

# Wave pool, new county park facilities are ready

By Lem Moscoe  
outdoors writer

The delightful Wave-Action Pool and "Slidewinder" waterslide will open for the season on Friday in Waterford Oaks County Park.

Waterford Oaks is on Scott Lake Road between Dixie Highway and Pontiac Lake Road west of Pontiac. It also boasts a court games complex with facilities for tennis, platform tennis, shuffleboard and grass volleyball.

This weekend's other feature will be the Michigan Memorial Open tennis tournament.

Other Oakland County parks open for the season (\$2.50 vehicle admission at the gate for residents) are:

**Addison Oaks** — overnight camping, modern, primitive and group campsites; 13 miles of trails for hiking; picnic areas, children's playground, swimming beach, rowboat and pedalboat rentals, and a lake with fish. It's on W. Romeo Road nine miles north of Rochester.

**Groveland Oaks** — 600 modern and primitive campsites and group camping; modern restrooms and showers, convenience store; canoes, rowboats and pedal boats for rent; the usual picnic, swimming and playground facilities; plus a popular "Rampage" watercoaster that plunges riders into Stewart Lake. It's at Dixie Highway and Grange-Hall roads near Holly.

**Independence Oaks** — boasts a new Ted Gray Trail, with 8 1/2 miles of marked hiking trail, and a new nature center; boat launch on Crooked Lake for non-motorized boats; rentals for canoes, pedalboats and rowboats; sandy beach with lifeguards; the usual picnic areas and playground equipment. The largest (1,000-plus acres) county park, it's on Sashabaw Road 2 1/2 miles north of I-75 near Clarkston.

Golf courses are operated by the county at Glen Oaks, Thirteen Mile Road in Farmington Hills; Springfield Oaks, Andersonville Road in Davisburg; Red Oaks, on John R in Madison Heights; and White Lake Oaks, S. Williams Lake Road off M-59 near Pontiac.

NEXT WEEK, the Oakland Parks Foundation will sponsor a family fun day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 2. Games, roller skating, shuffleboard, clowns and puppet shows are featured.

Other family fun day features are: a bicycle motocross rider clinic; nature hikes led by a parks naturalist at 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; open tennis with a pro available, 1-5 p.m.; platform tennis, with an instructor available from noon to 3 p.m.; and open team volleyball tournament at 4 p.m. Cost is \$20 per family for \$5 a person. Proceeds will benefit Oakland County parks.

IF YOU decide to fish instead, the word we get is that the Detroit River is yielding fair to good catches of walleye, and silver bass are starting to run in the Raisin and Huron rivers.

Walleye fishing has been excellent from the

## outdoors

mouth of the Detroit River to Metropolitan Beach on Lake St. Clair.

On inland lakes, panfish should be moving onto the beds in 1-3 feet of water any day. Remember that a good sport takes only a few from any one spot and resists the temptation to "slaughter" the vulnerable spawning fish.

GEORGE WHITEHEAD of Birmingham did some first-class fishing last month when he caught

the largest steelhead — 9.22 pounds — in a charitable tournament on Lake St. Clair.

Big winners were children because the tournament raised \$15,000 to build a child abuse diagnostic and treatment center in St. Clair County.

The Oakland County Steelheaders Association took the \$500 top club award with an average of 2.84 pounds of fish for each of the 32 entrants. They topped the Bluewater Sportfishing Association's 2.58 pounds for each of the 142 anglers.

IT'S ONE thing to have nice Great Lakes. It's another to get on them if you're not a property owner.

Sid Baker, president of the Travel and Tourist

Association of Southeast Michigan, says the region needs more boat launching ramps.

"Lake Huron is particularly lacking in boat ramps," Baker said recently. "Between Grindstone City at the tip of the Thumb and Port Huron on the south end of the lake, there are only three public access points for boaters."

Western Lake Erie, a popular spot for perch, walleye and pike, is tough to get on. There's a launch at Sterling State Park — if you don't mind waiting in a long line some weekends, or parking several hundred yards from the water. He encourages local entrepreneurs as well as local and state officials to recognize the positive effects of drawing watersports enthusiasts to their area.

And he warns that dinky 10-15 car parking areas won't do the trick.

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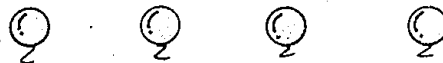
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