

## Heritage Park Open House May 15

Art displays, science projects and English compositions will be part of the open house exhibit at Heritage Park Field House Monday, May 15 at 8 p.m.

Students, teachers and PTA members of Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High are sponsoring the open house.

Parents will be able to view student efforts in the areas of art, music, science, drama, sports and written compositions during this end-of-the-year activity.

IN ADDITION, a girls group will present a gymnastics demonstration and the Holmes Concert Band will perform its contest selections.

Sixth-grade students of Robert Frost School, who will attend a junior high school orientation meeting earlier in the evening, will be the guests of Holmes Junior High at the open house.

During the evening, the Holmes PTA will hold its final business meeting of the year.

## Parks Plan 3 Concerts

Wheeling's Park District will sponsor three concerts of the Wheeling High School band this summer, June 13, June 28 and July 19.

The concerts will be held at Heritage Park, Dunhurst Shopping Center and the Wheeling Shopping Center.

The exact locations for each date are still to be decided and will be announced before the board's next meeting.

(WF)

## Swim Pool Rates Go Up Tomorrow

Today is the last day Wheeling residents can buy their family season passes for the Community Pool at a cut-rate price. Family rates are \$17.50. Tomorrow season passes will go up to \$20 a family.

Passes may be obtained at Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Road. Park District Supt. Ferdinand Arndt said about 150 season passes have already been sold. The pool opens Saturday, June 17.

May 31

## Arndt Speaks At Chicago Parks Parley

• Wheeling Park District is currently planning its summer program, according to Park Supt. Ferdinand Arndt, and hopes to have it completed by May 15.

More men's softball teams are needed, he noted, for games to be played under lights at Heritage Park. Interested persons are invited to call the park office, 537-2222.

Arndt said he recently participated in a two-day seminar held in the Chicago Park District's administration building and conducted by the Midwest Park Executives. In these annual sessions, park officials discuss mutual problems, as well as new ideas. Arndt talked on ways to get parks from sub-

dividers and developers without cost to the district.

The Wheeling superintendent also expressed his appreciation to residents who voted in the Park election April 4. He extended congratulations to all six candidates for a job well done.

April 12, 1967

## Eye Tax Warrants For Parks

Though ending its fiscal year barely in the black, Wheeling's Park Board is expected to authorize the issuance of \$10,000 in tax anticipation warrants within two weeks.

The warrants will be used to meet payroll expenses and costs until tax monies are received this summer.

Atty. Roger Bjorvik pointed out that such action would be a first for the district since its initial year of formation.

"We are doing more things now and that means more money," the attorney said. "It is rare that any kind of a municipal board can operate solely in the black."

BECAUSE OF LATE tax bill mailings this year, he said that revenues probably wouldn't be received until the first of July.

Before then, the board is committed to meet a bond interest payment of \$8,000 and to have money available for salaries and operation of the parks. The current treasury balance is about \$4,000. (The district expects to receive about \$39,000 in tax revenue this year.)

Tax anticipation warrants are a means to borrow money against expected revenues. The loans will be repaid when the tax monies are received.

(WF)

# PARKS PROVIDE SUMMER CURE To Begin Registration Of Youngsters Saturday

May 21

With spring fever taking its last gasps, the pangs of summer are just beginning.

The Wheeling Park District's broad recreational program offers a cure to those spirited youngsters—and harried mothers.

The program, approved by the park board, has activities for children and adults of all ages.

Registration begins this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Road. Registration continues the following Saturday, June 3. Pool passes will be available after this Monday.

OFFERED FOR the first time this summer will be boys' judo classes, adult art courses, and painting and puppets instruction.

Another first are the open-air Band Concerts with the Wheeling High School Band. Concerts are slated for June 13 at the Dunhurst Shopping Center, Dundee Road and Rt. 83; June 28 at Heritage Park; and July 19 at the Wheeling Shopping Center at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. THE WHEELING Community Pool, located on N. Wolf Road, opens June 17. Season passes for families can be purchased for \$17.50 before June 1. After that date, passes will cost \$20. Non-resident fees are \$35 for the pool.

Two-week lessons for beginning, intermediate and advanced swimmers begin June 19 daily from 9 to 11 a.m. The fee is \$2.50. Instructor is Miss Kathy McCall.

An adult "Learn To Swim" program will be offered for eight weeks beginning Saturday June 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. Both swimming and diving instructions will be available. Cost of the program, taught by Mrs. D. Harris, will be \$2.50.

Three locations—Heritage Park, Mark Twain School and Carl Sandburg School—are centers for the general recreation program. Track and field, softball, volleyball, table tennis, horseshoes and checkers will be offered. Fee is \$1 for eight weeks.

Arts and Crafts, offered at all three locations, will cost \$2 for eight weeks. There are activities

for children six years old and up.

PAINTING AND Puppets are offered Monday at 9:30 a.m. at Heritage Park and Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Mark Twain. Fee is \$2.

Drama classes will be held at all three centers. Classes for six to eight year olds begin at 9 a.m. and for 9-11 year olds at 10:30 a.m. Fee for materials is \$2.

Judo classes, taught by Robert Mudd, are open to all boys in grades 7 to 12. Fee is \$5 for 20 one-hour classes.

PLAY-OFF FOR the men's softball league is May 23 at 7

p.m. at Heritage Park. Softball teams for teenage boys and women will be organized if enough interest is shown.

Tennis lessons will be held Tuesday and Thursdays at Wheeling High School's courts. Lessons for 9-11 year olds begin at 9 a.m. and for 12 and up at 10:30 a.m. Sixteen lessons will cost \$5.

Times for adult art classes have not yet been finalized.

Additional activities will be organized if enough people show interest.

All activity fees double for non-residents of the Park District.

## Set Beautification Lunch Plans Today

Plans will be completed today for the beautification luncheon and program scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday May 17 at the Heritage Park Building, it was announced by the luncheon steering committee.

The committee is composed of members from the Wheeling Public Relations Commission, the Wheeling Junior Woman's

Club, and the Wheeling Park District.

Program highlights include a slide presentation by Virgil Gilman, superintendent of parks and recreation, Fox Valley Park District. The slides will depict the "before and after" view of beautification project successfully completed in Aurora, Ill.

**OTHER GUEST** speakers slated are Ray Schwartz, curator of the River Trails Nature Center in the Cook County Forest Preserve District, and Mrs. E. J. Tammillo, from the Des Plaines Garden Club.

Questionnaires, to get ideas about beautification, will be distributed at the luncheon. A question-and-answer session will follow the program.

Reservations must be made by May 12 by contacting Mrs. Eugene Hagen, LE 7-1798.

Members of the luncheon committee are Mrs. Robert Schultz, Mrs. John Koeppe, Mrs. George McMahon, Mrs. Paul Christiansen, Mrs. Victor Nicholson, Mrs. Alf Wilson, Mrs. J. J. Stiller and Mrs. Donald Lark.

## Wheeling Beauty Theme for Lunch

"A More Beautiful Wheeling" is the theme of the May 17 luncheon to officially launch a program for a more attractive community.

The luncheon is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the Heritage Park Building.

Need for a beautification project has long been in the planning stages by three local groups—the Wheeling Junior Woman's Club, the Wheeling Public Relations Commission and the Wheeling Park District.

The luncheon committee hopes to obtain information on what the community regards as problem spots and "eyesores" along with suggestions to rectify these problems.

Trustee Koeppe fired the first question, "Who owns the property?" Tokoph replied that all 62 acres involved are owned by Markus. Tokoph said he is a

**GUEST SPEAKER** at the luncheon will be Virgil Gilman of the Aurora Park District, which successfully initiated a beautification program.

Mrs. Paul Christiansen, Wheeling Park District Commissioner, will discuss "Pride,"

a park district project at Alton, Ill.

Persons interested in attending the luncheon may make reservations by calling Mrs. Eugene Hagen at 537-1798.

Luncheon committee members are Mrs. Alf A. Wilson, and Mrs. Christiansen, refreshments; Mrs. Schultz and Mrs. Donald Lark, invitations; Mrs. Victor Nicholson, Mrs. Julius Benjamin, decorations; Mrs. John Koeppe, hostess, Mrs. Hagen, reservations, Mrs. J. J. Stiller, publicity.

# New Parks President Sets Fast Pace, But -

They were whooping it up at the Heritage Park Building after Mrs. Audrey Christiansen was elected the new president of Wheeling's Park Board.

But the wild-cry came not from her fellow commissioners nor from the audience of one in attendance, but from a band of youthful renegades passing along the hall outside.

The changing of the guard was so matter of fact that it took only two minutes for Mrs. Christiansen's uncontested election and Commissioner Bernard Erlin's elevation to vice president. Retiring Pres. Richard Ault is expected to resign from the board by the end of the summer.

DURING her first hour in office, Mrs. Christiansen moved with dispatch. She immediately re-appointed Roger Bjorvik as

the board's attorney and secretary; Ann Egan as the board's recording secretary and William Blank as treasurer.

She quickly handed out committee assignments to the commissioners — Mrs. Lorraine Lark as head of public relations committee, Erlin as head of the finance and the building and grounds and Alf Wilson as chairman of the recreation committee.

Without mincing words, she announced that she expected the

committees to function and to submit regular written reports.

Correspondence was dealt with masterfully. Mrs. Christiansen seemed intent on setting a new pace for the board which so often flounders along as the night grows late.

But then came the old committee reports and things began to slow down a bit — and the inevitable question of Husky Park ground discussion into a quagmire. It was another late night.



Charles Altmaier and Wally Wilson are presenting Mr. Arndt of the Wheeling Park District with a thank you card signed by the students and faculty of Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High School, also a box of candy to help him keep his figure.

The school has been using the gym and athletic field this past year for their programs. All assemblies have been held at the field house. Mr. Arndt says, "This is cooperation at work . . . it means an awful lot to you, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer".

Charles is the 8th grade President of the Student Council at Holmes, and Wally is the Vice President.



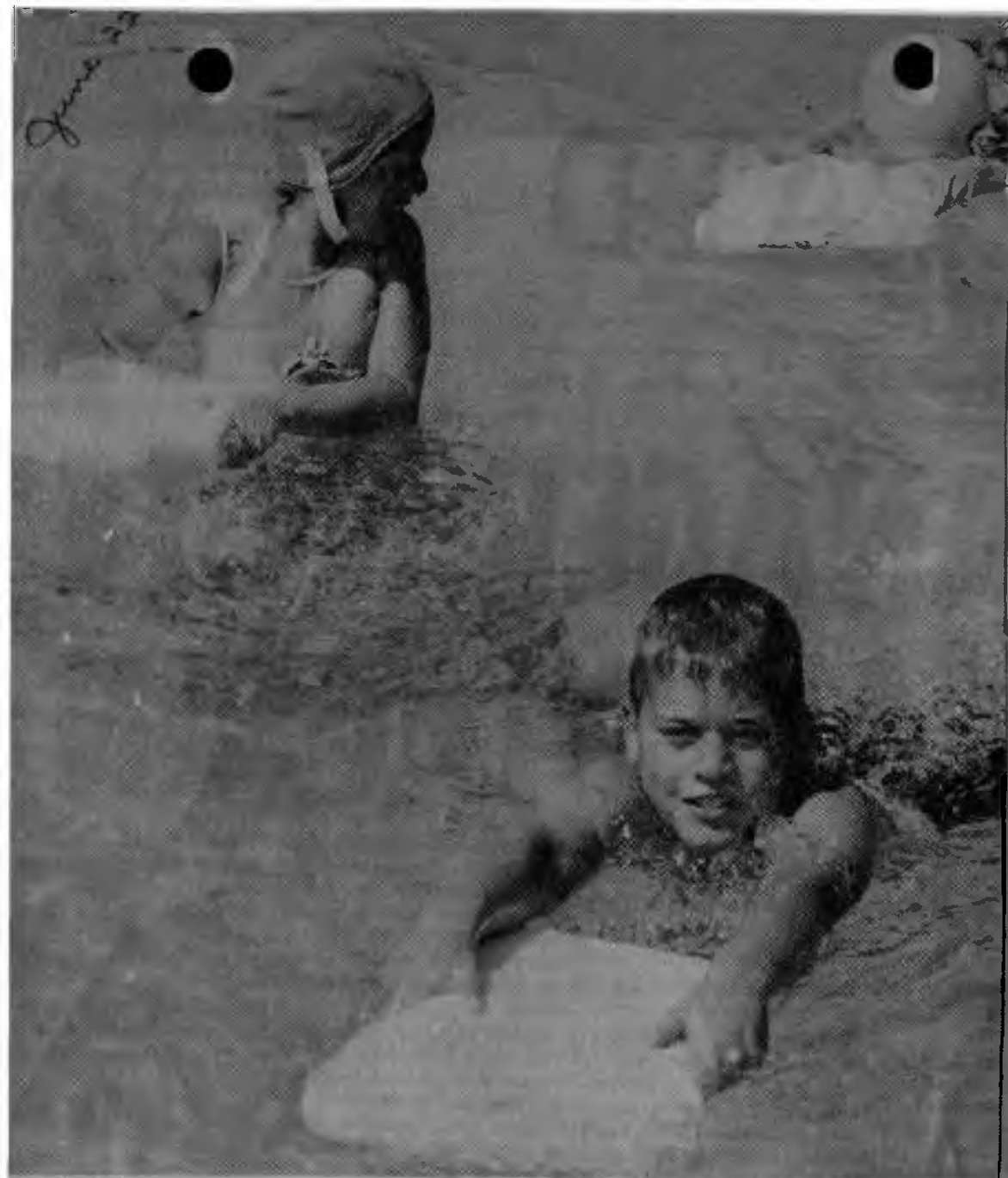
**WALKING THE CURB** during the recent Hobo Hike are Jack Vanes, 8, and Roberta Wolff, 10, both of Wheeling. Knapsacks, shorn levis, and oversized shirts were the fashion of

the day. Kids hiked to Potawatomi Forest Preserve where they picnicked and played games. The hike was sponsored by the Wheeling Park District. (Staff Photo)



