

Suburban Life

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Thursday, July 21, 1988 O&E

(F18)



HOT FUN IN THE SUMMER

Ah, the sweet sounds of summer. Birds singing in the morning, crickets chirping in the evening, the rustling of leaves in the trees as the wind passes through, soft rain on the rooftop — and the kids saying "But Mom, there's nothing to do."

Yes it's true, the summer that seemed ever so brief and sweet back in early June has started to stretch into eternity with the impending "dog days" of late July and August. Mother has come to realize that if the kids don't move out from in front of the television, they are going to fossilize in that position.

It's time for action. Yes, there is plenty for kids to do this summer. Educational, physical and just plain fun activities are available all around the area. These are just some of the possibilities.

Learning experience

● "KIDS' KITCHEN IDEAS"

For kids to learn how to put together after school snacks and brown bag lunch fillers, then have a session in decorating their own brown bags, at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10, in Jacobson's Livonia Kitchen Shop. No charge, but reservations are necessary by calling the store, 591-7698, Ext. 263.

● DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Located at 5401 Woodward in the Cultural Center of Detroit. The museum is open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Children love the old fashion streets in the basement of the museum. One of this summer's highlights is an exhibit of historical toys.

For groups of 10 or more children, special workshops can be arranged. Colonial Kitchen teaches about cooking and kitchen implements used in colonial times. Children in Old Fashioned Pomander make a fragrant pomander. In the Ice Cream Social workshop, children learn to make ice cream. The workshops are offered at a cost of \$2 per child. Advance reservations must be made. Call Walter Weaver at 833-1263 for more information.

Pets

● DOG SHOW

Kids can enter their pets in one of 17 categories 10-11 a.m. Saturday, July 30, in Livonia Mall, Seven Mile and Middlebelt Road, for the contest judging that begins at 11:15 a.m. Registration fee is a \$1 donation to Michigan

Humane Society. Pet grooming demonstrations begin at 1, 3 and 5 p.m. and obedience demonstrations begin at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in the mall's center court.

Science and Nature

● DINOSAUR HILL NATURE PRESERVE

Located at 333 North Hill Circle, Rochester, 656-0999.

Trail Trekkers Class — 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesday, July 27 to Aug. 17. Nature-oriented class for children in grades 1-3. They'll explore such topics as birds, wildflowers, bees. Registration deadline is July 25. Cost is \$26.

● STONY CREEK METROPARK

Located in Washington Township, 781-4621. Wienie Roast — 8 p.m. Fridays, July 22 and Aug. 19. An evening around the campfire at Eastwood Beach with Roscoe the Clown, featuring balloons, magic, jokes and hot dogs. "Summer Field" — 10 a.m. Sunday, July 24. Walk through fields and meadows of the nature center, off Inwood Road, one mile west of Mound.

"Nature at the Beach" — Activities and games for families, 10 a.m. Wednesdays through Aug. 10 at Eastwood Beach. Canoe rides for families — 7 p.m. Wednesdays, July 27, Aug. 10 and 24; 3 p.m. Sunday, July 24, Aug. 7 and 21. "Full Moon Walk" — for families — 8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 28 and Sunday, Aug. 28.

Paddles and Slakers, canoe ride with doughnuts on board — 8 a.m. Saturday, July 30 and Aug. 13 and 27.

"Miracles of the Monarch" — A program on butterflies, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26.

"Saturday Morning Stuff" — 10 a.m. Aug. 6, "Fossils and Rocks." Children will learn about and polish Petoskey stones.

"Wats in Stuff" — 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 7. Children learn about animal "clothing" — fur, feathers.

● CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Located at 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. In the Discovery Room, (open 1-5 p.m.) children can see a live boa constrictor and other animals, as well as other natural items.

Nature trails lead through the woods past outdoor bee hives and other sights. The fossil lab encourages budding paleontologists to learn about fossils.

The Cranbrook Museum of Science includes native American exhibits, a mineral hall, a physics lab, computers and drop-in workshops on occasion.

The Planetarium offers two programs — "The Summer Sky Tonight," showing constellations, the moon, planets and other objects visible in the summer sky, shown daily at 1:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 1:30, 2:15, 3 and 7:30 p.m.; and "The Wonderful Rocket," an imaginary trip for young star-gazers and their families to planets of the solar system, shown at 12:30 p.m. Saturdays.

The laser show currently features the history of the musical group Genesis. It is given at 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 p.m., Fridays and 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays.

Families are invited to attend the Cranbrook Campfire for storytelling, singing, games and roasted marshmallows on Friday, July 29. Cost is \$6.

The highlight of the summer at Cranbrook will be the Aug. 11-14 Elemental Extravaganza, extraordinary summer entertainment offered daily, 1-5 p.m. There will be shows, demonstrations, exhibits and activities, including a stunt kite-flying demonstration Saturday, Aug. 13, by Chicago Fire; boomerang demonstrations (Aug. 13); rocket-launching and kite-flying demonstrations; and a firehose tug of war between two fire departments on Aug. 14.

Cranbrook Institute of Science hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children and senior citizens. There are extra fees for the laser and planetarium shows.

● THE DETROIT ZOO

Located at 10 Mile and Woodward in Royal Oak.

The zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3.50 for senior citizens; \$2.50 for children age 5 to 12; and free for children under 5.

Moondays, until Aug. 27, children age 5 to 12 are admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

The zoo will celebrate its 60th anniversary Aug. 1-5 with a special party. There will be entertainment, face painting and a special 60th birthday card for children to sign.

● BELLE ISLE ZOO

The zoo on Belle Isle is open 10 a.m. to 5

p.m. daily. Admission is \$2 for adults; \$1 for senior citizens; 50 cents for children age 5-12.

● BELLE ISLE AQUARIUM

Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

● DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER

Located at 5020 John R at the corner of Warren in Detroit.

Dinosaurs are the stars this summer at the Science Center. A display of life-sized, animated replicas brings the ancient past to life. Inside the exhibit hall, there are dinosaur activities for children.

The Detroit Science Center is open Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is \$1 for children under 6; \$3 for 6- to 17-year-olds; and \$5 for 18-year-olds and up. Senior citizens get in for \$3. A family rate of \$12 is in effect after 7 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. For information, call 577-8400.

Theater

● MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Located on Oakland University's campus, 370-3100.

"Little Red Riding Hood" presented by the Piccolo Opera Company, 11 a.m. July 23. A musical version of the children's classic. Piccolo is celebrating its 26th year as Michigan's first resident and regional company. Under the direction of opera singer Marjorie Gordon, the company has a nucleus of 50 artists and travels around the country.

"Sesame Street" fans will see Bob McGrath in person at the Baldwin Pavilion at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 6.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, he was the first freshman to solo with the Michigan Glee Club. After a hitch in Germany with the Seventh Army Symphony, he moved to New York City where he taught at St. David's School and completed his master's degree at Manhattan School of Music. After freelancing on a variety of musical shows, he joined the "Sing-Along-with-Mitch Show," where he is remembered as the featured tenor soloist.

His recordings are all recommended by Parent's Magazine and the New York Library Association.

AND CLOSE TO HOME:

Theater

● "ALICE IN WONDERLAND"

Staged for kids by kids who studied theater arts this summer on Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College. Show time is at 8 p.m. Aug. 4, 6, 13 and 19, with a 2 p.m. matinee set for Aug. 13 only in Wallace Smith Theatre on campus, I-696 and Orchard Lake Road. Tickets are \$6, \$5 for students for the 8 p.m. performances and \$4 for all seats at the matinee.

● "THE STORYTELLERS"

In concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 28, in the amphitheater on the grounds of Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The storytellers come with musical instruments from around the world for a program of musical interpretations of literature and folklore. The grounds open at 6 p.m. for family picnics. Admission is \$2 at the gate.

● "GOOD MISCHIEF"

Musical celebration for the entire family performed by "Gemini," twin brothers who involve youngsters in their music-making with sing-alongs, hand-motion songs, dance tunes and songs from many cultures. They bring with them a stage full of instruments. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs for the 7:30 p.m. per-

formance Wednesday, Aug. 17, on the grounds of Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. Grounds open at 6 p.m. for picnics. Admission is \$2 at the gate.

● "5, 6, 7, 8 DANCE"

Staged by dancers who studied in Oakland Community College's Summer Arts Program, at 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14, and at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 18, in Smith Theater, Orchard Ridge Campus, I-696 and Orchard Lake Road. Part I is called "Five for Fossil" dedicated to the late dancer and choreographer. Part II is called "The Red Shoes — A Retelling," taken from Hans Christian Anderson's classic fairy tale. Tickets are \$5, or \$3 for students, at the door or by calling the box office, 471-7700.

Day Camp

● HORSEBACK RIDING DAY CAMP

Runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays for two-week sessions beginning Monday, Aug. 1, and Monday Aug. 15 at Haverhill Farms on 14 Mile Road one block west of Haggerty. Kids must be at least 8 years old for the camp that focuses on all aspects of good horsemanship for the English rider. Campers get instructions in riding and jumping, horse management, health care and grooming, saddle and tack maintenance. Bring your swimsuit, a towel and lunch. Fee is \$235 for each two-week session. Transportation is available for an additional \$30 per week. Registrations are being taken now by calling Haverhill Farms, 624-5554.

Discount Tickets

● AMUSEMENT PARK DISCOUNT TICKETS

Tickets are available for Boblo, Canada's Wonderland, Cedar Point, Crossroads Village, Detroit Zoo, Greenfield Village, King's Island, Michigan State Fair, Sea World, Michigan Renaissance Child Festival and Pleasure Island, from Farmington Hills Recreation Division, in Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. Staff advises to call ahead because tickets go fast, 473-9570, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

● DAY CAMP

Arts, crafts, swimming, storytelling, nature walks with a different agenda of things to do and see each day make up Day Camp in Mercy Center for children 3-12 years of age. Day Camp runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays beginning Aug. 1 and again Aug. 15 where the staff uses the indoor classrooms, pool and gym as well as the spacious grounds on 11 Mile east of Middlebelt. Fee is \$195 for each two-week session. And additional hours of day care 7:30 a.m. and 2:30-4 p.m. can be arranged for an additional \$1.50 per hour. Parents are asked to fill out all the necessary forms when they register in the center. Inquiries are taken by calling Mercy Center, 474-9616.

