

New wave: Oakland County pool offers swim classes

By Lem Messee
staff writer

Charles R. Shafer, Oakland County representative on the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) board, has been elected chairman by his colleagues.

Shafer of Troy is president of Michigan National Bank-Oakland, headquarters in Southfield. HCMA operates 11 metroparks in the five counties of southeastern Michigan. Shafer, who has served on the HCMA board since 1976, was also a member of the Southfield board of review and

planning commission when he lived there from 1956-80 and of the Oakland County Building Authority. He succeeds Thomas S. Welsh, Macomb County public works commissioner.

OAKLAND COUNTY'S wave-action

pool will be the site of swimming classes for persons of all levels of ability this summer. Classes range from beginner to advanced, plus a session in advanced lifeguarding. Classes run Monday through Friday at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. One series started Wednesday and

outdoors

runs until June 26. A second series runs from June 29 to July 10; a third, July 13-24; a fourth, July 27-Aug. 7. Cost is \$15 per student per series. Registration information is available from the Oakland Parks and Recreation office at 858-0917. The wave pool is in Waterford Oaks County Park on Scott Lake Road west of Pontiac.

"THE GREAT Canoe," a special voyageur canoe program, will be held at Stony Creek Metropark northeast of Rochester at 2 p.m. Sunday. Park naturalists Tom Smith and Bill Thomas will guide visitors in the 34-foot canoe across Stony Creek Lake in a search for wildlife.

For this program, there is a \$1 per person charge. Register in advance by calling the park office at 781-4621. The voyageur canoe is similar to the kind used by French-Canadian trappers and traders on the Great Lakes for two centuries prior to the invention of the steamboat.

KENNINGTON Metropark south of Milford has four nature programs in the next week.

"Invitation to Summer," a family nature walk, starts at the nature center on the west side of the park at 10 a.m. Sunday. Naturalist Julie Cerbus will guide the 90-120 minute walk for a look at the changing seasons.

"Fossil Finding," a two-hour program, will be held at the nature center beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday. Naturalist Bob Hotelling will lead a trip to a gravel pit to collect fossils brought there by ice age glaciers. Bring bags for your collection.

"For Moms and Tots," a nature walk that pre-schoolers can enjoy, starts at 10 a.m. Wednesday, led by Julie Cerbus, who will give tips on how to enjoy nature with a child. Wear proper clothing and bring insect repellent.

Those programs are free, but visitors should call the park office at 685-1561 to register. There is a vehicle admission charge into the metropark.

"An Evening Nature Cruise" aboard the Island Queen sternwheeler will depart from the boat dock on the west side of the lake at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday. Naturalists will point out park features and wildlife, provide music and answer questions. There is a \$150 charge, and advance registration is required.

Senate bill would limit lake access

The state Senate last week approved a bill which would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to seek property-owner and community approval to develop new lake access sites.

The bill now goes to the House for consideration. It is similar to measures approved by the Senate in 1977 and 1979.

DNR opposes the bill, calling it an effort to restrict public access to lakes. Sponsored by state Sen. Donald Bishop, R-Rochester, whose district includes the lakes area of Oakland County, the bill would prohibit new public access sites outright on lakes of 160 acres or less.

OAKLAND COUNTY alone has more than 450 navigable bodies of water.

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs' "Guide to Outdoor Fun in Michigan" map book lists 35 Oakland lakes as being of interest to outdoorsmen. Of the 95, only 25 have more than 160

acres. A similar listing by DNR shows only 18 of 56 lakes larger than 160 acres.

Thus, the Bishop bill's impact would be to rule nearly three-fourths of Oakland lakes too small for access sites.

The seven-member state Natural Resources Commission, policy-making body of the DNR, could overrule any local decision, but only by five votes (two-thirds) instead of the normal majority of four.

Lakefront property owners, who sought passage, say many DNR launch sites are too small to adequately accommodate their expected use, and that the sites themselves are badly maintained and policed, said Bishop.

Bishop's bill would require 30 days notice be given to lakefront property owners of impending access construction or improvement. The bill does not retroactively apply to existing sites.

IF 20 PERCENT of the affected property owners sign petitions opposing the proposal, a public hearing must

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be held. All local units of government with boundaries including the affected lake must also vote on the site placement.

The local road authority, law enforcement agency, and the local government and law enforcement divisions of the state Department of Transportation also would have to be notified. Their comments would be made to the local township board or city council prior to a vote.

The bill also makes the DNR responsible for construction costs and sets down required negotiations between

the DNR and affected cities or townships as to who will pay to police the access sites.

PARKING spaces pegged to lake size would be required under the bill. For instance, a 400-acre lake would require at least 40 car-trailer parking spaces. A maximum of 120 parking spaces would be imposed.

DNR calls the restrictions "arbitrary." Follets at the site would have to be approved by the state Department of Public Health, landscaping would have to be installed.

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