

Area Lakes Projects High On Money List

By W.W. EDGAR

The plan to have the three area lakes—Newburgh, Wilcox and Phoenix—step a major role in a playground program for western Wayne County will become a reality this coming summer.

The only possible hitch to the plan would come if the state Legislature fails to allocate the money from the \$100 million bond issue approved by the voters of the state more than a year ago.

This was the message brought to the Plymouth Rotary Club by Carl Pursell, member of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, in his report to the home precincts last week.

"THE WAYNE County Road Commission, which has jurisdiction over the three lakes, has applied for \$75,000 from the recreation fund and two of the projects have been given high priority," he said.

"The plan for the improvement of Newburgh Lake and the institution of a recreational program that will provide boating facilities, and an old-fashioned paddle wheeler has been placed third on the list. The plan for Wilcox Lake that also will include paddle-boating facilities has been placed seventh.

"The Phoenix Lake project is further down the list, but still could be included for the coming summer."

PURSELL told the Rotarians that the \$75,000 request was broken down into three segments, with \$40,000 being asked for Newburgh Lake, \$22,000 for Wilcox Lake and \$12,000 for Phoenix Lake.

"Aside from this," he said, "the county also is asking an additional \$350,000 from another segment of the bond issue for the development of winter activity in Middle Rouge Parkway. This program would include four toboggan runs, a control platform, lighting, freezing equipment, snow machine, parking facilities and a shelter."

UNDER THE present timetable, according to Pursell, the Legislature may be given the list of projects during the coming week.

State Rep. James Tierney, who was in the audience, nodded his assent and promised that the lakes plan would be given priority consideration.

Most of the activity because of its high priority, will be on Newburgh Lake where the City of Livonia is moving ahead with plans for the acquisition of an old-fashioned paddle wheeler and the county is ready to discuss plans with a concessionaire for the paddle boats. Fishing docks also will be included. Decks and sun bathing platforms also are expected to be built on Wilcox Lake.

Aside from these aquatic activities, considerable work is planned for the improvement of fishing on all three lakes.

Some of this work was started last fall when the lakes were given treatment for the elimination of algae.

PURSELL CITED the latest report from C.L. "The" Porter, another Plymouth resident who is superintendent of parks and recreation for the Wayne County Road Commission which stated that it was in the desire to kill all weeds in the lakes since they do provide protection for small fish and the shading effect of the weeds provides cooler water during the summer.

According to this report, a large percentage of the lake bottoms (30-75%) already are devoid of weeds due to the large amount of silt and the constant disturbance of this silt by flooding or erosion and the bottom feeding of carp.

The report went on to state that the three lakes should provide some good fishing in 1970. The first tangible evidence of this came recently when a Lippert angler reported catching four big bass in Newburgh Lake.

In order to provide better fishing, the county plans to enlarge its aquatic weed program during 1970 and steps already have been taken to solve the algae problem as soon as it starts to form.

Under the stepped-up program, the county plans to treat 15 of the 30 acres in Phoenix Lake, eight of the 17 acres in Wilcox Lake and 20 of the 50 acres in Newburgh Lake.

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