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s in a special section in May.

Camp Eastman at 90 acres. The tot lots are the smallest parks, said Spang, at about one-third of an acre each.

Five full-time workers and seven seasonal employees are responsible for park upkeep. They've been prepping the parks for about a month.

"We inspect all of the equipment that's out there for unsafe conditions or things that have to be replaced — that's our primary objective," said Spang.

"We look at playground equipment, soccer goals, lacrosse goals,

"We are responsible for ... almost 12,000 acres of parks," said Frank Allkofer, county parks director.

"That's almost 100 lodges and shelters, miles and miles of hiking trails. We've got 2,000 feet of beachfront at Ontario Beach Park."

Seventy-four full-time employees and about 110 seasonal workers maintain county parks.

"The folks are out there," said Allkofer. "They're raking leaves that were left over from last fall. We're picking up twigs and any of the heavier (branches) that came

tains Ontario Beach Park in Rochester during the winter through early April.

"Basically, there's a lot of pruning," said Brian Kirchmaier, who supervises Durand-Eastman and Seneca as well as Ontario Beach in the winter. Currently, crews are clearing logs off the beach.

"After you prune, we chip the brush and spread a lot of wood chips around to gardens. If there is any planting, we'll start to get that ready. We'll make sure we have enough peat moss, we make sure we have enough fences to protect it from the deer."

tables in from the parks and cleaning and painting them, said Bob Ainsworth, department director.

Penfield has eight parks, including Rothfuss Park on Five Mile Line Road north of Atlantic Avenue, which is expected to open in fall 2007. The town's largest park is Veterans' Memorial Park at 85 acres.

A staff of 13 takes care of the parks and facilities. And currently, the staff is busy preparing the grounds for spring sports.

"Right now, we're trying to work

SPRING, PAGE 7F

Last original MCC prof retiring this year

■ L. Louise Rozwell taught languages there beginning in 1962.

MATTHEW DANEMAN
STAFF WRITER

L. Louise Rozwell did not set out to be a teacher.

When the graduating Nazareth College student was told about a temporary Spanish-teacher opening at Rochester's East High School, she wasn't interested. "I had no intention of teaching. I didn't care for it." But she was talked into taking the position. And, Rozwell said, "The very first day in the classroom ... I knew ... this was my vocation. It was as if somebody had turned on the light. And I've been teaching ever since — loving it. It's part of me."

Rozwell was among the two dozen or so faculty members who started at Monroe Community College in September 1962, on the very first day of classes. She continued to teach foreign languages through MCC's move from its Alexander Street beginnings to its campus on 300 acres in Brighton.

And she remains there today, the last remaining faculty member to have been with MCC since its start. Rozwell is not teaching this semester and is in the process of retiring, though she still serves on a number of committees.

"You have to love your students and be knowledgeable about the subject you teach," the Webster woman and professor of foreign languages says as she sits in her clean, kempt office on the campus.

L. Louise Rozwell

"After that, it works."

Polish was her first language, growing up the daughter of Polish immigrants in the Polish neighborhood around St. Stanislaus Church on Rochester's northeast side.

She also knows, with varying levels of fluency, French, German, Spanish and Russian. And she taught Polish at St. John Fisher College as an adjunct for a number of years.

MCC started in 1962 with 720 students in an old high school building on Alexander Street in Rochester, and Rozwell still remembers what it was like to scurry through the school building like a new student, trying to find her classrooms. Today, MCC has more than 17,000 students taking for-credit courses.

And Rozwell's office windows look out on Alice Holloway Young Commons, three buildings of residence halls that house about 400 students and opened in fall 2003.

But the college remains the same at its heart — a place where often, people who never even considered college end up transformed, she said.

"Physically, we've changed," Rozwell said. "But we are what we started out to be." Rozwell, the mother of two grown children, is on leave from teaching this semester to handle some family affairs, though she still is working on other college matters. And while she is retiring from MCC as of this year, her plans include musings on everything from writing to continuing to teach there as an adjunct to continuing her extensive international travel.

"I'll always be part of MCC," she says. "MCC will always be an important part of my life. Instead of saying 'retiring,' let's say I'll be doing other things." ❑

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