

Reservations needed to use tennis courts

BIRMINGHAM — As an alternative to charging admission to tennis courts, the city has decided to experiment with a free reservation policy this season.

Starting in May, those wishing to use the courts at Eton Park will be required to have a reservation for the time they play there. The reservations, limited to residents only, must be picked up at the department of parks and recreation office in advance.

Eton Park court times will be regulated during the hours of 1 and 11 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

There will be no charge for the reservation and each will be good for two hours of court time only.

THE NEW policy is designed to alleviate the congestion at the courts, where, in the past, players would have to wait for a free court on an unregulated basis.

If it is effective at Eton Park it may be tried at other city courts in the future.

Regulating play was one of the motives behind another change that has been considered lately, that of charging residents a nominal fee to use the courts. In addition to alleviating congestion, such a plan would provide a fund for repairing the courts.

That plan was ruled out, however, by the parks and recreation department, which substituted the reservations policy in its place.

Darrel Middlewood, superintendent of the parks and recreation department, said there are currently some provisions for repairing several city courts. However, no additional funds have been set aside for additional repairs.

10¢ increase ok'd in hot lunch price

By JUDY OWEN
BLOOMFIELD HILLS — The board of education Tuesday night approved a 10-cent increase in the price of hot lunches in the school.

The across-the-board increase for elementary, and secondary students and adults is the first price hike in Type A hot lunches since 1968.

New prices, which take effect May 1, will be 55 cents for elementary students, 60 cents for secondary students and 80 cents for adults.

IN OTHER ACTION, the board:

- Approved a switch of Precinct 4 from Wing Lake School to Booth school.
- Accepted a low bid of \$2,220 from W. F. Miller Co. for purchase of a lawn tractor.
- Accepted a bid of \$2,139.30 from Newman Visual Education

for a video system at Wing Lake School.

- Accepted a low bid of \$79,930 from The Morrison Co. for preparation of the running track at Lahser High School's athletic field.
- Accepted a low bid of \$9,999 from J. D. Armstrong Co. for seed and sod for the Lahser athletic field.

The board heard a lengthy report on the state of the school district as of April 1.

Dr. Fred Thorin, superintendent, told the board that the district's fiscal condition is sound.

He said that the board will be considering a proposal in May to reduce the debt levy millage by another full mill for the school year.

He also discussed instructional functions, personnel evaluation procedures, auxiliary services, recreation and research and career education.

Gasoline shortage may shut stations

By SUSAN L. SILK
The gasoline crisis may litter Oakland County communities with a volume of abandoned gasoline stations, an industry spokesman warned.

"In Detroit, hundreds and hundreds of closed service stations became hangouts for hoodlums and bums before the city took action," said Charles Shipley, executive director of the Gasoline Station Dealers Association of Michigan.

Shipley addressed the seven-member Transportation and Aviation Committee of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Monday.

The industry spokesman urged the county to begin to work with local municipalities in developing zoning and building ordinances to limit the number of stations and their locations.

Shipley said the major oil companies are engaged in an effort to squeeze the independent dealers out of business.

"THE SMALL businessman who has taken care of the petroleum and service needs of the public is in jeopardy," Shipley said.

The possibility exists that with only company-owned stations in operation, the motorist would be able to buy gasoline but be frustrated in his attempts to find anyone willing to service his automobile, Shipley said.

Rising unemployment in the auto industry, reduction in gasoline sales tax revenue needed to maintain roads, and the closing of large numbers of stations, were the main concerns Shipley discussed with the commissioners.

Shipley repeatedly emphasized that his organization, in its 45 years of existence, has been in business to offer service.

According to Shipley, the lifting of the government's mandatory allocation system could spell the end to the neighborhood service station.

Then local municipalities must be ready with plans for converting those abandoned stations, Shipley said.

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Scholarship contest open

Applications are now being accepted from high school seniors for the 1974 Dr. Donald L. Golden Foundation College Scholarship Awards.

The competition, now in its sixth year, is named for the founder and director of the Detroit Optometric Centers.

All June graduating seniors in both public and parochial schools in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties are eligible.

A winner will be selected from each county. Interested students may contact their principals for applications and additional information. The deadline for applications is May 25.

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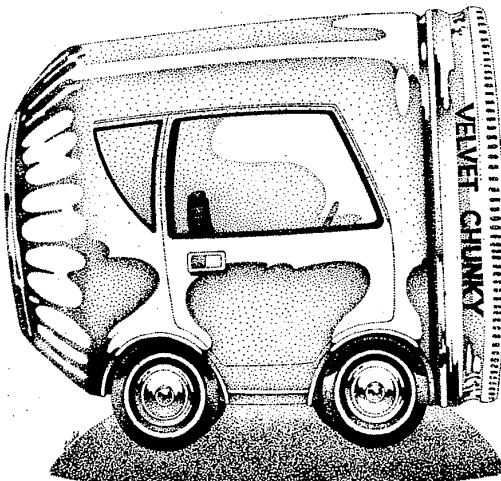
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