seminars for school administrators and teachers.

SCHOOLCRAFT's classes are for youngsters aged 6 to 18. They are taught by age group.

There are three different two-week classes — beginning July 11, July 25 and Aug. 8 — taught at Computer Horizons Training Center, 37099 Six Mile (near Newburgh, Livonia).

They begin with "Logo," a computer language using turtle graphics. Fees range from \$45.75 to \$58.50 for college district residents and from \$50.25 to \$67.50 for non-residents.

Walk-in registration will be held 3-7 p.m. June 29 and 30 in the registrar's office of the Student Affairs Building on the Schoolcraft campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

A brochure is available by calling the college at 591-6400, Ext. 404.

A COMPUTER camp for gifted math students is scheduled for June 27 to July 1 in the Wayne County Intermediate School District's Education Center Annex, 33300 Van Buren, Wayne.

It is open to sixth to eighth graders who scored 450 or higher on the SAT math test in the Midwest Talent Search or those who scored in the 95th percentile on a standardized math achievement test.

Registration information is available from Dr. Karen Roth or Ed Herstein in the WCISD office at 326-9300 or 274-500.

The course focuses on math problem solving using the computer language "Logo."

Fee of \$50 covers instruction, textbook and a floppy disc or cassette tape which the student can use to retain his or her own program.

Two one-day seminars on administrative uses of the computer will be held this month for school administrators and teachers. Contact the same office for registration information.

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