

Traffic to move more easily at Palace

Oakland County residents headed for Pistons games or other events at The Palace of Auburn Hills will have easier going.

ing traffic at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

This highlights the list of improvements made at the arena for the Detroit Pistons' 1989-90 NBA season. The new Harmon Road extension connects to Giddings Road, increas-

ing the options for visitors entering and leaving the arena and offering easy access to I-75.

Other improvements at The Palace include the addition of 400 new parking spaces; installation of improved signage in the parking lots;

opening of the Terrace Club, a full-service restaurant and lounge within the arena; replacement of railings with glass in the upper tier to improve sight-lines; expansion of the concession menu with several new specialty items and the addition of Pizza Hut as the official pizza

franchise of The Palace and the Pistons.

Nearly 400 spaces have been added to The Palace's north parking lot, bringing to 8,400 the total number of available parking spots. Other changes made throughout The Palace's parking areas include improved and more visible signage, installation of curbing to provide better traffic flow, placement of handicap parking areas on the north side of the arena, repainting of parking stripes and better defined VIP parking areas.

LOCATED AT concourse level above the east foyer of the arena, the new Terrace Club has restaurant seating for more than 200 and a lounge capacity of up to 300. The Terrace Club is operated by Machus Enterprises, who also oversees the

operations of The Palace Grille, Lounge and Club and the arena's suite catering service. In addition, Machus has expanded its lunch, dinner and suite menus for this season.

Volume Services, the official concessionaire of the Palace has added several new specialty items to its menu. The list of new items includes coney dogs, chicken sandwiches, barbecue sandwiches, chicken basket, fish basket, chili and cheese fries, assorted juices, fruit fantasy, pretzels dipped in chocolate, churros (Mexican pastry) and sunflower seeds.

And Pizza Hut will serve Palace visitors from a new concession area on the arena's concourse level.

Inside the arena, new glass windows have replaced metal railings in the loge seating area. The windows are designed to improve sight-lines for a few seats in the second tier.

Animals, too, must learn how to eat

Sometimes the most simple things are overlooked and taken for granted. For instance, people in the civilized world eat food with utensils. Those utensils vary depending on the culture. Chopsticks are used by oriental countries and knives and forks by western countries.

But even those people that use knives and forks use them in different ways. Europeans often hold their forks in their left hands and retain the knife in their right for cutting. Americans, on the other hand, switch their forks back to their right hand after they have finished cutting with their knife.

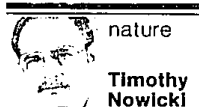
If you have ever tried to use chopsticks you know that it takes some practice before one is able to use

them effectively. There are probably various ways to use these utensils also.

So it should not be a great surprise to know that animals eat their food in different ways, and that they must learn how to eat.

Squirrels that we see in our backyards must learn how to open a nut in an efficient manner. They automatically gnaw at it and eventually extract the meat from the inside, but after practicing, they learn how to extract the nut meat more effectively.

Close examination reveals that not all squirrels open their nuts in the same way. Large squirrels, such as gray squirrels, have jaws strong enough to snap off chunks of shell



nature

Timothy Nowicki

with their lower incisors after they gnawed a hold in the shell.

Red squirrels, or the "fur-rari" racing through your yard, are smaller, and open acorns in a different manner. Discarded shells from the red squirrel have gnawed openings from opposite sides of the

acorn. They look as though a person took a single large bite from opposite sides of an apple.

Smaller squirrels, like the chipmunk and the flying squirrel, clean out the meat like we clean a pumpkin. They remove the top third of the shell in order to get inside.

Examining the shell remains of feeding areas along fence rows, or on favorite logs, may reveal who had come to dinner.

Tim Nowicki is a naturalist at Independence-Oaks Park in Oakland County. He lives in Livonia.

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