

County approves 'wave-making' Waterford pool



Body surfers have only to wait until Memorial Day next year for a nearby taste of mild ocean-sized waves.

The Waterford-Oaks pool will be second of its kind built in the United States. A smaller pool is located in Decatur, Ala.

When completed the pool will accommodate 600 swimmers with room for an additional 600 sun bathers on the carpeted deck.

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission has approved a \$1.5 million budget for a wave-action pool and its necessary amenities for the Waterford-Oaks Park, Waterford Township.

Features of this first phase of the park include a 180-foot pool with three-foot waves, a 25,000 square foot, carpeted deck, parking for 300 cars, a bath house and concession stand.

Funds for the project will come in part from a matching funds grant from the State Department of Natural Resources, with the balance being allocated from the county's capital expenditure budget.

The county parks board has approved the letting of bids for the site, designed by Swanson Associates of Bloomfield Hills and supervised by Barton-Malow Construction Co.

The scientifically designed pool will provide swimmers with three-foot waves through mechanically created wind in the form of air pressure. The system will be completely automated through hydraulic and electrical controls.

Oakland County residents will soon hear the cry of "surf's up" from swimmers at the Waterford-Oaks wave pool in Waterford Township. Scheduled to open on Memorial Day of next year, the pool will provide three-foot waves much like those found in the ocean or the choppy parts of the Great Lakes.

County Dems fight for reform

Officers of the Oakland County Democratic Party have called upon all Democratic legislators from the county to fight to retain a provision in the state's political reform bill which will set a campaign spending limit for candidates for county executive.

The Oakland County Democratic Party was the only organization to work for the elected executive form of government in our county, she

pointed out. "Thus, we take seriously our duty to continue to reform, in a positive way, government in this county," she concluded.

The Aug. 11 action reflects full support for an amendment successfully proposed by State Senator Ken J. Kammer (D-Pontiac) which would limit expenditures in the race to \$25,000 per candidate.

Kammer's amendment followed the unanimous endorsement in July by the Oakland County Democratic Party to include the county executive proposal in the bill.

The July vote came after testimony by county chairwoman Betty Howe before a hearing held in Oakland County by the Senate Municipalities and Elections Committee, of which Kammer is vice chairman.

"We called for setting the expenditure limitation because the office of county executive is unique," Mrs. Howe said. "We have also had adequate first-hand experience that lets us know that the race can be well financed—but the election cannot be fought—with that amount of money," she added.

The Democratic executive board took their action following disclosure that two Republican state representatives from Oakland County intend to work to remove or weaken the limitation when it returns to the state house.

"The efforts of State Representatives James DeFbaugh (R-Birmingham) and Richard Fowler (R-Union Lake) are intended to serve the interests of only one person—the current Republican county executive Daniel T. Murphy," Mrs. Howe said.

"Senator Kammer's amendment, on the other hand, wisely extends the protection of campaign reform to executive power at this level.

"Senator Kammer has correctly pointed out that elimination of this provision would create a gigantic loophole in regulating campaign practices of county executive candidates," she added.

Sunday nature hikes offered

Sunday morning guided nature hikes for the general public will be held along the nature trails at Stony Creek Metropark near Ulice and Kensington Metropark near Milford on Sunday, Aug. 24, Sept. 14 and Sept. 29.

These walks are offered at 8 a.m. only and take about two hours. Persons should meet at the nature center, and naturalists will explain plants and animal life.

For additional information contact Stony Creek Metropark or Kensington Metropark and ask for the Nature Center.

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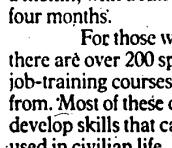
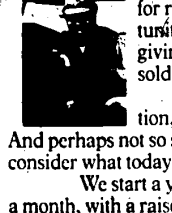
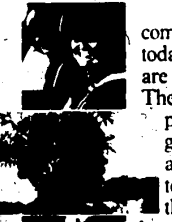
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