

Daniel J. Stencil, Executive Officer

Lifeguard shortage impacts operations

Oakland County Parks aims to train 100 qualified individuals to lifeguard two waterparks and three beaches this summer despite a shortage of interested applicants.

Due to this unique situation, Waterford Oaks Waterpark will open June 9, a three-day delay from the planned opening to accommodate new recruits and training. Training for 50 new lifeguard applicants takes place June 6-8 at Waterford Mott High School's indoor pool. Applications are still being accepted and interested candidates may apply at www.oakgov.com/hr/jobs.

Aquatic facilities in Oakland County and across the United States are currently experiencing the same issue. The schedules of young adults are demanding including year-round sports, summer classes and internships.

Oakland County Parks' award-winning lifeguards are licensed through Jeff Ellis & Associates International Lifeguard Training Program.

Our number one goal is safety of our guests. If we need to close a waterpark for three days to ensure that safety, it's not only common sense, but it's also the right thing to do.

On another safety-related topic, Safety Coordinator, County Risk Management and Safety Dean Schultz and CMI Consultant Gary Smith toured all parks properties to check for violations that could be hazardous to the public or staff. A report with recommendations is filed after each tour.

I invite all employees to consider themselves risk managers and stakeholders in making sure their tasks are conducted in a safe manner so our guests can enjoy their experience safely.

If you notice a safety issue, find a solution or enlist the help of a colleague or supervisor to solve the problem quickly and efficiently. Don't make the mistake of noticing a possible safety issue and assuming someone else will take care of it. We want happy, healthy employees and guests.



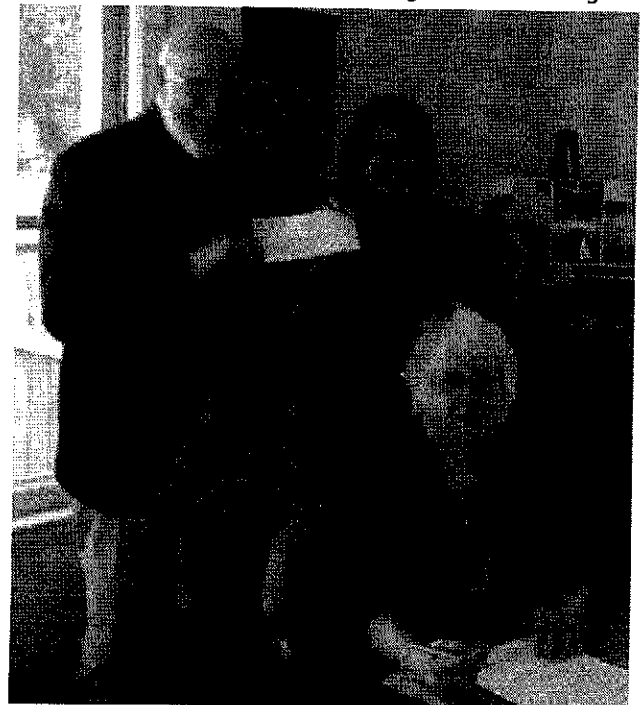
Left to right: Dan Travis, Foundation President; Luba Sitar; and Program Chair Carol Egbo

Parks Foundation receives a \$20,000 grant from ITC Holdings

Luba Sitar, Community Education Manager for ITC Holdings, presented a check for \$20,000 to the Oakland Parks Foundation at its board meeting April 24 to promote and foster the stewardship of natural and historical resources.

"Some of these monies are for budgeted projects already underway such as nature interpretive signage to enhance the experience of walking, hiking, and nature trails. Rose Oaks, Highland Oaks, and Red Oaks will benefit by this contribution. Community Rotating Exhibit Displays are also being funded from this grant. We are grateful and pleased to receive this support from ITC," Dan Travis, President of the Oakland Parks Foundation, said.

