

County offers camping for kids

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

For the first time in its 17-year history, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department is offering a summer camp program.

Youths can take advantage of a weeklong day camp or an overnight excursion which includes canoeing along the Au Sable River and touring Mackinac Island.

"We wanted to develop programs for youths, so they could be exposed to all types of recreational facilities," said Dan Stencil, recreation supervisor.

The day camp is for boys and girls ages 10-15 and costs \$45 per week. Families enrolling more than one child receive a discount. Each session is limited to 60 youngsters and transportation is provided. Registration begins Monday and will be handled at all municipal parks and recreation departments.

The day camp will be in the county's Waterford Oaks activity center in Pontiac. The sports program includes swimming in the Wave Action Pool, the

water slide, soccer, tennis, platform tennis, golf and bicycle motocross.

"We'll also be taking a one-day field trip to Independence Oaks to go boating and fishing, and we'll spend some time with the naturalist," Stencil said.

THE OVERNIGHT camp, called, "Northwood Ho," is designed to give teens 12-15 years old a chance to spend seven days camping through upper Michigan, Stencil said.

"The basic philosophy of the program is to help kids develop an understanding of outdoor leisure and recreation opportunities in Michigan," he said.

The trip includes camping on the Lake Michigan shore, hiking, dune climbing, canoeing, touring Traverse City and Frankenmuth, plus many more activities. The cost is \$250 and space is limited to 34. To register, call 858-0906.

There is also a two-day overnight camp for mentally and physically handicapped youths ages 8-16. Those trips are to camps in Orionville and Clarkson and cost \$30 per person and

include transportation. For details, call 858-1441.

Camping is just one of the many programs the county parks and recreation department offers. Throughout the summer mobile units visit communities entertaining youngsters.

The SportsMobile and PuppetMobile are two of the most popular recreation equipment on wheels, Stencil said, because they attract so many kids.

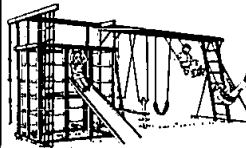
"SERVICE CLUBS or subdivision groups can rent the mobiles too and they are a lot of fun at parties."

Oakland County owns and operates nine parks. The total parks budget is \$6.1 million.

The nine parks are Addison Oaks, 13 miles north of Rochester, Glen Oaks in Farmington Hills, Groveland Oaks in Holly, Independence Oaks in Clarkston, Orion Oaks in Orion Township, Red Oaks in Madison Heights, Springfield Oaks in Davisburg, Waterford Oaks in Pontiac and White Lake Oaks in White Lake Township.

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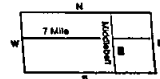
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Jobless need to rebuild lives

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

"Telling people to 'cope' with their unemployment doesn't work anymore, a social scientist said recently. Instead, jobless people need direct suggestions on how to rebuild their lives.

Lewis Rudolph, coordinator of Alternative Employment Programs, for United Community Services, gave the keynote address at a Managing Job Loss seminar in Bloomfield Hills last week.

Rudolph spoke to a group of professionals who counsel unemployed people in the metropolitan area.

"We've been so numbed by staggering job loss that we haven't felt the effects of layoffs on the workers," Rudolph said.

"We need to tie ourselves more closely to their (the unemployed) problems," he added.

Rudolph compared jobless individuals to the character Willy Loman in Arthur Miller's play, "Death of a Salesman." He said that unemployed persons have a "voice of silence struggling to be heard in a broken dream."

JOBLESS PEOPLE live in a world of depression;

they are quiet, blame themselves for their status, and are angry, Rudolph said.

For some people, losing their job destroys their will to live, he said.

It's up to counselors to help jobless persons repair their dreams, he said.

"It's your duty to help them link themselves with new goals and help them develop a new identity," Rudolph said.

He also said that companies should accept the responsibility of preparing their employees for layoff. They should offer advice on how to pay their bills and get job retraining.

"If someone wants to put in a roadway there's an environmental impact study done years before, but there's no human impact study done when a factory closes down," Rudolph said.

He suggested people consider pre-retirement planning when they are 50 years old so they don't get stuck unprepared should their company put them on early retirement.

"There are not enough jobs in Michigan for everyone, so people should look for ways to enjoy their leisure time so they don't feel guilty about recreation," he added.

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