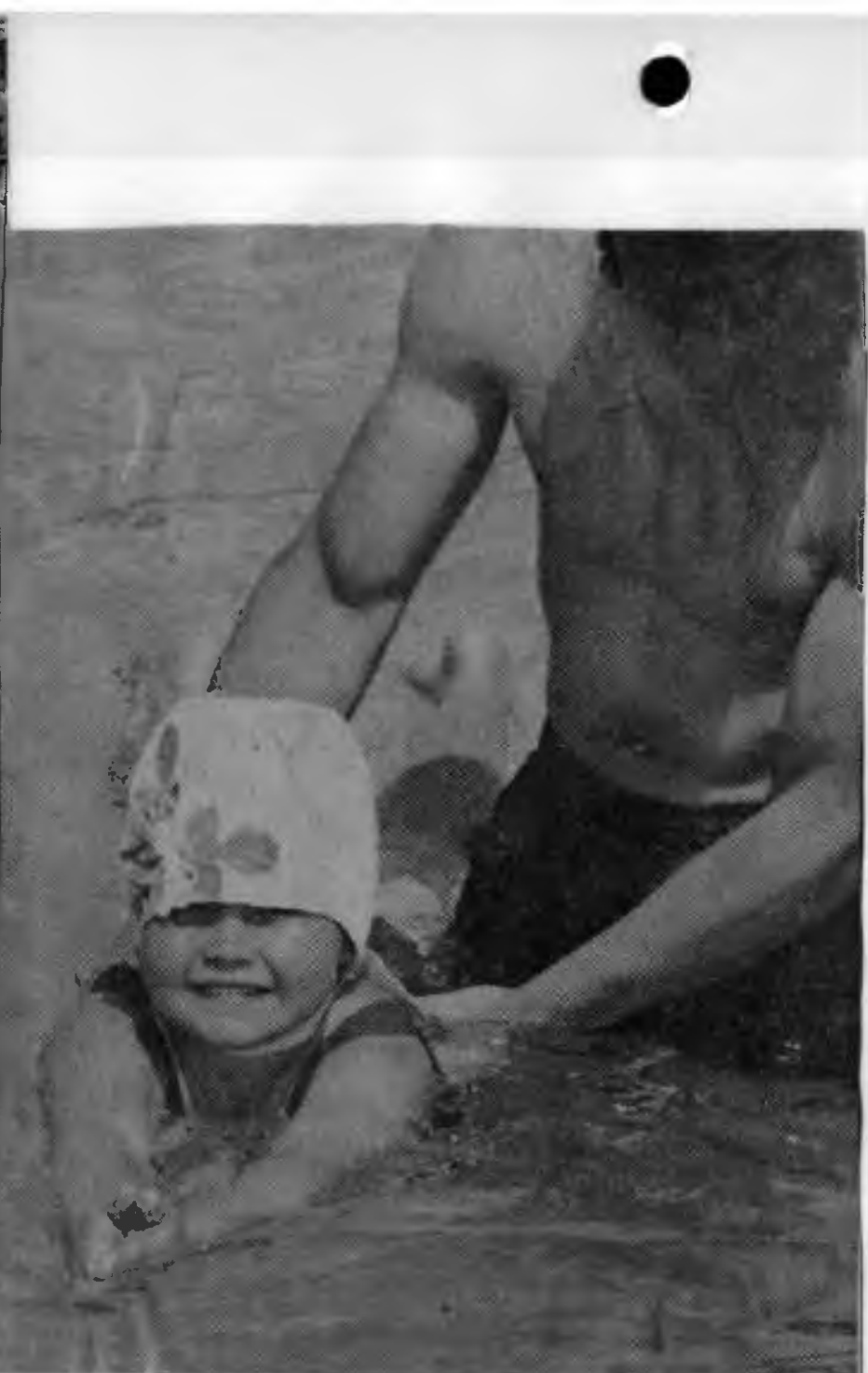
**BEST OF THE HOBOS** was 10-year-old Susan Lang of Wheeling. Susan was selected the "best dressed" hobo during the Wheeling

Park District Hobo Hike last Friday. Some 50 youngsters turned out for the event. (Staff Photo)



**LEARNING THE FLUTTER KICK** is an important part of swimming lessons begun Monday at the Wheeling community pool. Open from 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. weekdays and

Saturday, and an hour earlier on Sunday. Family passes for \$20 for residents of the \$40 for non-residents.



**WHEELING COMMUNITY** Pool opened Monday, and even on opening day many youngsters showed up early for their first swimming lesson of the summer. Dick Rainer, an instructor at the pool, is shown below teach-

ing the mechanics of floating. The pool will be open until Labor Day 1 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 on weekdays and Saturdays, and noon to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. on Sundays.



TOOTHLESS AND HAGGARD-LOOKING for "Hobo Day" was seven-year-old Mark Geren of Wheeling. About 50 ragged, freckle-faced youngsters tramped through the center of Wheeling on their way to Potawatomi

Forest Preserve Friday morning. Sponsored by the Wheeling Park District, the Hobo Hike was a special activity in the summer program. At the forest preserve, kids took part in games and contests. (Staff Photo)

July 9, 1967

# Youthful Village Lacking In Pay-As-Play Facilities

by KEN ULRICH  
Staff Writer

A survey of recreational facilities in Wheeling for children and teenagers points up, two distinct facts: village officials are doing their jobs, but a lack of investment from outside concerns is evident among pay-as-you-play facilities.

A third factor — teenager apathy — underlies the over-all picture.

The Wheeling Park District, school districts and service groups are doing their best to offer rounded recreation programs with existing personnel, facilities and equipment, but investors are not providing the informal, unplanned relaxation opportunities adapted to suburban life.

THE REASONS behind this

condition, as with almost any condition or abstract thing, are overlapping and nebulous. But the fact that Wheeling is a young, growing community is at the base of all reasoning.

Wheeling's 1960 population stood at 7,169, with 49 per cent of those under 18 years of age. A 1964 survey upped the total to 11,756, and the 1967 projection is for 13,000.

Most village residents are parents, and they follow traditional human convictions that children must be provided for. Through schools, parks, Scouts and other organizations children associate with, parental desire for Little League baseball teams, swim lessons, handicraft work and camp programs are realized.

The fact that the community is young and still growing is also tied to the lack of pay-as-you-play facilities. For one thing, business has not had time to establish itself. For another, the layout of the village — a patchwork of housing developments and de-centralized business district — does not afford convenient locations to build a prosperous miniature golf course or go-cart track.

TORCH project director Keith Vernon summed up the situation accurately when asked to comment on the adequacy of facilities.

"In this area of spontaneous recreation we're definitely lacking," he said. "We have little in the way of theaters, miniature golf courses and things the kids can go out and do with little planning. The schools and parks are doing one heckuva job, but outside these activities we're definitely lacking."

TORCH, in association with Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, has the task of eliminating duplication and bringing together autonomous groups for unified planning. Under TORCH's guiding light are School Districts 214 and 21, River Trail, Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove park districts, private and parochial schools, and other civic associations.

AS AN EXAMPLE of the type of planning done by one group

charged with providing recreation, the Wheeling Park District drew up an extensive program for the summer. Swimming lessons, band concerts, field trips (Brookfield Zoo, Cubs games), tennis, judo, softball, painting and puppets, drama, and arts and crafts are among the activities offered at the district's three centers.

Ferdinand Arndt, park district director, says teenage apathy is a big problem in planning for that particular age group. Most of the above-mentioned programs are for children from 7 to 12.

"We put out over 1,000 feelers in the spring at Wheeling High School on a summer baseball league," he explained. "We got only one back. We also thought about softball for girls and teenage dances on Saturday nights, but these, too, had to be scrapped almost entirely."

ARNDT DID SAY, however, that the over-all park district program has expanded this year, and that enrollment and registration is up by more than 100 over a year ago.

Police Chief M. O. Horcher cites park programs and others like it as definitely contributing to the relatively low level of juvenile problems in the community.

"We would certainly have much more trouble than we do without what programs we have," he said, commending the community pool and organized baseball in particular. "The combination of all these progressive activities is instrumental in youth direction."

"Most everyone seems very concerned," he observed, "about providing activities for so many youngsters, and in view of the large number I think what's been done has been very helpful."



Wheeling Park District - Summer Program. Mr. Mudd taught Judo for four weeks. There were twelve enrolled in his class. Pictured are some of his students. Mr. Mudd has the black belt so he is very qualified to teach this sport.





**THE WHEELING COMMUNITY POOL**, under private ownership but leased to the Wheeling Park District, is a favorite place for village youngsters to spend summer hours. But if

youngsters grow tired of the pool, or can't swim to begin with and don't want to learn, what else can they do? Are village recreation programs adequate? (Staff Photo)



IT'S A RUN, HOP AND LEAP over the pole for Mareen Banks, 513 Laurel Trail (striped shorts) and Cathy Herron, 373 E. Morse, Wheeling, during



the Junior Olympic races this week. Youngsters from all three playgrounds in the Wheeling Park

District participated in the three - hour - long gymnastics, held at Wheeling High School Tuesday. (Staff Photos)



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7/16/67



**SPORTS**, either organized Little League baseball or informal one-on-one basketball games, hold a magnetic attraction for a majority of youngsters, regardless of ability. How does

the athletic program and other forms of summer recreation, such as movie houses, crafts, drama classes and reading programs shape up in Wheeling?



**CONCENTRATION IN THE MIDST OF CONFUSION.** These two puppeteers from the Mark Twain playground program wiggle their hand-made puppets in the show "The Gates of Dinkelsbuehl." The Sandburg Bisons, a progressive rhythm band, stream into the Heritage Park Field House in their yellow-with-black striped cardboard bus.

Both performances plus a square dance group from Heritage Park playground and a drama show culminated the Wheeling Park District's summer program. Some 100 parents attended the open house Wednesday night. Exhibits of the youngsters' art and craft work were also on display. The program officially ends today. (Staff Photos)

# DELAY CLEAN-UP FOR HUSKY PARK

by Dick Leonard  
Staff Writer

Husky Park will remain its soggy, weedy self for a while longer.

Any hope for immediate clean-up action sank this week when Wheeling's Park Board verbally bogged down in the bullrushes, unable to agree on what kind of action should be taken.

The board met in a special session Tuesday with hopes of coming up with a plan that would dry out the park and allow crews to cut back the growing wilderness.

Commissioners Alf Wilson and Bernie Erlin proposed that the district purchase or rent heavy equipment that could immediately be used to grade the area and allow the long-standing water pools to dry up.

Their plans, however, were firmly blocked by Commissioner Lorraine Lark and Board Pres. Audrey Christiansen, who questioned the feasibility of rushing into action without a specific plan.

The heart of the Husky problem is a large pool of water standing on the Anthony Drive side of the park. Wilson suggested that by grading away the ridges that hold the water, it would naturally drain to the Norman Drive end where a storm drain is located. With the water gone, equipment could be used to cut away the weeds and bullrushes.

MRS. LARK argued that this

thing should be done right away. He said the problem could be solved immediately and without any advice from Moody.

"I think it would be better to do this right next spring than to do it wrong now," Mrs. Lark said.

Commissioner Erlin felt that the district had lived with this situation long enough.

"WE'VE BEEN talking about Husky Park for months. I think something should be done right now," he declared.

Mrs. Lark advised the board to wait until the village had released its major storm sewer study this September.

"The park will figure into their plans. I think we should see what they have in mind before we act."

During the nearly two-hour session, the discussion frequently reached the shouting stage, a rarity among the normally

placid commissioners.

Park Supt. Ferd Arndt reported it was almost impossible at this time to arrange for a piece of heavy equipment to work at Husky.

"This is the busy season for contractors and all their units are working," he told the board.

HE SAID HE would continue to contact local contractors with hopes one would donate the use of equipment to get the job done.

Purchase of equipment was voted down by the board as too costly. A caterpillar type tractor, a trailer and some means to store it would have cost about \$7,000.

Arndt said he could get equipment on a rental basis for \$500 a week.

However, Mrs. Lark and Mrs. Christiansen defeated this motion arguing it would be better to first get a plan on how to drain the area.

"I really don't care who does the work as long as it is done properly. We can't have someone come in and push the dirt around without knowing what they are doing. The last time we allowed that we ended up with twice as many problems," said Mrs. Christiansen.

"I DON'T SEE why we have to complicate this," said Wilson. "This is really a simple problem. We go in with the equipment and create a path to drain the standing water. The area dries up and we cut back the weeds."

Answered Mrs. Christiansen. "If the problem is as easy to solve as you say, then I instruct our capable superintendent to solve it and report back the progress to us in a week."

The meeting ended. The commissioners went home. And Husky Park still sits, sodden, soggy and weedy, for another day.

AUGUST 25, 1967

# Officials Play Baseball On Donkey Back Saturday

Don't forget tomorrow's (Saturday) game of Donkey Baseball at 8 p.m. at Heritage Park, 22 S. Wolf Road, Wheeling.

Sponsored by the local Amvets and VFW organizations, the game is being played to raise funds for the Wheeling

Veterans' Memorial, built last spring at Heritage Park.

The two teams, called the Koeppen's Hoofers and Scanlon's Grazers, include Wheeling village and school officials as well as area businessmen.

LINEUP for Koeppen's Hoof-

ers are John Koeppen, Harry Garber, Oscar Falk, Frank Brelle, Mike Valenza, Al Berrieter, Frank Connelly, Ray Fern and Bob Buerger.

Lineup for Scanlon's Grazers are Ted Scanlon, Dan Owen, Bernard Erlin, Andy Neargarder, Tom Shirley, Mark DeFore, Ron Fields, Jack Mayer, and Richard Missing.

Alternates are Ed Schlangen, Alf Wilson, Ken Gill, and Ralph Hunter.

The ballgame is played entirely on donkey-back, except the catcher and pitcher. There are no strikeouts in the seven-inning game.

## New Park Member To Be Appointed

Appointment of a new commissioner to the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners heads tomorrow (Thursday) night's lengthy agenda.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Park.

Two candidates interviewed for the vacancy with a term that in 1971 are Gene Sackett, 140 Sunrise Drive, and Bob Ross, 312 S. Wheeling Avenue, both of Wheeling.

UNDER OLD business, the board will discuss the proposed Heritage Park retention basin.

annexation to the park district of the Zale and Skil property on the south and west side of the village, the North Side park site; and installation of a street light at Heritage park.