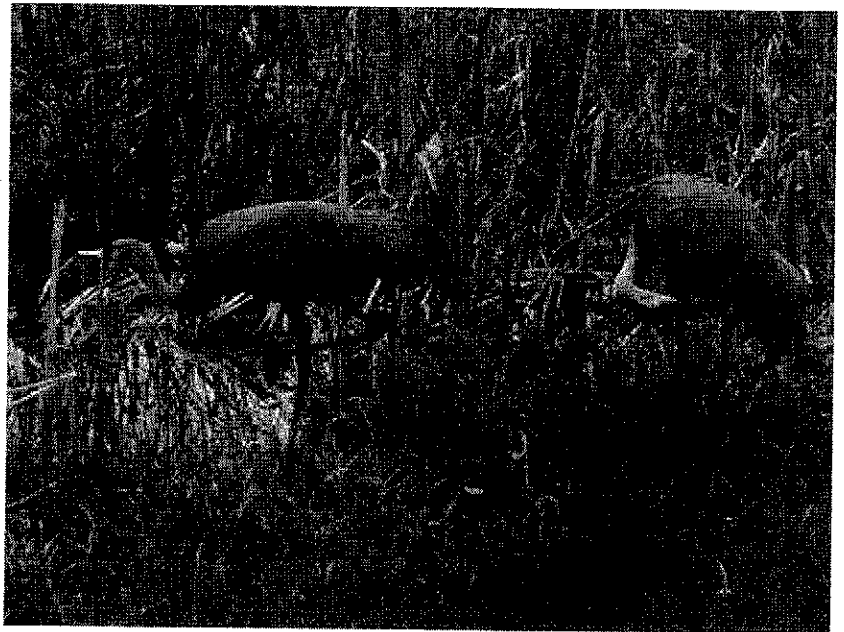
Other initiatives funded by the grant include the Monarch Conservation Program, a historical booklet series, nighttime nature programs and a capital campaign for the Ellis Barn to kick off during this year's Oakland County Fair.



Families of all species enjoy
Oakland County Parks
 Sandhill cranes are very much at home
 on the wilder side of Oakland County.

These crimson-capped beauties stand
 four feet tall, have a wing span of more
 than five feet and are opportunistic
 hunters foraging for grains, invertebrates,
 amphibians, reptiles and the occasional
 mouse or meadow vole in the wetlands
 and fields of the larger county parks.

These newly-hatched youngsters hunting
 for bugs and grubs under the watchful
 presence of the protective parents were
 photographed at Addison Oaks County
 Park. The young can fly when they are
 about 70 days old and will remain with
 their parents for about one year.



Although Sandhill cranes are often hidden among the tall grasses and wetland vegetation their musical bugling calls that often greet the new day can be heard from more than a mile away; another reason to visit an Oakland County Park shortly after sunrise.

*Photo courtesy of Sgt. Kelly Sexton, Oakland County Sheriff's Office Parks Unit
 Text by Jonathan Schechter, Nature Education Writer*



Nature at Night at Waterford Oaks County Park

See a "live animal" presentation by
 the Organization for Bat Conservation,
 and walk a trail in search of wildlife
 near sunset.

Friday, May 30 • 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Waterford Oaks Lookout Lodge is
 located at 1702 Scott Lake Rd.

Program is free, but pre-registration
 is required; seating is limited. Call
 248.858.0916 weekdays.

This event is funded by a grant
 offered by Critter Catchers, Inc.
 which provides humane bat removal
 for Michigan residents and is
 partnered with the Organization for
 Bat Conservation.

www.crittercatchersinc.com



Supplies needed for summer programs

The following items are needed for the summer
 program for kids with autism:

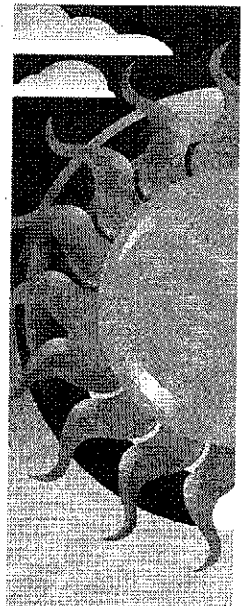
- Empty toilet paper and paper tubes
- Empty ½ gallon cardboard containers (OJ,
 lemonade, juice)

Please place in Recreation Supervisor **Sandy Dorey's** mailbox at the Administration building.

Seasonal Program Specialist **Brad Lowe** is looking for
 the following items for summer programming:

- Metal bottle caps
- Paper tubes
- Plastic liquid dish soap bottles

They can be placed in the Addison Oaks mailbox in
 the Administration building.



Newsbreak would like to thank the following staff members
 who made presentations at the May 19th Seasonal Supervisors
 Meeting and whose names were missed in last week's issue.

Dan Stegall, Sue Wells, Stephanie Markey, and

• Butterfly Coach: Kathleen Dougherty

• County Market: Maureen Jones Fitzgerald

• Urban Recreation: Melissa Nawrocki

• Golf Trends: Paul Simpson