



Nature

In the cool, leafy woods in Independence Oaks County Park away from the hot sun, it's easy to learn about the environment, as these members of a day camp discover with county parks naturalist Kathleen Dougherty (left). She conducts tours relating to natural history with emphasis on the environment throughout the seasons and also gives presentations in area schools.

Oakland Outdoors

County parks teach nature

By LEM MESEE
Outdoors writer

A new name is showing up in the cause of outdoors education, a field heretofore dominated by the Huron-Clinton Metroparks. The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is offering guided tours and films at two parks this summer.

It's not that there's any rivalry between the regional and the county parks system. We all can use all the knowledge of nature we can get.

The county has hired a new, fulltime publicist, Janet Pung. That's why you are seeing more about county parks in the paper this year. Previously, a PR firm was retained.

GUIDED TOURS will be conducted at Independence Oaks County Park, Clarkson. Take I-75 to the Sashabaw Road exit and go north. Here's the schedule:

• Saturday, Aug. 4 — Ferns and flowers will be observed during at 8 a.m. hike.

• Saturday, Aug. 11 — Learning to recognize summer insect sounds will be the focus of a program beginning at 8:30 p.m. (which is a good time to hear insects).

• Friday, Aug. 17 — A walk to observe nocturnal wildlife will begin at 8:30 p.m.

• Saturday, Aug. 26 — Native and naturalized trees and shrubs will be discussed at 8:30 a.m.

Call Independence Oaks at 625-0877 if you have questions.

County road surfacing OK'd

Paving of a little over a half-mile of Harding Road, from Livernois east to the Rochester city limits, will begin next week in Avon Township.

The \$293,531 contract for the work, which includes curb and gutter installation and widening the intersection of Harding and Livernois roads, was recently approved by the Oakland County Road Commission.

Cost of the Harding Road paving will

be shared equally by the road commission and the township. Low bidder was Sterling Garrett Contracting Co. of Waller Lake. The work is expected to be completed during the fall.

Black top resurfacing of 1.1 miles of Rochester Road from Gerst Road to Boardman in Addison Township was also recently approved. The \$53,532 resurfacing job will begin in late summer.

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