On the agenda for new business are a review of the administrative ordinance and board policy, formation of a citizen committee, identification cards for commissioners, and the esthetic appearance of landscaping and equipment surrounding the park building.

(WFP4)

## Wheeling Okays Two Park Sites

Wheeling has given its approval to a federal land grant application being planned by the River Trails Park District.

Village trustees Monday gave their consent to the application, in which River Trails asks for \$475,000 to acquire five park sites.

Because two of the five sites come within the 1½-mile planning jurisdiction of the Village of Wheeling, the River Trails district had to seek its approval as well as the Village of Des Plaines.

Trustees based their decision on a recommendation from the Plan Commission which met recently with representatives of River Trails and Wheeling Park Districts.

THE PLAN commission found that the two proposed sites do not conflict with the Future Generalized Land Use Map or the Official Map. The Wheeling Park Board reported that the sites do not conflict with any future acquisitions it may make.

# PARK BOARD

# MOVES FOR LAND

OCTOBER 22, 1967

## May Condemn Eight Acres

After more than a year of fruitless negotiations, the Wheeling Park District has taken legal steps to condemn an eight-acre tract on the north side of town.

The park board has been eyeing the land as a future park-school site for several years.

The district reportedly has offered \$37,500 for the property located north of the drainage ditch and west of Holland subdivision.

The title holder, the Federal Savings & Loan Association, is asking \$50,000 for the land, it was reported.

Park District Atty. Roger Bjorvik has stated that there is ample money available to buy the land. "We have money now just sitting in the bank from the park referendum," he told the Herald.

BJORVIK predicted that it probably would be spring before the court would settle the condemnation suit. Under condemnation proceedings a jury will be asked to set a fair price for the property.

According to the park board, part of the land would be used for a District 21 school site.

"We will probably share in the actual cost of the land," said Assistant Supt. John Barger Friday. However, unless asked, the school district will enter the condemnation



The site would be used partially for a northside school being proposed in November's school building referendum.

THE PARK board has been meeting nearly monthly in closed door sessions to discuss the northside park.

At its July meeting, the board passed a resolution providing for the acquisition of the land and, if not able to agree on a price, going ahead with condemnation.

Purchase of the land would bring to completion the park development as proposed to and approved by voters in a 1964 bond referendum.

Purchase of two other sites—76 acres (Heritage Park) and five acres (Husky Park)—was completed in the last two years.



Nov 19, 1967

# PARK DISTRICT SEEKS NEW TAX

Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District this week called for a referendum to levy a five-cent recreation tax.

The district-wide referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Approval of the referendum a tax up to five cents per \$100 the district levies 10 cents for \$100 assessed valuation for its corporate fund.

Park district Atty. Roger Bjorvik estimated that such a tax would realize about \$22,500 in park income in 1969. He said that the actual cost would be about three cents a week for each resident. The assessed valuation of the

district is \$41 million.

"Passage of this tax is an absolute necessity if the district is to offer the kind of park service that the residents seem to want," Bjorvik said.

**THE MONEY** received from a recreation tax could be used only for recreational personnel, instructors and equipment—not for land purchase or building construction.

The board of commissioners will hold a special meeting Tuesday at the Heritage Park building to outline plans for an expanded park program. Discussion will include setting up neighborhood ice rinks, and eliminating the 10 cent charge for skating.

Park officials contend that with the new tax the district would be able to eliminate many of the small fees now being charged and at the same time increase the amount of service the park program could offer.

**IF APPROVED**, the recreation tax would be levied in the fall of 1968 and first appear

would allow the district to levy assessed valuation. At present,

on 1969 tax bills.

Atty. Bjorvik pointed out that the added income would minimize the district's need to rely on tax anticipation warrants to raise needed money. (Tax anticipation warrants are loans

borrowed against future tax income.)

Over the objections of Commissioner Mrs. Lorraine Lark, the board approved Heritage Park as the sole polling place for the election. Mrs. Lark has long championed the cause of two polling places in the district—the second to serve residents of the west side of Wheeling.

**RECENT** state legislation authorizes park districts formed

prior to 1961 to levy a recreation tax—but only with voter approval. Districts formed after 1961 may levy the tax without going to the voters.

The Wheeling district was formed Dec. 1960, a month before the 1961 date.

The board passed the resolution to call the referendum un-animously with only Mrs. Lark abstaining. She abstained because the resolution did not include the second polling place.

## Park Tax Hopes

Nov 19, 1967

Elimination of small fees, hiring of a full-time recreation director, and additional park programs and equipment.

These are some of the possibilities which Wheeling Park District commissioners outlined if the recreation tax referendum is approved by voters Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Last week commissioners adopted a resolution calling for the referendum to levy up to five cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

The money could be used only for park programs.

Based on the present assessed valuation of the park district, the "nickel" tax would bring about \$22,500 into park coffers.

At a Tuesday committee meeting, the board met to decide what the recreation tax

income could be used for.

**HOPES ARE** that the nominal fees of \$1 and 50 cents now charged for park programs could be eliminated. A professional recreation director—with a salary of about \$8,000—would be hired to coordinate and start new park programs, among them programs in neighborhood schools, which now are offered only at Heritage Park.

Commissioners also felt that programs from the Title III project (subsidized by a \$325,000 federal grant) could be assimilated into the park district when Title III went out of existence. Such activities could include roller skating, soccer, and archery.

Commissioners agreed to hold

a public forum Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. at Heritage Park. Board members and Park Supt. Ferdinand Arndt will be on hand to present facts about the referendum and answer questions from the audience.

A "fact sheet" will be mailed to all residents two weeks before election; other leaflets will be sent home with children through the schools.

Money for park programs is now taken from the district's corporate or "housekeeping" fund. With the separate tax levy, however, the corporate money could be used for development of parks and facilities, commissioners indicated.

Heritage Park will be the sole polling place. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 19.

# Dance Way to Poise

"Dancing is the start on the road to good co-ordination and poise," explained Mrs. Rae Swanson, instructor of ballet, tap and acrobatics for the Wheeling Park District.

She conducts five classes at Heritage Park, as part of the park district's program.

Two one-hour classes are held for pre-school children Wednesdays; three classes for elementary students are held on Saturday mornings.

"DANCING gives the children an awareness of what their bodies are capable of doing at their command," she said.

She starts the younger children with elementary type dances and exercises, working with each child individually.

Sessions run for eight weeks, with a fee of \$5 for each session.

Because the dancers continue advancing each session, it has become difficult to enroll new students. Mrs. Swanson said there was a backlog of registrations but that she took in new students as she could work with them.

She is planning a "grand finale" program for all the classes sometime in May or June.



12-1-67  
THE ART OF DANCING is an intense practice. Above, Debra Robacki, 254 E. Wayne Place, Wheeling, stretches her tummy muscles as part of the limbering exercises. From here, she will go into a back stand. Below,

Karen Applegate, 203 W. Jeffrey Avenue, Wheeling, learns the "bouce" a ballet step. Classes for pre-school and elementary youngsters are conducted by the Wheeling Park District. (Staff Photos)

# VOTERS OKAY NEW PARK TAX

12-20-1967

The Wheeling Park District's recreation tax referendum squeaked through Tuesday by a one-vote margin.

Unofficial tallies showed that voters approved the referendum 114 for, 113 against.

Approval means that the park district taxes will be raised by five-cents per \$100 assessed valuation, beginning in 1969.

"We were quite pleased with the turnout," commented Park Board Pres. Mrs. Audrey Christiansen Tuesday night after the ballots were counted. Most park referendums don't attract many voters, she pointed out. "We want to thank all the people who did come out to vote."

Ballots will be canvassed by the park board Thursday night.

The proposed tax would be levied in the fall of 1968, and first appear on tax bills in the spring of 1969. As a result, the park district would not realize the benefits of the tax until its 1969-70 fiscal year.

Commissioners indicated that the recreation tax would bring an extra \$22,500 into the dis-

trict, based on its present assessed valuation.

PLANS FOR the recreation tax, commissioners have said, include:

—Expanding the park programs by adding to the present activities and by offering them in all parts of the district.

—Eliminating many of the small "nuisance" fees now charged for most park programs.

—Hiring a full-time recreation supervisor to expand and co-ordinate the year-round park programming.

—Providing some money to take over recreational activities now financed by Title III, a \$325,000 federal program spon-

sored by the local elementary school district. The grant expires in 1970, and hopes are that the park district would take over the more popular Title III programs, such as roller skating, soccer, archery, and league basketball.

—Releasing money in the corporate or "housekeeping" fund now used for recreation programs for other purposes.

COMMISSIONERS say that the last point could prove the most beneficial as the result of a successful referendum.

Of the district's \$66,000 budget for 1967-68, \$10,800 has been allotted for recreation, including staff salaries, supplies and rental of facilities. Commissioners

say they would like to see this money spent instead for park site acquisition and development.

Though most newly-formed park district can automatically levy the five-cent recreation tax, those formed before 1961 must go to the voters for approval. The Wheeling Park District was formed in Dec. 1960.

The one and only previous park referendum met with voter approval in April, 1964. That referendum asked for approval of a \$582,400 park acquisition and building package, including purchase of the 72-acre Heritage Park property and construction of a \$167,000 park building.

JAN. 1968

# HERITAGE PARK — KEY IN FLOODING?

The key to solving Wheeling's flooding woes may be held by Heritage Park.

That is an early conclusion reached by Harza Engineering Co., which is now wrapping up a four-month study of the village's drainage problems.

Harza's preliminary report will be officially released Monday, Feb. 5, at a meeting of the village board.

But some of the main points in the study were reviewed last week by the board's sewer and water committee, headed by trustee Dan Owen. Owen, last

Thursday, briefed Wheeling Park District commissioners on the report.

Commissioners learned that Harza will probably recommend two retention basins at Heritage Park, located between the Soo-

Line railroad tracks and Wolf Road.

**ONE BASIN** — to be located east of the tracks in the park's flood plain area — would collect storm water from the south (Meadowbrook subdivision) and from the west (Dunhurst subdivision and swampy Husky Park).

Though there were no indications of the proposed size or capacity of the retention basin, park commissioners have long talked about a 20-acre lake.

The second retention area would involve the Heritage Park ice rink, a small basin north of the park building.

Owen told park commissioners that plans call for the widening and deepening of the ice rink so that it could hold storm water from the Highland - Sunrise - Wolf Road area. A set of automatic valves would control the water flow.

**DURING HIS** briefing with the park board, Owen warned that

the proposed projects would involve "big money."

At the Feb. 5 meeting when Harza officially reveals its preliminary plans, the village board is expected to dismiss other business in order to review the plans fully.

Park commissioners as well as Wheeling - Buffalo Grove School Dist. 21 officials and Wheeling Drainage District commissioners have been invited to the meeting.

## Open 'Back Door' For Heritage Park

The back door to Heritage Park was opened this week when Wheeling park officials approved the \$4,500 purchase of a lot in Meadowbrook subdivision.

The lot is actually a stub road that leads from Jeffrey Avenue north to the park.

The park board plans to use the property as an access to Heritage Park from the south. If the park district ever gets its hoped-for Heritage retention basin, the road could lead into a picnic area around the lake.

**IN OTHER** land negotiations, Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik told the commissioners last week that they can expect to take title to eight acres of land on the north side of Wheeling by this spring.

He said that present condemnation proceedings are expected to end by then.

Park officials have been negotiating with the owners of the land, located at the end of

Glendale Street in Holland subdivision, for more than a year. **PARK OFFICIALS** reportedly have offered \$45,000 for the site. The title holder of the land, the Federal Savings and Loan Assn., is reportedly asking \$50,000. At the condemnation proceedings, the court will ask a jury to set a fair price on the property.

The land is projected for a joint park - school site. Wheeling Buffalo Grove Dist. 21 school officials are eyeing the site for a 14-room elementary school.



ICE SKATING AT HERITAGE PARK is free for the rest of this season. And that's official. Wheeling park commissioners last week decided to drop a 10-cent fee, charged in

previous years. Though a link fence enclosing the rink had been installed to control skaters, park commissioners felt the skating season was nearly over. (Staff Photo)

# New Plunge Planned Into Pool Proposal

JAN 31  
1968

The idea of an indoor swimming pool in Wheeling might just hold some water.

Officials of the Wheeling Park District and Wheeling High School met last week to begin exploring the possibility of a joint pool venture.

At the meeting were park Supt. Ferdinand Arndt, park board member Robert Ross, Wheeling High principal Thomas Shirley and school athletic director E. E. Ormsby. Each has been assigned to look into cost or needed facilities and will report to the park board and Dist. 214 school board.

Talk of such a venture indicates the growing disenchantment among park officials over

the operation of the Wheeling Community Pool. It also indicates that commissioners have all but sunk any idea of eventually purchasing the community pool.

UNDER THE present agreement, the park district operates the pool for the Community Pool Board on a "non-profit basis." Supposedly, the park district is to make plans to take over the whole operation.

But after two years of overseeing the operation, most commissioners view the community pool with a shudder. Last year's operation seemed to be one headache after another.

Needed repairs were costly,

parts seemed unavailable and access to the pool has been a long standing problem.

District officials were forced to change managers in mid-season after complaints of laxity and improper staffing.

But more than anything else, park officials make no secret of the fact that the pool can hardly handle the district's growing recreational needs.

Prospects of an indoor-outdoor pool would give a boost to the district's year-round recreational program. And it could make swimming and diving a major Wheeling High School sport.

Both Shirley and Arndt have expressed strong interest in the project.

## Using Tax Warrants To Boost Finances

JAN 31, 68

To most governmental bodies, tax anticipation warrants is "dirty talk"—a solid admittance of having to operate in the red.

But to the Wheeling Park District, issuing anticipation warrants are a way of helping

the district stay in the black.

The commissioners last week approved the sale of \$75,000 in warrants to be repaid when the district tax monies come in this June.

But instead of using the cash to meet pressing payrolls, the usual reason for issuing these kinds of warrants, park officials plan to invest the just-borrowed money.

THE SCHEME, legal and legitimate says Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik, works like this:

The district sold the warrants to the Wheeling Trust and Savings Bank for \$75,000 plus four per cent interest. Now they plan to invest the amount with the Federal National Mortgage Assn., earning a 5½ per cent interest.

