

River Raft Race Is Set Saturday

7/24/84

By CHARLES STANNARD

HADDAM -- The tenth annual Connecticut River Raft Race will begin at 10 A.M. Saturday at Hurd Park in Haddam Neck and conclude during the afternoon at the Haddam Meadows State Park.

This will be the fourth year the popular summer event will be run along the 4.5 miles downriver from Hurd Park to the finish line at the Haddam Meadows. The race, which began in 1974, moved to Haddam in 1981 after the increasing size of the event prompted various objections to the previous finish line on Notts Island in Essex.

The race was run from the Deep River town docks to Notts Island in Essex from 1974 to 1980 and along the present course to Haddam Meadows in 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Approximately 100 rafts of varying shapes and sizes will compete, or simply participate, in the event. Proceeds raised from the raft and crew member registration fees will be donated to children's charities.

The state Department of Environmental Protection will levy a \$2 per vehicle parking fee for race spectators for the first time this year. DEP Deputy Commissioner Dennis DeCarli said the fee will allow DEP to "justify the costs" of deploying personnel for the event at the park and on the river.

DeCarli said the department "did not want to charge the race committee" for the additional personnel costs and decided to impose the parking fee. Parking fees collected near the park entrance will be returned to the state general fund.

Selectmen Meeting

The Board of Selectmen will meet Wednesday, July 25 at 9 A.M. in the Town Office Building.

The Town Office Building will be without telephone service Thursday afternoon. The electrical transformer for the building was damaged by a falling tree limb in a recent thunderstorm.

The replacement of the transformer will require a temporary loss of telephone service. The Tax Collectors office will also be closed Thursday afternoon.

Democratic Caucus

Haddam Democrats will hold a party caucus on Thursday, July 26 at 8 P.M. in the Old Town Hall to endorse candidates for registrars of voters and justices of the peace. The caucus will be preceded by the regular monthly Democratic Town Committee meeting at 7:30 P.M. Persons interested in serving as justices of the peace may contact Jacqueline Michael at 345-2677.