

Kites, Eggs, Bridge All Mean Recreation

From a kite flying contest to adult duplicate bridge competition, from dog obedience classes to an Easter egg hunt -- these entertaining activities and a myriad of others all will be part of the Plymouth community's fun approach to spring of 1972.

Until the past year, organized recreation in Plymouth leaned heavily upon programs sponsored through the schools and by the junior athletic associations which operate out-of-school leagues for youngsters in baseball, basketball, football and hockey.

THE LATTER phase still thrives, with participation by more than 1,500 boys, but the city government took a major step a year ago with the creation of its own parks and recreation department, followed by the development in Plymouth Township of a new recreation park of 63 acres.

In addition, there now is under construction through a \$1.5 million municipal bond issue a multi-purpose community cultural and recreational center which, among its features, will include Plymouth's first enclosed ice rink.

Stanley Stenek, who came from Ossining, N.Y. a year ago to head the city's recreation effort,

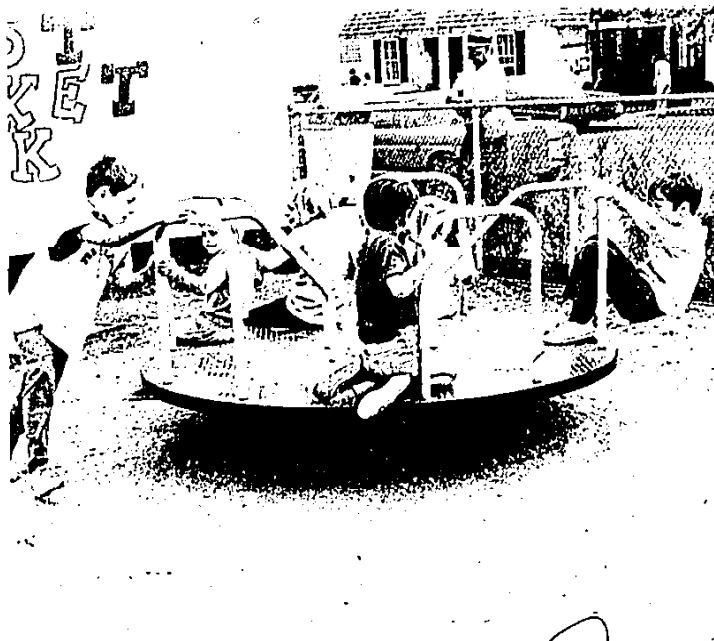
reports that approximately 18 programs are in the offing through his department this spring. They will attract persons of all age levels from tiny tots to senior citizens.

FOR EXAMPLE, they include an arts and crafts series for children, chess and karate classes, dog obedience training sessions, bowling, guitar lessons, duplicate bridge, softball, an Easter egg hunt, kite flying contest and photography class.

Special excursions for senior citizens clubs also are being planned.

As evidence of the continuing expansion of the department, another new park in a residential area of the city -- at Byron and Dewey -- is to be developed in the next few weeks.

City Manager Norman Gaffney boosts such expansion in the statement, "Recreation is not a panacea or a cure-all of today's social problems. However, like other governmental services, it is an agency utilizing its facilities to meet the needs of the community. Our program is geared to reach as many children and adults as possible."



MOST POPULAR innovation in the Plymouth area's parks system last summer was the "vest pocket" tot-lot in the heart of the downtown business area. Its primary purpose is to serve as a place where mothers can leave children under eight for brief periods while shopping, and this is only one of a number of playground items on which the youngsters can enjoy themselves. Supervision is provided by the city recreation department and the lot will open again soon for the 1972 season. It has drawn praise from recreation leaders throughout the nation.

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