The result over six months is that the district will pay back the bank the principal and interest charges and still have about \$500 left over.

The only vocal opposition to the plan was voiced by Com-

missioner Lorraine Lark who didn't like the negative connotation that tax warrants would have with district voters. "People will get the idea that we are operating in the red when it isn't so," she claimed.

## Ceramic and Guitar Classes Now Offered

JAN 31  
68

Ceramic classes will be offered by the Wheeling Park District beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6 at Wheeling High School.

The 10-week course will cost \$15.

A beginners and an advanced guitar class will also start Feb. 6 at Heritage Park. The two hour classes begin at 7:30 p.m.

The park is considering starting a women's ballet class to be held Mondays, starting Feb. 12

at Heritage Park. Those interested should contact the park office, 222 S. Wolf Road.

Other programs now in operation include recreation held Saturday mornings at Walt Whitman and Eugene Field schools; basketball held Saturday mornings at Heritage Park and Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. High school; judo for boys held Saturday mornings at Holmes; and judo for adults held Monday at Holmes.

# OK PARK BOARD BASIN PLAN

FEBRUARY 18, 1968

## Ice Rink To Serve For Flood Control

The Wheeling Park Board of Commissioners has approved the "principle" of a project which would convert the Heritage Park ice rink into a retention basin.

Approval came only after commissioners had been assured that the flood control project would not interfere with the recreational use of the land.

With the okay from the park board, the Wheeling Village Board can now ask its consulting engineers, the Harza Engineering Co., to begin designing detailed plans for the project. Harza representatives estimated it would take them 2½ months to finish the plans.

Owned by the park district, the 2½-acre ice rink is used for skating in the winter and contemplated for use as baseball and soccer fields in the summer.

THE VILLAGE is looking at the site for a basin which would hold up to seven-acre-feet of water during heavy rainstorms.

Harza engineers say that the basin would hold much of the

water which presently backs up from the nearby Wheeling Drainage Ditch. During heavy rainstorms, the backup flows into homes along Wolf Road, Highland Avenue and Sunrise Drive.

Construction of the small flood control project would involve deepening the rink by about two feet and grading it gently toward the north to a small culvert.

Flap gates would be installed at the mouth of the culvert where it empties into the drainage ditch.

THE DIRT from the excavation would be piled between the drainage ditch and the ice

rink to act as a three-foot high levee.

A pipe under Wolf Road would also be replaced with a larger one.

Harza has estimated that the entire project could cost \$22,000—not including a clay lining on the bottom of the rink area.

Park commissioners, who have had trouble flooding the rink for ice skating because the water seeps into the sandy soil, had planned to add a clay bottom sometime this spring.

THE PARK board also indicated that it wanted a saucer-shaped bottom rather than a gradual slope to the north for the rink. Drainage from such a pond would be through a drain tile in the center.

Though commissioners agreed to the "concept" of the plan, they plan to hire their own engineer to scrutinize Harza's plans.

# TAKE BIG STEP FOR WHEELING FLOOD CONTROL

FEB. 7, 1968

by Nancy Benco

Wheeling took its first major step in flood control this week.

Village trustees Monday unanimously agreed to start engineering work for a retention basin at the Heritage Park ice rink on S. Wolf Road.

The Harza Engineering Co. was hired to do the engineering designs for the project.

Construction, however, still hinges on official approval from Wheeling Park Board which owns the land.

The ice rink basin was the smallest and least expensive of four flood control projects recommended by Harza in a preliminary report revealed Monday night. The cost of all the projects is estimated at \$527,000.

Harza engineers discussed the 35-page report for two hours before an audience of 75 citizens and representatives of governmental bodies.

THE REPORT, which recommends solutions and lists alternatives, culminates four months of investigation by the firm into Wheeling's flooding problems.

Basically, the recommendations revolve around two popular methods of flood control: constructing retention basins to

detain flood waters until a rain-storm has passed, and installing flap gates on storm water pipes emptying into the Wheeling Drainage Ditch (Buffalo Creek) to stop backflow.

The ice rink project, estimated to cost \$22,000, would help the low-lying residential areas east of Wolf Road (called Meadowbrook East). Most of the flooding in that area is caused by a backflow of water from the Wheeling Drainage Ditch.

TO EASE THE situation, Harza recommended turning the skating rink into a detention pond holding seven acre-feet of water (an acre-foot equals one acre of land covered by one foot of water).

Two 33-inch culverts would be installed, one replacing a 24-inch pipe under Wolf Road and the other under a sidewalk west of Wolf Road.

Water from Meadowbrook East would flow west through the culverts and through a ditch as it does now, but a flap gate at the ditch would prevent it from flowing backwards.

Overflow from the ditch would be diverted into the ice rink pond.

A PUMPING station at the ditch was suggested by Harza as an alternative, but scrapped because it would cost more (\$34,000) and would throw large volumes of water into the already-inadequate ditch at one time.

The area, which was built up about 10 years ago, lies in the flood plain, a major reason for its recurring flooding.

The three other flood control projects recommended by Harza will probably take longer in getting off the ground. In each, the village will have to seek financial help from other public

agencies and builders.

The other projects are:

—CONSTRUCTION OF a 20-acre basin in the southwest corner of Heritage Park, primarily to drain Dunhurst subdivision as well as to collect water runoff from Meadowbrook West. Cost of the entire project is estimated at \$293,000.

Included in the Meadowbrook West portion would be installation of a new 24-inch pipe under Nancy Lane leading north to a large existing pipe which drains into Heritage Park now. Flap gates would conduct the storm water into the Heritage pond rather than east into the drainage ditch.

In the Dunhurst half of the project, installation of larger culverts under Wheeling Road and the Soo Line railway would stop bottlenecking of flood water. A ditch leading from the culvert to the Heritage pond would be widened and a new manhole added in Wheeling Road.

—CONSTRUCTION OF a retention basin and a small pumping station at Husky Park. Cost is estimated at \$142,000.

Called the area with the most inadequate drainage system in the village, the area is flooded from water backing up in small Husky pond and also from water running overland from Cambridge Countryside subdivision in Buffalo Grove.

Harza recommended enlarging Husky Park to five acres and installing a pump to drain the basin into small pipes going north to Elmhurst Road and emptying slowly into Buffalo Creek.

Alternatives of rerouting the extra water east to Heritage or south to Hintz Road were discarded by Harza primarily because of high costs.

—IMPROVING THE Wheeling Drainage Ditch from the Des Plaines River to 500 feet north of the Jeffrey Avenue Bridge. Estimated costs are \$70,000.

Most of the improvements would center around deepening and cleaning the ditch so water can flow downstream faster. The project, however, does not suggest any solutions for controlling backup water from the Des Plaines river when it is high.

Financial help for the drainage ditch improvements could come from the Illinois Division of Waterways; for the Husky Park pond project from local builders, the village of Buffalo Grove, and the park and school districts.

Harza recommended getting financial help from the Metropolitan Sanitary District for the Heritage Park pond, as well as the park district. The Sanitary district allotted \$80,000 in its 1968 budget for the retention basin.



# Floods: Tie that Binds

2-7-68

They came from all corners of the village to hear about the most-talked about subject in Wheeling—flooding.

Seventy-five residents—some representing government and bodies, others "just interested"—jammed the cramped quarters of the village hall.

Public officials at the meet-

ing included the entire Buffalo Grove Village Board, which had called off its own special meeting that night to come to Wheeling.

THE VISIT from the neighboring trustees was hailed as a first important step in bringing the two battle-ridden towns together, and on speaking terms.

Buffalo Grove Village President Donald Thompson, following the discussion of Harza's engineering report, indicated that he and his trustees, plan commission and zoning board would meet with similar officials from Wheeling to discuss mutual flood problems.

The invitation to Thompson had been extended by Wheeling's Village Pres. Ted Scanlon.

In addition to the co-operative spirit of Buffalo Grove, Wheeling Park District officials appeared ready to play their part in solving flooding problems.

AND THEIR ROLE will be major. Of the four projects recommended by Harza, three of them involve park district land—the ice rink, Heritage Park and Husky Park.

Any project "go ahead" will now depend on the wishes of the park board.

Also in the audience were School Dist. 21 Supt. Kenneth Gill and two school board members, Ronald Cole and Mrs. Lillian Stiller. Though school lands won't play too important a role in the program, some land may have to be dedicated to the cause behind Jack London Jr. High School.

Wheeling Drainage Dist. Comr. Walter Diens was there though

little help is expected from that commission quarter.

A large group of Wheeling Jaycees and numerous other interested citizens—many of whom have sustained severe flood damage—rounded out the audience.

Though the meeting was long and the talk often technical, the subject was familiar.

There even was a ripple of laughter when Harza engineer John Crame scored the understatement of the evening, "The biggest problem in Wheeling is the Drainage Ditch . . ."

## \$200,000 Tag On '67 Flood

2-7-68

Some \$200,000 in flood water damage occurred in Wheeling during the infamous June 10, 1967, rainstorm.

That's the finding of questionnaires mailed to all village residents in December and compiled by a seven-member citizens flood survey committee.

In the questionnaires, homeowners were asked to list any damage caused by the June 10 flood and to estimate the amount of damage.

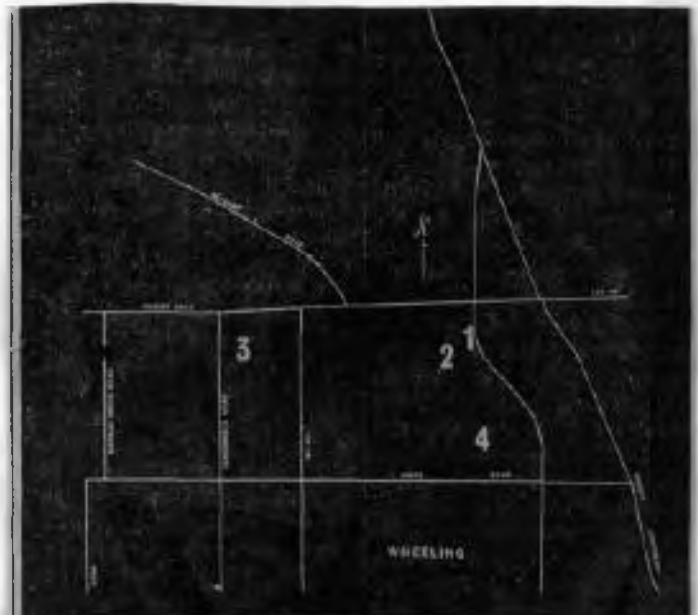
BY AREA, this is how the damage added up:

Hollywood Ridge - 58 homeowners listed \$24,000 in damage; Meadowbrook East (Highland-

Wolf area), 85 residents reported \$20,000 in damage; Meadowbrook West, 54 residents reported \$10,500 in damage; Dunhurst subdivision, 80 residents reported \$91,000 in damages; Jeffrey Avenue, 79 residents reported \$23,000 in damage; Husky Park; residents reported \$31,000 in damage.

According to the Harza Engineering study which reported the results, the June 10 flood was considered an unusually severe one and likely to happen only once in 100 years.

Estimates of flood damage which may occur in a normal year totaled \$22,000, according to the preliminary report.



TARGET AREAS FOR FLOOD control projects: 1) a retention pond from an ice rink for Meadowbrook East; 2) a 20-acre Heritage Park retention pond to store water from Meadowbrook West and Dunhurst; 3) a five-acre Husky Park retention pond for the Anthony Road area; 4) channel improvements along the Wheeling Drainage Ditch.

# Will Subdivision Get Park Service?

by DICK LEONARD

Wheeling Park District is still determined to secure a park site in the proposed Tahoe subdivision. Commissioners optimistically hope that the Tahoe developers will have a change of heart and donate a park site to the district.

However, Tahoe developers meeting with park commissioners last week continued to

maintain that a land donation would cause them a severe financial hardship. They have offered the park district in conjunction with School Dist. 21 a \$68,000 cash donation.

Park commissioners have firmly refused to consider cash instead of land. Explained Commissioner Bernie Erlin, "Our job is to provide recreational facilities for the district. Your

subdivision will create 200 new families. They will need a convenient park site. Money simply isn't the answer." However the park board has agreed to meet again next month with the developers to review the problem.

At the moment the conflict appears unresolvable. Develop-

(Continued on Page 4)

MAR. 24, 1968

(Continued from Page 1)

ers Edward Zale and Fred Hillman both argue that to agree to donate an eight-acre parcel for a park would sharply darken the financial prospect of the proposed 157-acre development. At the same time the park district is committed to finding an adequate park site for the 800 people who will live in the single family area of the subdivision.

BOTH arguments are sound. By donating eight acres of land, the developers would be in essence giving away the \$160,000 profits the developed land would bring.

The park district has legal claim to a parcel of land in the subdivision, as developers recently learned to their dismay. In annexing to Wheeling the developers failed to check out the village zoning map which indicated that the park district had set aside acreage in the area for a future park. While the park doesn't own the land, commissioners have the legal right to purchase it if they wish.

But the district does not want to spend the money to buy the land. They are still hoping the developers will tire of all the stalemated discussion, see the light, and give the land to the district.

The wrangle between district and developers has been going on for months. But two weeks ago it appeared a solution had been reached. Supt. Kenneth Gill agreed to settle for cash instead of land. It was hoped that the park district would follow suit. However, prospects fell when it was learned that

the \$68,000 offered by the developers was to be shared by both the school and park districts. Gill maintains that the school district won't settle for anything less than \$68,000 for itself. "It's going to cost us that much extra to educate the kids coming from this subdivision their first year in school."

ONE POSSIBLE way out has been suggested by John Crane, of Harza Engineering, the firm now studying the village's drainage problems. Crane suggests some of the land set aside in the subdivision for retention basins be developed as a park site. The problem, of course is that during the wet weather the land will be under water part of the time.

Whether this can be worked out is mere conjecture at this time. Developers Zale and Hillman say a money donation is the only way out for them.

Meanwhile the village board is holding approval of subdivision's preliminary plat until the developers have resolved their dispute with the park district.

Commented a woeful Edward Zale, "I wish someone had told us about this problem before we annexed into Wheeling." Zale said that in all his development projects this is the first time a park or school district has demanded land. "We have always been able to work out a cash settlement."

But as Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik told Zale and Hillman, "Money isn't the answer to our problem unless it can buy the land we need to serve the people in this area." And the prob-

lem before both district and developer is that there simply isn't any more available land in the area. The proposed Tahoe subdivision will be surrounded on three sides by Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove.

IN PRESSING their hardship case before the board, both Zale and Hillman pointed out that they had very little land to work with. First, 77 acres of the planned 157 acre subdivision will contain a planned apartment development with its own adult oriented recreational facilities and open spaces.

The one and two bedroom apartments will generate only a few children that would need park areas to play. The remaining 80 acres will hold some 230 homes. "Asking us to donate eight acres when we really have less than 80 to work with, we feel is unreasonable," Zale said. "If we had hundreds of acres to work with, then it would be a different matter."

Said Bjorvik, "We have a responsibility to the future residents of the area. Most will buy their homes without investigating what recreational facilities are available. Then they'll show up before the commissioners and ask where their park is."

Answered Developer Hillman, "We want to work and cooperate with Wheeling. It is important that we have a good image. But frankly, I feel you people know you have us in a corner and you're simply squeezing us a little too hard. Remember, what we are talking about here is a donation."

May 22, 1968

# Born With a Problem

(Editors Note: This is Part I of a series of three articles about Wheeling's upcoming flood control referendum May 28.)

by JAMES VESELY

Wheeling was born under water.

The serious flooding problems that have plagued Wheeling throughout its recent history trace their lineage to the formation of the topography of the region. Early lakes and pockets of water once dotted the area and the recent growth of homes and industry merely add to the problems of natural drainage.

Samples taken from various depths in what is now Heritage Park reveal shells and layers of organic silt which suggest bodies of water once stood where retention basins are now being planned.

The search for an answer to persistent flooding problems has been a constant point of discussion among village officials for the past 10 years at least.

IN 1957, WHEELING officials asked for specific "situation" studies from state officials concerning the water drainage system in the village. Wheeling trustees, denying they had ever received the original reports, once again asked the state for

engineering contributions. 10 years later, and they are still waiting.

In 1962, the Wheeling Plan Commission first instituted zoning changes which prevented developers from building in the flood plains and destroying natural drainage to Buffalo Creek.

Discussions at that time disclosed that the village lies in a basin, bounded on three sides by higher land. Some of the water that flows into the basin was diverted by the Hintz Road project, but as recent as six years ago houses were built in Meadowbrook subdivision with their backs firmly against the bank of Buffalo Creek.

WHAT IS now Holland subdivision northwest of Wolf and Dundee roads was a flood plain before developers moved in and portions are still flood plain despite the fill that has been dumped in the subdivision during construction.

The water runoffs from all the subdivisions were aimed at Buffalo Creek and further development of Buffalo Grove has contributed to the demands made on the natural tributaries to carry excess water to the Des Plaines river.

Attempts to curtail continued development along Buffalo

Creek continued in 1965 with a proposal to create a nature area along the creek, complete with nature trails and cycle paths for Wheeling residents. Although the nature area never became a reality, the village continued to press for the restoration of the flood plain areas.

THE VILLAGE then brought to court alleged violators of recently passed ordinances forbidding construction in flood plain areas.

The flooding continued in some parts of the village, culminating in 1967 with a severe deluge which caused considerable damage to houses and public facilities. It was after the 1967 flood that the village board members set into motion their four-point attack on the flooding problem.

The four-point program, which was then termed an "emergency," later caused some embarrassment to board members. The subsequent lack of action was brought out in meetings concerning the village's municipal hall referendum two months ago.

The four emergency items passed by the board exactly one year ago called for the opening of all drainage easements on property north of Anthony Drive and east of Schoenbeck Road.

The trustees also promised to eliminate flood plain violations in the village and check rezoned property within the village.

ALTHOUGH MANY of the "emergency" measures did not come to fruition, one item calling for proposals from engineering firms later led to the hiring of the Harza Engineering Co. for a stormwater drainage study. Negotiations began with Harza in July of last year and the study was initiated in October.

The implementation of that study is now the cause of May 28's flood control referendum. Village officials are asking for authorization to issue bonds totaling \$725,000 for the project as a firm commitment to the end of flooding in Wheeling.

Next week's referendum will be the voters' first chance to ballot on the issue, but the influence of the flooding problem has permeated virtually every other political activity in the village.

Strong opposition to Wheeling's Village Hall referendum first came from members of an organization called the Flood Enlightenment Committee. The committee consisted of dissident residents who opposed the new village hall on the basis of first

priority for flood control.

MOST MEMBERS of the committee later claimed to support the hall referendum when assured by village trustees of the village's intent to offer a flood control referendum this spring. Nevertheless, the Anthony Drive precinct defeated the village hall referendum and was the only village precinct to do so.

The village's discussions with the Wheeling Park District board of trustees were also strained on several issues. Under the terms of the flood plan, park land will be used for the major retention basins with control of the facilities remaining in village hands. A satisfactory compromise was finally reached between the two governing bodies when the park board was included in the plans to the extent that the basins will be used for both retention and recreation purposes.

The village and the park board now maintain a truce. Both agencies feel they are contributing to the flood control program.

Faced with an impending referendum, village officials are engaged in a campaign to pass the bond issue beginning with a public forum tonight before the Northwest Homeowners Assn.

# Plan Is Flood Gate's Hinge

Editor's note: This the second of a three-part series explaining the upcoming Wheeling flood control referendum.)

by JAMES VESELY

If the May 28 flood control referendum is the door to be swung shut on excess storm water in Wheeling, the engineering to implement the plan is the hinge.

Without an effective engineer-

ing plan to curtail "instant lakes" in some areas of the village, virtually every public official admits that the \$725,000 bond issue would just be more money over the dam.

But village and park board officials remain confident in their choice of an engineering firm for the storm water drainage study.

HARZA Engineering was reported to be one of the top 13 engineering firms in the country, according to the "Engineering News Record," with estimated billings each year of \$10 million to \$15 million on projects throughout the country and overseas.

The firm is active in engineering projects in Pakistan and other developing nations and maintains an average of 475 employees.

For the Wheeling flood control project, Harza engineers compiled a 65-page report which includes charts, graphs and cost estimates for the six major projects of the total flood control plan.

Although cost estimates were compiled by Harza, the final figure of \$725,000 was decided upon by the village board when it passed an ordinance calling

for a referendum on the bond issue.

THE \$725,000 sum cannot be exceeded by the village officials, but the whole amount does not have to be used if it is not necessary for the completion of the project. It is known that both Harza and the village added extra amounts to the final figures as a contingency to insure adequate funds.

In addition to the total costs of the Harza plan, the village also is including in the flood control referendum an amount of \$30,000 to provide for the village's share in a storm water treatment plant which will filter out effluence which infiltrates storm water drainage pipes during any rainstorm.

The treatment plant is not a direct part of the flood control program, but village officials feel the plant is an integral portion of the control over water being dumped into the creek. The village is already committed to the \$30,000 sum and must pay for the project regardless of the referendum outcome.

Chapter I of the Harza report identifies the basic problems Wheeling faces.

"FLOODING IN the village of

Wheeling stems from four basic causes," the report states. "One cause of flooding is the inadequate capacity of Buffalo

(Continued on Page 4)

## List Local Flood Aids

In addition to recommended solutions for the entire village's problems with flooding, the Harza report also describes each severely affected subdivision and pinpoints the steps to be taken in each area. Here is what the engineers would do:

**MEADOWBROOK EAST SUBDIVISION** — Flooding caused by high water in the Wheeling ditch which flows into the subdivision instead of flowing out of the area in the ditch. Solution: Construction of a storm water detention basin at the present site of the ice skating rink in Heritage Park which will allow enough detention space to hold water for three days during summer rainfall and early spring snow melt-off.

**DUNHURST AND MEADOWBROOK WEST AREAS**—Flooding caused by high water in the drainage ditch which overflow-

ed and caused some \$11,000 damage last year. Solution: Construction of a detention basin at Heritage Park. This basin would be the biggest of some 20 acres of the park site. Under the terms of the agreement between the park and the village, the basin would also be used for recreational purposes with the eventual dredging of a lake on the site. The basin is considered large enough to take the excess water from the whole area.

**DUNHURST SUBDIVISION**—Some 80 residents from the June 10 flood in this area and the Harza report identifies the problem as inadequate capacity of the existing culverts under the Railway tracks. Once again the Wheeling drainage ditch is named as an inadequate conveyor of the high water. Solution: Increasing the flow of wa-

ter in the culverts and the creation of a 20-acre detention pond in Heritage Park. This is the same pond to be used in Dunhurst and Meadowbrook West.

**HUSKY PARK** — The present storm sewer from Anthony Drive to Husky Park is inadequate to handle the runoff from Cambridge subdivision which then causes flooding of homes on Anthony Road. Solution: Develop a detention basin in Husky Park and a pumping station to take the basin water to Buffalo Creek near Elmhurst Road. The pumping station will operate as a basement sump pump for the entire area.

**ZALE AND KORNFELD SUBDIVISIONS** — Harza engineers feel the drainage system proposed by the developers is adequate and consistent with the future drainage plans for the watershed as a whole.

MAY 31, 1968

# OKAY \$135,000 PARK CEILING

Wheeling park commissioners have approved a record \$135,300 appropriation ordinance for the 1968-69 year.

The amount represents an increase of nearly \$35,000 more than last year's appropriation, however, the district expects to spend little more than \$100,000 of the appropriation.

The higher appropriation amount simply allows the district to spend the total amount if tax monies are available.

In 1968-69 the park district has earmarked \$14,000 more than last year for maintenance of park sites and purchase of landscaping equipment.

THE NEW ordinance also shows a \$8,000 boost in funds for the purchase and development of a new park. For the past two years the district has been negotiating for a new park site on the north side of Wheeling.

The administration fund of

the new appropriation shows a \$6,000 hike, mostly in the form of a \$2,000 appropriation to pay the salary of a superintendent of parks and buildings.

Supt. Ferdinand Arndt said the appropriation ordinance is merely a guideline.

"If we do not legally appropriate the money, then we cannot spend it," he said. "Therefore, the general practice is to appropriate more than we use."

Last year's appropriation ordinance passed by the park board members called for a grand total of \$101,056.80 for the year.

A MEASURE OF the park district's growth is shown in the appropriation ordinances passed in other years when the district was smaller.

Four years ago, the total appropriation for the district was \$42,750, some \$93,000 less than the proposed ordinance for the coming year. In 1964 the park allocated nearly \$17,000 for the maintenance of park sites. This year's total went to \$22,000 for the same category.

In recreation, the park board in 1964 allocated a total of slightly over \$20,000 for purely

recreational use. Last year that figure rose to \$24,350 and this year the park board can go as high as \$27,500, or an increase of more than \$3,000.

Arndt later said any of the amounts of the appropriation ordinance could not be collected until 1969 but that the park could borrow against that money.

The district is reluctant to do that, however, because the money would just have to be paid back and it would not be advantageous to the district to borrow from itself.

# SWIM POOL PLANS ON AGENDA

SEPT. 4, 1968

## Wheeling High Set As Site

Plans for a year-round heated indoor pool at Wheeling High School should come up for discussion at Monday night's High School Dist. 214 board meeting, Ferd Arndt, park district superintendent, said.

Three school board members recently inspected a comparable pool setup in Evergreen Park.

Wheeling Park Board members also have inspected the Evergreen Park Community Pool which is shared by Evergreen Park Community High School, 99th and South Kedzie Ave.

IN EVERGREEN Park the high school students use the pool at certain times and the rest of the community is allowed to use it at other times.

"I think it's an ideal setup for what we would plan to do," Arndt said.

An opinion on the matter by the school board is what is needed now, Arndt said. Then sketches and an estimate of the cost of the pool will be obtained.

The pool complex at Evergreen Park includes several classrooms, but whether the Wheeling High School one will or not, has not been decided yet, Arndt said.

District and Elementary School

A similar project is being planned by the Elk Grove Park Dist. 59 for Lively Elementary School. There the park district will gain from the use of the school district's locker room facilities.

Arndt hopes the pool will be ready by next year.



6-23-68  
WHEELING'S COMMUNITY pool was crowded to the rafters this week, as throngs of children and

adults took advantage of the heat and the cool water at the pool. Although on some afternoons it was hard

to see the water for the swimmers, no one seemed to mind as long as the hot spell continued.

## Library Land Sale Slowed Until Park Board Decides

8-18-68

The sale of two pieces of land by the Wheeling Public Library Board will be held up for at least a month. The Wheeling Park Board wants to know what price the library is asking for the property.

According to law, the library board cannot sell the land to a private buyer, unless all area public agencies say they are not interested in purchasing the land.

**THE TWO LOTS** are next to St. Mark's Church. They were

donated to the library by the village. The sale of the property is part of a general fund-raising drive for a new library building being conducted by the library board.

A motion saying the park board was not interested in buying the property ended in a tie, thus defeating it. Commrs. Audrey Christiansen and Alf Wilson voted to let the library sell, and Commr. Loraine Lark and Pres. Bernie Erlin voted to wait. Commissioner Robert

Ross abstained on the matter.

Ross said he would ask the library what price they are asking for the lots. The matter will thus come up again for discussion at the park board's next meeting in September.

SEPT. 22, 1968

# PARK BD. BLOCKS LIBRARY LAND SALE

Plans for the sale of two lots by the Wheeling Library District have been temporarily stopped by members of the Wheeling Park District, following park district action Thursday night.

The library board members had voted to dispose of two small lots in Wheeling adjacent to St. Mark's church as a means of getting additional money toward a new library building somewhere within the district.

The library board feels that the two lots next to the church are too small for any proposed library.

According to law, the library board cannot sell the land to a private buyer unless all area public taxing agencies say they are not interested in using the land.

To get such approval, the library board sent a proposed resolution to all local taxing districts, asking for permission to dispose of the property.

The resolution breezed through the local school boards. Districts 214 and 21 readily granted the library permission to sell the land, and no opposi-

tion was expected from the Wheeling village board.

ALL THAT WAS stopped cold, however, by the park board's action. Voting against the resolution authorizing sale of the property were commissioners Lorraine Lark, Bernard Erlin and Robert Ross. Commissioner Alf Wilson abstained.

Opposition to the proposed sale came from the park board members on the basis of a reluctance to see any public use land absorbed into private ownership.

Said Commissioner Lark after the meeting, "If the property cannot be used for a site, perhaps it can be used by the park district as a tot lot or as the site of the proposed youth center in Wheeling."

MRS. LARK also said her opposition to the sale of the land is not irrevocable. "Our defeat of the resolution, we hope, will bring the two boards together to discuss the use of the land and its use in the community." The commissioner added that she was sure the dispute would be resolved amicably.

Park board members, enforced by Supt. Ferdinand Arndt, feel that the site could be used for a tot lot, particularly since there is no such small recreation space in that part of town.

As a public use land site, the space could be leased to another taxing district, or purchased by another district, but not by a private party.

The park board decision on the matter also apparently stems from a letter of inquiry sent to the village board by library board members. The letter is a probe into the possibilities of establishing a new Wheeling library adjacent to the new municipal building now under construction on Dundee Road.

A decision to place the library on public use land near the municipal building would probably mean that the library district would not have to pay highly for the land, thus reducing the need for the money derived from the sale of the two small lots.

INITIAL REACTION to the park board's decision came from a surprised library board member, Mary Burlingham, 139 Laurel Court. She said she thought the park had no interest in the land.

"They had it once for a tot lot," she said, "and then complained that there was too much vandalism in the area and left it unimproved."

Mrs. Burlingham admitted that the library district is not in dire financial straits, because of recent state legislation allowing more money for library districts. But she added that Wheeling's new library should be built to last 20 years, and will have to have in excess of 150,000 books to maintain the proper ratio of library services to projected population growth in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

The two lots in question are priced at about \$11,500, according to reliable sources.



# MSD Eager To Help Finance Park Basin

11-20-68

The Metropolitan Sanitary District (MSD) is anxious to go ahead with co-operative financing on the Heritage Park retention basin, Wheeling village trustees learned this week.

In fact, the MSD is so anxious, it wants board approval from the village on the matter in one week's time.

Wheeling Village Mgr. C. E. Olsen reported to the board that a proposal from the MSD trustees to the village of Wheeling was hand-carried to the village by an MSD representative.

The Sanitary District hopes that the village will consider the proposal immediately and answer the MSD by next Tuesday so that the matter can go before the District Trustee at their Tuesday meeting.

If the village misses the MSD agenda of next Tuesday, according to Village Pres. Ted C. Scanlon, the matter might be continued indefinitely.

As previously reported in the Herald, the MSD is willing to enter a financial co-operative with the village, providing the various taxing districts in Wheeling agree to the MSD proposal.

Although a line item in the MSD budget for \$80,000 has been carried for many months, the latest proposal from the district shows that 66-2/3 per cent of the total cost of the Heritage Park retention basin could be paid by the MSD. That amount is not to exceed \$180,000.

Another provision of any MSD contract is that no money from the district is to be used to finance recreation projects associated with the retention pond. The MSD is prohibited from engaging in such recreational

developments by law.

WHILE THE members of the village board were being informed about the arrival of the MSD proposal, Wheeling Park Board members meeting the same night were complaining about the MSD.

Some members of the Park Board complained about the lack of communication between the village, the MSD and the parks concerning the retention basin at Heritage Park.

During one point in the discussion, Park Board member Bernard Erlin said the MSD

and the village of Wheeling seem to have forgotten that the park district is donating the land for the retention basin.

The usually outspoken Mrs. Audrey Christensen said flatly that she did not like the whole idea and that she "hopes for something better" for the park district.

The members of the Park District board spent considerable time in executive session Monday night, discussing the proposed flood control measures and other park district property.

Nov 20,  
1968

# BIG LAND HURDLE CLEARED BY PARK

A \$9,000 purchase check for the final piece of property in the area of the small Heritage Park retention basin was authorized Monday evening by the Wheeling Park District Board.

Commonly known as the Baumiller property, the small area of land in the flood plain has been holding up the building of the large ice rink and the enlarging of the storm water retention basin for six months.

One of four overflow areas designated in a study by Harza Engineering Co., the small basin, officially titled "Meadowbrook East," is the first to get

final approval. The project is funded by a bond issue held by the village in April.

Final agreement on the pur-

chase price of the 2½-acre area was settled between Park Board Attorney Roger Bjorvik and the owner of the land, Walter Buslow.

Although there is really no binding agreement in the land purchase as yet, all that remains is a title clearance and exchange of the deed for the park board's check. The contracts on the construction of the basin will be let out by the village board.

**THE PROPERTY** in question was sold by Mrs. Agnes Baumil-

ler to Buslow on August 15, according to Bjorvik. He told the Herald that Mrs. Baumiller was "very secretive" about the sale, and that it was hard to say what made her sell the property at all, let alone to a third party, because when first approached by the park board she had no thought of selling.

The park board began negotiations for the property April 29, and even considered beginning legal condemnation proceedings of the land in July. At various board meetings it was revealed that Mrs. Baumiller refused to talk with the board's attorney in June, and that she declined a \$5,000 offer for the land.

**THE SALE** came too late for any hopes of an enlarged ice rink this winter, according to Park Supt. Fred Arndt.

"If it had been the first of August, we could have done it," he explained.

Construction of the three foot

deep basin will probably not begin until spring.

Acquisition of the property eliminates a major stumbling block from the village's plans to implement the Harza flood control plan.

When the April referendum was passed by local voters, it was thought that only negotiations with the park board were needed to acquire the use of the park land for flood control purposes.

Subsequent investigation, however, revealed that the Baumiller strip of land was not owned by the park district and could not be used without the owner's approval.

Attempts at getting an easement for the land failed as did later attempts to buy the property outright. Correspondence between the village and the park board showed that the park district had offered \$8,000 for the land and the owner wanted \$10,000.

# WEIGH MSD BASIN PLAN ON MONDAY

NOV. 22, 1968

Wheeling village trustees and park district board members will meet Monday to act on the proposal submitted by the Metropolitan Sanitary District (MSD) for financing of the Heritage Park retention basin.

The proposal, which calls for construction of the flood control basin by the MSD and maintenance of the area by the village and park district, limits the sanitary district's participation to two-thirds of the construction cost, or \$180,000, whichever is less.

MSD funds, however, cannot be used for any recreational aspects of the basin, and the agreement submitted by the MSD stipulates that it will only pay two-thirds of the cost of the flood control construction.

THE ESTIMATED cost of the recreation portion is approximately \$43,000, village attorney Paul Hamer told the park board Monday. This would make the MSD's share of the total \$293,000 only \$163,333.

However, the final decision on how much of the total cost will be for recreation will not be made until the MSD accepts itemized bids on the project.

Another stipulation in the agreement would require the village to deposit one-third of the construction cost in escrow with the sanitary district within 10 days of the opening of bids by the district.

THE VILLAGE'S portion of funds for the project will come from the bond referendum held last spring. If any extra costs arise after the contracting begins, and were previously agreed to by the MSD and village, then the village will also have to pay its share of these costs.

The park district board must give its consent to the village before any construction on the project could begin.

Since the Heritage Park retention basin is on park district land, the park district must give an easement on the use of the land to the village, which in turn must give it to the MSD in order for construction to begin.

Some discontent with the size of the basin as designed by Harza Engineering Co. was voiced Monday at the park district board meeting by Mrs. Audrey Christensen and Robert Ross. The design as submitted allows for a 5-acre pond which is too small for sailboats and wouldn't allow for a large stock of fish.

With the funds available, however, Harza said a larger pond was impossible.

THE AGREEMENT submitted by the MSD also would require the village to obtain all permits necessary for the building of the basin, and the agreement would become void if construction hadn't started within one year of the day the agreement was signed.

Village officials were informed that the sanitary district wanted to act on the agreement on Tuesday, but with the backlog of work the district has scheduled the agreement might be shelved until the beginning of December.

# Mallard Lake, a 1st, Goes to Plan Board

Wheeling's first planned development, the Server Co.'s Mallard Lake, will be discussed at a special meeting of the plan commission next Wednesday.

Representatives from the village board and other village offices have been invited to the special meeting in an effort to have as many governmental agencies as possible represented at the precedent-setting meeting.

ALTHOUGH VILLAGE officials spent some time formulating Wheeling's new PD-4 zoning classification, Mallard Lake is the first such property to be taken into the village.

According to Michael Valenza, chairman of the plan commission, the commission members hope to be joined at the meeting by village board members and members of the zoning board so that the basic rules of planned developments can be established.

Valenza has also extended an invitation to various developers who may be considering planned developments in the village.

"FRANKLY, WE are looking for as much help and assistance as we can get," Valenza said. He emphasized that his commission and the village wish to

hear all sides of the Mallard property. Lake matter openly as an aid to future village action on PD-4 7:30 p.m. in the village hall. The meeting will be held at

# Tahoe Takes Big Step With Zoning Plea OK

Wheeling's Tahoe subdivision took another step toward final approval last week with a recommendation from the village's zoning board of appeals that allows the Zale property to be rezoned for planned development of the entire complex.

The property, located on the north side of Hintz Road and the east side of Buffalo Grove Road, has been the subject of months of discussions between three taxing bodies in the village.

The discussion centered around the developer's contribution of park and school land within the proposed apartment complex.

DEVELOPERS of subdivisions are commonly asked to donate money or property for public use as an unofficial payment for entry into taxing districts.

One of the first breaks in the months of meetings on the matter came when Dist. 21 Supt. Kenneth F. Gill disclosed that the schools will receive \$20 for each of 480 apartment units planned for the development.

The money, according to a letter from Gill, will remain in escrow until full agreement on the arrangement is finalized.

The near \$10,000 settlement seemed to break the ice on a village blockade on the property. By a unanimous vote of five

members present, Wheeling zoning board agreed to recommend approval of the venture to village trustees.

UNDER THE terms of the hearing before the zoning appeals board, the owner of the property agrees to place a covenant on the land prohibiting the construction of three or more bedroom apartments, thus decreasing the load of children on the school system.

The site itself contains slightly more than 32 acres with an interior perimeter road, two parking stalls per apartment unit and a ground coverage area of only 17 per cent.

In addition, the zoning board was told that the apartment complex will consist of 13 buildings, each two stories high with a detention basin, tennis courts, barbecue facilities and play areas on the grounds as well as a mutual clubhouse.

ALTHOUGH plans for the project appear to be underway again, some members of the Wheeling Park District seemed frankly irked at the arrangement.

Park District board members had hoped for an 11-acre parcel of land for a park instead of a monetary settlement.

At their last meeting, park board members requested that Gill send them a copy of the Zale agreement, saying that

they were not notified when a solution was realized.

Park Supt. Ferdinand Arndt was also disappointed in the events concerning the Zale agreement, citing the fact that the village has a master plan which calls for park sites within apartment developments.

ALTHOUGH the money from the developer will remain in escrow and untouched by the schools park officials felt that negotiators should have held out for the recreational land.

That possibility was fully explored, Gill maintains, and the only alternative to the developer's refusal to donate land was the escrow agreement agreed upon.

# VILLAGE-MSD MEET OFF UNTIL DEC. 15

by ANNE HEDBACK

After a frantic rush to approve new plans for an eight-acre basin in Heritage Park and to get consent from the Wheeling Park District on the agreement with the Metropolitan Sanitary District (MSD), Wheeling's meeting with the MSD was delayed until Dec. 15.

The village board's action Monday night followed a rushed week of reviewing the MSD proposal to contribute \$180,000 toward the storm water retention basin in the park.

The village reportedly asked Harza Engineering Co., to revise the plans which they had submitted for a 5-acre basin after the park district threatened not to grant an easement on the land unless there was a larger permanent basin.

VILLAGE MGR. C. E. Olsen reported that the agreement with certain amendments made by the village board would be delivered to the MSD later this week.

The new plan submitted last Friday night by Harza would extend the basin to the northeast. The detention volume would be increased by 15 acre-feet, which means three more acres of land at the original depth of five feet.

Also discussed at the meeting was the possibility that the basin will cost more because of the increased size and because

engineers are working on more exact figures based on other MSD projects.

The village board action came after an hour-long executive session between the Park District trustees and village board members.

The new plan also would include a larger toboggan hill on the site of the present hill. The 8-acre area will be much better suited to fishing, sailing, and will not be as stagnant in addition to improving the properties for flood control.

MSD projects are often higher priced. The estimated increase would be about \$40,000 or \$50,000 in relation to the earlier cost figure of \$293,000. Harza

THE CHANGES made in the agreement submitted to the MSD were suggested to the village by Atty. Paul Hamer. After reviewing the proposal, Hamer recommended changes to alter the legal description to include only the flooded part of

the basin, and to add easement of entering and leaving the area. He also suggested:

That the one-third share of the funds to be paid by the village be deposited 10 days after the acceptance of the bids rather than the opening of the bids:

And that the Park district maintain the land except for the mechanical valves in the flood control and the drain to the creek which the village will maintain.

NOV. 27, 1968

# Flood Program

## Gets \$5,000

11-27-68

The Wheeling Park District agreed for a second time to accept the donation of \$5,000 by an area developer to pay part of the cost of the Husky Park flood control program Monday.

The Park Board convened an adjourned meeting for the third time after meeting in executive

session with the village board to take the action.

The funds, which are being given by Roy Lichter, developer of Howard Highlands, were offered to the village once before in March of 1967, but turned down because there were no definite plans for the Husky park detention basin then.

IN ADDITION, the village refused to rezone Lichter's property to allow larger residential lots at that time.

This time around, however, the Park District reportedly has the backing of the village to rezone Lichter's land so he can complete his 10-acre development south of Carl Sandburg School.

Lichter was held up by the rezoning and turned much of his land to farming. He could not get building permits on the lots because of poor drainage which could only be solved satisfactorily if the Husky Park project were completed.

The plans for the Husky Park basin have changed somewhat since Lichter's first offer. Originally there was to be a 5 acre lake, but now the village and park district are planning on having a dry basin which will be emptied by a pump.

Lichter's offer along with his petitions for rezoning which were tabled by Trustee John Koeppen in 1967 until Husky Park became a retention basin will come up for action at the next village board meeting.

# Parks To Seek Tax Hike from State

12-9-68

A package of legislative proposals on park districts, one seeking a 4-cent recreation tax increase, will be presented the Illinois 76th General Assembly.

Backed by a supporting resolution of the Illinois Association of Park Districts, the state legislature also will be asked to revive the \$1 billion Natural Resources and Development Bond Act.

THE LEGISLATIVE committee of the Illinois Association of Park Districts has been authorized to draft an 11-point amendment program to the Illinois Park District Code. The park association recently held

its annual conference in Saint Charles.

Roger Bjorvik, attorney for Palatine, Wheeling and Bensenville park districts, was asked to draft a model resolution to support another statewide referendum on the \$1 billion bond issue that was defeated Nov. 5.

If successful, the issue would have provided for two major park district interests, conservation of natural resources and recreation.

Bjorvik is also on the park association's committee to draft legislation. At the annual conference, representatives of the state's 245 park districts adopted a resolution calling for a raise in the maximum recreation tax rate.

PROPOSED IS authority to levy by resolution a maximum 7.5-cent tax per \$100 assessed valuation for recreation purposes. The amendment also would provide that, beyond the 7.5-cent rate, a maximum 9-cent recreation tax rate may be set by voter approval.

Statutes now provide a maximum 5-cent recreation tax rate established through public referendum.

Other proposals for statute amendments include:

— Increasing the minimum amount of acreage that can be

involuntarily annexed from 20 to either 60 or 80 acres; establishing further reasons for a court decision on disconnecting territory; and increasing size, from 60 to 160 acres, of territory that can be annexed if surrounded by park districts.

— ADDING NAMES of such facilities as tennis courts and airports that can be constructed by revenue bonds. Enabling legislation now allows revenue bonds to be issued for swimming pools, golf courses and ice rinks.

— Requiring added qualifications for formation of park districts. Judges now consider merits of new park districts by the number of petitioners and new legislation would allow an investigation into economic

merits or discredits of new park districts.

— Granting authority to contiguous park districts to develop and operate joint recreation programs.

— Granting condemnation power over property outside the park district but within 1½ miles of its boundary.

— Granting authority to enter agreements with other public bodies for the joint use of transportation facilities and equipment.

OTHER PROPOSED amendments provide for clarification of establishing polls, deletion of provisions in the tort immunity act, elimination of requirements for annual publishing of receipts and disbursements and reduction of the commission given county collectors on park district taxes.

Bjorvik said he will prepare a resolution suitable for adoption by local park districts on support of another vote on the \$1 billion bond referendum. This will be published in the park association magazine, "Illinois Parks," as a model.

A proposal to put the referendum before voters again when they select constitutional convention delegates should be given earnest thought to insure there will be no conflict or voter confusion, Bjorvik said.

## Park District Proposal

# SCHOOLS OKAY WHEELING POOL

1-27-69

High School Dist. 214 this week endorsed park district plans to construct an indoor pool at Wheeling High School and Thursday may open the way for a similar one at the new Rolling Meadows High School.

Supt. Edward H. Gilbert told Paddock Publications that he asked that the school board have a formal meeting Thursday, when it sits down with architects and the Rolling Meadows High School's Citizens Committee, in case the board wants to officially decide:

— Whether to design the school so a swimming pool can be built there now or later.

—**WHAT SIZE** the Rolling Meadows facility, Dist. 214's seventh school, will be.

The high school board's quick action on the Wheeling High School indoor pool was intended to boost passage of Wheeling Park District's \$2.4 million park referendum.

If the referendum passes, the Wheeling park board plans to issue bonds and build the new indoor pool on the southeast side of the high school. Dist. 214 would share construction and operating costs of the jointly used facility.

The high school board has made overtures to the Rolling Meadows Park Board for a similar arrangement, citing savings from constructing the indoor pool at the same time as the high school.

Park officials in Rolling Meadows, however, have indicated they probably would not

be interested in the indoor pool until the second phase of park development, probably two years from now.

The park district's current development plans will go forward if citizens approve a \$900,000 referendum on Feb. 25.

The Rolling Meadows Park District has asked that the high school district set the stage for later construction, by including needed pool "tap-on" connections when the Rolling Meadows High School is built.

**THE THURSDAY** session with the Citizens Committee is set for 8 p.m. in John Hersey High School on Willow Road east of Rand in Arlington Heights.

The school board Monday formally designated its 40-acre site on Central Road in Rolling Meadows as the location for its seventh high school.

The action came as no surprise. That location — rather than the district's Buffalo Grove property — had been recommended by the Citizens Committee on the basis of population growth projections in both areas.

Gilbert said official designation of the 40-acre high school site does not rule out Dist. 214's use of the Sacred Heart of Mary High School building as part of a new Rolling Meadows public high school complex.

**THE DISTRICT** is still waiting for advice from its architects, Orput and Orput, on whether purchase of the Sacred Heart building is feasible.

Dist. 214 has been asked to consider purchase of the building by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary because the order has been unable to meet mortgage payments on the five-year-old, 980-pupil girls' school.



# DOUBLE USE SUGGESTED FOR POOL

1/17/69

A report on Wheeling's Community Pool recommending that the existing bathhouse be roofed for use as community meeting room was discussed by Wheeling's Park District Board last night.

The report, made for the park board by the consulting firm of McFadzen and Everly, included an estimate of value of the pool and the cost of correcting problems existing with the facilities, but the board members would not release the figures before the meeting.

ANOTHER suggestion included in the McFadzen and Everly report was that a central ticket office with control railings or turnstiles leading into dressing rooms replace the present con-

cession area.

A new concession on to the side of the bathhouse, with a separate fenced in area to control food and litter, was called "practical" by the consultants.

Plans for roofing the dressing areas were called for because of "damage caused by severe winters and possible vandalism offsets the advantage" of having dressing areas open.

A system of individual lockers instead of the present basket room system was suggested. A removable wall existing between the men's and women's

dressing areas would make the area suitable for winter use as a meeting room, the report said.

UGGESTIONS for the pool and pool areas included mention of the major leakage present in the pool which causes losses of three inches in 24 hours. A further investigation of the causes of the leak was suggested by the consultants.

The plan suggests that playground equipment be completely divorced from the pool area and that a concrete swimming deck for adult sun bathers be used.

The park decided to call for the study after negotiations with the pool corporation directors were stalled. The Wheeling Chamber of Commerce refused to donate the adjacent land it owns to the park district.

Although a letter from the chamber said the businessmen in the organization are open to negotiations, the park district had not answered the Chamber's letter as of yesterday.

FEB. 3, 1969

## Good Price, Chamber Hints

# PARKS OFFERED LAND

Chamber of Commerce Park may really be two pieces of land, and the chamber might be willing to sell the larger piece (2½ acres) to Wheeling's park district for \$25,000.

Those were two of the hints made Thursday night by representatives of the chamber to park board members and community pool bondholders.

But the representatives gave

no official status to their hints.

The meeting was the second called to transfer the pool and adjacent land to the park district.

CHAMBER OF Commerce

Park, west of the pool, was split into two separate parts by a plat of Survey filed with the county clerk in November of 1967, according to Chamber Member Robert Holt, a Realtor.

The Village of Wheeling has not recorded the split, however, and park and pool representatives questioned whether the Chamber could sell off part of the land.

The larger part of the park, which the chamber might sell, the northern strip running west from Wolf road to the pool.

The second piece, which Holt said the chamber "most probably would like to maintain," is 150 feet wide and is north of the condominiums.

What the chamber would do with the remaining parcel, zoned for single family homes and designated as a public land use site, was not stated.

Park Commissioner Lorraine Lark expressed concern that the Chamber planned to build apartments on the land. She

noted that the only chamber assessment on the land is that it is worth \$100,000 if zoned for apartments, and that since the land is now zoned for single family homes, the assessment indicated that the chamber had plans for apartments.

CHAMBER MEMBER Robert D. Shadle, a Realtor who made the assessment for the chamber, said that the assessment was merely based on the land used in its "highest and best use" since there were other apartments in the vicinity.

The assumption by some park board members that the chamber planned to build an office and meeting building on the land was not verified either.

When asked if he thought the Chamber would agree to a covenant that they would build nothing on the land except a chamber meeting and office building, chamber Executive Secretary Ken Kopper said he doubted it.

Kopper repeatedly suggested the chamber board of directors and officers would give "careful consideration" to any offer.

The chamber previously turned down a request from the park district that they donate the land, but left the matter "open for negotiation."

CHAMBER Vice President Eugene Sackett was the first to suggest that the park could buy half of the land.

Sackett, also active in the pool corporation, served as a middleman of sorts at the meeting, suggesting that the chamber sincerely wanted something for the property and wasn't trying to gouge anybody.

"We're willing to sell it to the park for a lot less than we'd sell it to a corporation," he suggested. But Sackett, like Kopper, Holt and Shadle, could not speak officially for the chamber.

Likelihood of the park district buying the land seems question-

able, however, because of the limited bonding power allowed the government agency.

With an anticipated cost of \$600,000 for the new indoor pool at the high school and \$200,000 for the community pool, very little bonding power would be left to purchase the park land.

Bonding power available to the parks is estimated at \$800,000 and is based on anticipated increases in assessed valuation and could vary greatly.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS from various pool and park members seemed to fall flat. The idea that the chamber rent the land to the park for 100 years and that the park district buy the land drew no comment from chamber representatives.

The three also said nothing to suggestions that the park allow the chamber to have offices and meetings in the bathhouse after it was remodeled, or that the park district set aside a piece of land for the chamber to build on.

# Pool at Wheeling High Looks Likely

1-24-29

Agreement on a proposal for an indoor pool located next to Wheeling High School and owned and built by the Wheeling Park District is likely, based on a Monday night meeting between High School Dist. 214 and the park board.

The park board passed a resolution Tuesday calling for the sale of the land for the pool by the school district to the park for \$1.

Other elements of the resolution which the park hopes Dist. 214's board will pass are that the cost of the pool will be paid by a bond approved by the voters and that the high school district will rent the pool from the park district for classes during the day and for swim meets.

HALF OF THE money from the high school rent would be used to pay for the operation of the pool and half for the retirement on the bonds.

Use of the pool on weekends

and evenings and in the summer by the public would involve higher charges for non-residents of the park district, thus eliminating charges that Wheeling is paying for recreational facilities for all of Dist. 214.

Park commissioners were optimistic at Tuesday's meeting, as were Dist. 214 officials contacted by the Herald.

ARTHUR ARONSON, president of Dist. 214's board, said, "I certainly think we would approve the resolution. I certainly personally hope we can work out something that we can have a pool in all the high schools with park district help." A citizen's committee is working on such a project in Rolling Meadows, site of the next Dist. 214 high school.

Aronson is a resident of Arlington Heights and Elementary Dist. 21. Wheeling's proposal is modeled after an existing arrangement between Dist. 214

and the Arlington Heights Park District.

Dist. 214 Supt. Edward H. Gilbert said that he is "delighted that the Wheeling Park District is interested in considering co-operating with us in developing a pool at Wheeling High School."

THE PLAN for the olympic-sized pool to the southeast of the present high school building also includes a room for a teen center and an upstairs open area which can be used for additional bleachers or park and school activities.

Cost of the construction would be paid by the park district from funds okayed by the public in a bond referendum. In reality the park district taxpayers probably would only be hit with relatively small operating costs yearly because of revenue from the rent paid by the high school and fees charged resident and non-resident swimmers.

FEB. 24, 1969

# POOL FLURRY BY PARK DIST.

The Wheeling Park District Board snapped out three decisions Thursday night — an \$800,000 swimming pool referendum, a proposal to construct a building for the Chamber of Commerce in return for a donation of land, and an offer of \$140,000 to the pool corporation for the community pool.

The board offered to build a building which the chamber could use if Chamber of Commerce Park were given the district in return.

They set June 14 as the date for the referendum, which will pay for the purchase of the community pool and the construction of the indoor pool at Wheeling High School.

THE THREE actions came after an executive session in which the three matters were discussed.

The commissioners directed their attorney, Roger Bjorvik, to write letters to the pool corporation and Chamber of Commerce proposing the two offers.

By going for an \$800,000 refer-

endum, the park is asking the voters for its' total allowed bonding power. The sum will not completely cover approximately the estimated \$600,000 construction costs of the indoor pool, the \$140,000 offer for the community pool, and the \$63,825 which park consultants said was necessary for pool repairs and the construction of the chamber building.

THESE FIGURES are \$3,825 over the \$800,000 referendum request and no figures have set for the construction of the chamber building.

The exact sum necessary to repair the pool or construct the building is unknown at present, and the district is allowing itself flexibility in this area.

Priorities of exactly how the money will be spent will depend

on the responses to the offers from the pool corporation and the Chamber.

The Pool Corp. has claimed liabilities totalling \$185,960 and will have to return less than 100 cents on a dollar to bond holders if they accept the Park's offer.

The park motion states that if

(Continued on Page 4)

## Pool Flurry —

(Continued from Page 1)

\$140,000 worth of bonds are not turned in for redemption, the park will only have to pay for those bonds turned in and the principal indebtedness of the corporation up to the figure offered.

THE CHAMBER has not been specific during negotiations as to what was wanted in exchange for their land adjacent to the pool, except to hint that \$25,000 would be nice.

The chamber officers were specific in saying that they wanted an offer to present to their membership, however,

and the park has complied with that request in its offer.

The referendum, moved by Mrs. Audrey Christiansen, will be sparked by a citizen's committee which park officials plan to organize.

Mrs. Hazel Steinke of the Cameo Terrace Condominiums had informed the board she plans to oppose the referendum. Mrs. Steinke opposes the pool because the park has not yet paved the dirt road entrance way.

In the past, she has expressed considerable sentiment against the pool, at one time commenting that perhaps it should be filled in with dirt.

Mrs. Christiansen noted that the date of the referendum was also the opening day of the pool, and Flag Day.

# Personal Donations Put Park Board in Quandary

Donations are gratefully accepted . . .

At least you would think they'd be, but the Wheeling Park Dist. Board was in a quandry Thursday night about two personal donations made to the district for the purchase of recreational equipment.

The board had a mildly warm discussion about the procedure in accepting gifts, and came out with a semi-firm policy that donations should be sent to the whole board rather than to a single board member or the superintendent.

The donations were a \$400 gift from Mrs. James Gannon, known only by a Wheeling Post office box number, and a \$1,000 gift from Robert Ross, a park commissioner.

Park District Secy. Roger Bjorvik commented, "This day and age, when somebody gives something away they're immediately suspect."

ROSS TOLD his fellow board members that he donated the money because the park district needed funds immediately to buy some picnic tables and equipment now up for sale. He was aware the district couldn't afford to buy the equipment at present.

While Mrs. Gannon's donation was a mystery to the park board, she told the Herald on Friday that she gave the money because she thought the district was trying to do a very good job.

A grandmother of four, Mrs. Gannon said she could sympa-

thize with the struggles of the recently formed district because she had once worked to start a youth center in Deerfield against similar odds.

Mrs. Gannon, who lives at 200 Meadow Lane just north of Wheeling, said she was told by Supt. Fred Arndt the funds donated would be spent on recreation equipment such as plastic baseball bats, balls, and ping-pong tables. A framed certificate of appreciation will be placed on the wall by the park district, she said.

She noted that the donation will hopefully help the children of the area, and commented that her four grandchildren, John Burns, 9, and his brothers Jimmy, 8, Billy, 6, and Patrick, 3-months, were part of the reason for her donation.

## Heritage Park Okay Expected

Final approval of the agreement between the Metropolitan Sanitary District and the village of Wheeling on financing for the Heritage Park retention basin is expected at the Feb. 13 MSD meeting.

Wheeling Village Manager C. E. Olsen told the village board Monday that "all things seem to indicate that we will be successful next time around."

NEGOTIATIONS with the MSD were held up again last week when the MSD engineers requested a paragraph guaranteeing a permanent amount of retention capacity in the basin be added to the agreement.

Olsen will submit the amendment to the village board next Monday and then deliver the agreement to the MSD again on the 13th.

Olsen said that it was also the impression of John Crane, of Harza engineering, which de-

signed the retention project for the village, that the MSD will act at its next meeting.

He told the board that the MSD was glad to cooperate between the village and the park district, on the project. The agreement sets MSD participation in the project at \$180,000.

MSD action on the agreement has been delayed a number of times since November, when the village board okayed the agreement.

# Pool And Land Bonds Are Sold

8/26/69

Wheeling's park district board sold \$850,000 in bonds for two swimming pools and park land improvements at an effective interest rate of 6.743 per cent Thursday night.

The bonds, approved by voters in a June 14 referendum, will finance construction of a new indoor pool adjacent to Wheeling High School, purchase of the existing Com-

munity Pool by the park district and improvements in Chamber of Commerce Park.

**THE BONDS WILL COST** the district \$695,338.45 in gross interest cost. The bid was awarded to Hornblower and Weeks, Hemphill-Noyes of Chicago, the lowest bidder, following discussion by the park board.

Atty. Roger Bjorvik advised the board to accept the bid, noting that the board could seek bids again, but that bids for construction of the indoor pool would be held up as a result.

Bjorvik told the board that no other nearby park district with a similar bond rating had sold any bonds under new state laws. Thus, there was nothing to judge the amounts of the bids received by, he said.

"It's like going to the moon; we're one of the first ones," he said.

**STATE LAWS ONCE SET** a maximum interest rate of 5 per cent on municipal bonds. Recently, however, that maximum, was changed to 7 per cent.

Bjorvik noted the interest rate on the bonds appeared high. He said, however, that interest rates on similar bonds were expected to remain high in the future.

He also noted that the board's decision to have the bonds mature in 20 years instead of a longer period of time could push the interest rate up.

Other bidders for the park's bonds bid effective interest rates of 6.793 per cent and 6.907 per cent.

Bjorvik said the interest rate the board received will mean taxpayers will pay approximately the amount of taxes estimated during the campaign for the referendum.

**ACCORDING TO THAT** estimate a homeowner whose house has an assessed valuation of \$10,000 would pay \$8 in additional taxes for the two pools and improvements to Chamber of Commerce Park.

In Cook County homes are normally assessed at 40 to 50 per cent of their actual value for tax purposes.

# Park Takes School Site

8-25-69

Negotiations on the purchase of a school-park site in north Wheeling ended Thursday when the Wheeling Park District board decided to seek condemnation of the land.

The 8½-acre site, slated to be the future home of Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary School by Dist. 21, is currently owned by Corbetta Construction Co.

The site is one section of four parcels of land recently bought by Corbetta. It is south of the deadends of 9th and 10th streets and north of the Buffalo Creek — Wheeling drainage ditch in a rectangular strip running north and south.

Adjacent to the Holland subdivision, the proposed school park site extends from the end of Glendale Avenue and lies directly north of the new municipal building and U.S. Post Office site on either side of Dundee Road.

**THE PARK DISTRICT** filed condemnation proceedings against the piece of property in 1967, according to Park District Attorney Roger Bjorvik.

The district had attempted to negotiate a price for the property rather than wait for the lengthy court proceedings to condemn it. A number of different owners have held title to the property since 1967, however and the district's efforts to negotiate with the variety of owners have apparently failed.

At Thursday's meeting the park board voted 3 to 2 to stop negotiations. Board Pres. Lorraine Lark and Commissioner Bernie Erlin cast the "no" votes. The board took its action following a discussion of the negotiations in executive session.

**THE PARK DISTRICT** plans to use the land for a neighborhood park. Currently it is zoned for single family residences.

The school district plans a school for kindergarteners through sixth graders for the site, according to Supt. Kenneth Gill.

Bjorvik refused to disclose the amount the park district had offered for the land. He did say that Corbetta had purchased all of the four parcels of land for \$200,000, however, and that he had wanted the park district to pay the proportionate cost for

the school-park site. That figure would roughly approximate \$85,000.

The site was owned formerly by the U.S. Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (USFSLIC) after the original owner went bankrupt. Part of the park district's problems arose because the USFSLIC did not want to sell only 8½ acres of the parcel, according to Bjorvik.

The attorney said he would be unable to get the exact court date for the case immediately, but estimated that the proceedings would be heard in circuit court sometime in October.

August 26, 1969



**WHEELING'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** rests on timbers after being moved to Chamber of Commerce Park on North Wolf Road. Standing in front of church is Ferd Arndt, Wheeling Park District superintendent. Since pic-

ture was taken, church has been moved onto new foundation in park. However, builder refuses to remove timbers on which church rests until he is paid for moving the church.

## *Promised Loan Given*

The Wheeling Park District Board delivered funds Thursday night promised to the historical society in June.

The park board approved a \$2,500 loan to the historical society for repairs and moving of the 105-year-old Community Presbyterian Church. The park district had agreed to supply the loan at the end of the summer when funds became available from the new recreation tax.

The church, one of the oldest buildings in the village, was once used by a variety of denominations as a "community" church. The historical society has been collecting donations for its project since last spring, and moved the church to Chamber of Commerce Park adjacent to the Community Pool on North Wolf Road.

**ORIGINALLY** THE church stood adjacent to the current village hall on Dundee

Road. Developers of a Dunkin' Donut shop being built on that site held up construction until the church could be moved. The shop's developers donated \$500 to the historical society to help pay for the moving of the church.

Ron Ignatius, a historical society member, who has organized the group dedicated to preserving the church, said \$1,500 of the park district's loan will be used to pay the mover. Ignatius said the mover refused to remove the timbers which support the church above its newly built foundation until he is paid.

The society hopes to repay the park district with funds it receives from the township next year, Ignatius said.

**OTHER WORK** on the church cannot begin until the building is set on its founda-

tion, Ignatius said. He added that Jack Kimsey, Wheeling police school liaison officer, has volunteered a youth group to paint the building and that John Koeppen, historical society president and a village trustee, has offered to donate the paint.

Eventually the group hopes to have the church serve as a nondenominational chapel and a meeting place in Chamber of Commerce Park. The park district plans to use the park as a recreational area primarily for adults and small children.



**MUSIC BY** the Wheeling High School summer band will fill the air Aug. 20 when the band presents the third in its series of summer band concerts. The con-

cert will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Park. Marches, jazz compositions and selections from Broadway musical comedies will be featured on the

concert program. The concert is connected with the Wheeling Diamond Jubilee celebration.



8-13-69



**WHEELING HIGH SCHOOL** summer band director John Higgins leads the group in a musical selection. The band has played several of Higgins' original compositions in past concerts this summer.

*Oct 20 - 69*

## Park Purchased

Wheeling's park district signed an agreement for purchase of Chamber of Commerce Park last week.

The park, which now officially belongs to the park district, will be removed from the tax roles for the remainder of the year, Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik told the board Thursday.

The park board also directed its attorney to investigate an easement on the land held by Andrew Poulos for access to land located behind Chamber of Commerce Park.

*Oct 23, 1969*

## School-Park Pool Nears Completion

The Wheeling school-park indoor pool came several steps closer to its completion date Thursday when Wheeling's plan commission recommended approval for the final plat of the subdivision of the pool land from the high school property.

The planners recommended that the village board refund the approximately \$300 filing fee paid by the park district for consideration of the subdivision.

**BIDS ON THE POOL** building were also opened recently by the park commissioners. The figures came close to the \$650,000 approved by voters in the referendum last spring according to Park Supt. Ferd Arndt.

Arndt said the bids would be studied by an architect for recommendation to the board at the next park board meeting.

The lowest bid was \$621,700 and the highest was \$715,700.

11/15/69

# Excess Funds Hold Transfer

A dispute over the disposition of excess interest funds has held up the final transfer of the Wheeling Community Pool to the Wheeling Park District.

The excess interest funds will result from the bonds, bought by individuals, which will be held until they mature in 1983. The disagreement arose during the park district's meeting Thursday night.

Thursday, the park district agreed to deposit the \$160,000 purchase price for the pool with the bank as soon as it is ascertained the pool's title is free of any liens.

**POOL BONDHOLDERS** can now redeem their bonds at the bank for \$75 of the \$100 they paid originally. To receive the full \$100 he paid for the bond, a bondholder would have to hold the bond until its 1983 maturity date.

The pool was financed by selling about 1,000 of the \$100 denomination bonds. A bank mortgage was also used. The district, through a referendum last spring, decided to buy the pool from the pool corporation, made up of the individuals that bought the bonds.

The stipulation in the park district agreement that resulted in the dispute was one that said sufficient funds to pay for matured bonds in 1983 must be deposited in the bank until that time. The dispute centered around excess interest of the funds left in the bank until 1983.

As an example, for each bond that will be held until maturation, \$100 must be deposited in the bank. In 1983 each \$100 will have earned about \$12 in interest.

**THE PARK DISTRICT** contends that under the agreement the \$12 should go to the park district. Mrs. Lorraine Lark, park board president, pointed out Thursday that the money must be kept from going to the bank or reverting to the state.

George Passolt, pool corporation president, did not agree with her completely. He agreed to the excess interest's being given to the district if it was a minimal amount. If, however, the sum amounts to about \$5 per bond, then, says Passoli, the funds should go to the bondholders rather than the park district.

To date the bondholders have received no interest on their investment because the pool has never made a profit.

Neal Grippentrog, bank president, complicated the matter further by pointing out that bondholders who redeem their bonds now are relinquishing any right to additional funds. As a result, only those who kept their bonds until 1983 would share in any excess interest funds.

**ALL THREE FACTIONS** did agree, however, that any of the money deposited until 1983 should revert to the park district if no bondholder collects it.

Mrs. Lark repeatedly told Passolt that he was changing the agreement reached earlier. The original resolution passed by the park district is not specific about the disposition of the excess interest.

Park board members said the matter would have to be resolved before the pool transfer is made. They instructed the park district's attorney, Roger Bjorvik, to be sure there is a stipulation included in the

agreement for the district to receive the excess interest, before he accepts the deed to the pool.

11/12/69

## 'Beauty' Committee

### To Work on Memorial

Wheeling's park district board agreed last week that before the beautification committee can begin work at the Heritage Park veteran's memorial, its plans will have to be approved by the district.

The board instructed Supt. Ferd Arndt to coordinate any installation of benches or shrubbery which have been donated so the area will not infringe upon other areas of the park.

**VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS** in the village have donated money to place benches, shrubs, trees and possibly a reflecting pool near the monument.

At Thursday's meeting, Mrs. Lorraine Lark, park board president, complimented the beautification committee for its efforts.

Friday, November 14, 1969



Jack and Jill have found a new hill - at a construction site in Wheeling's Heritage Park.

## Park Plans Are Sought

A new master plan for Wheeling's parks is in the offing. Last week the park district board decided to have a professional planning consultant develop a new master plan for the district.

MRS. LARRAINE LARK, president of the park board, noted that to be of any value, the plan would have to be coordinated with the plans of the village and the school district.

ERLIN SAID THAT besides proposals for the addition of park lands, the plan could include future staffing requirements and suggested times for starting park programs.

Currently the district has a plan drawn up by a university student. However, the plan is outdated, board members indicated.

NOV 69

## Pool Plans OKd

Plans for the swimming pool at Wheeling High School easily cleared the High School Dist. 214 board Monday night.

The six board members unanimously agreed that the blueprints supplied for the structure by architects Orput and Orput are acceptable.

Frank Bergen, board member, remarked, however, that the greatest problem may be the cost, which is pegged at approximately \$600,000.

HE SAID there are indications that the cost might go above \$800,000. The cost of the new pool at Arlington High School climbed into the \$700,000 bracket, and Bergen fears that the cost for the Wheeling pool may be well above estimates.

Several board members met last Thursday with officials of the Wheeling Park District, which will rent the pool to the school. Monday night's action affirmed action taken last week.

The pool will be housed in a building adjacent to the high school at 900 S. Elmhurst Road. The building will contain bleachers, locker rooms and class rooms.

# Hope To Resolve Indoor Pool Plan

Wheeling's park district board will meet tonight with the High School District 214 Board to negotiate an agreement on the new indoor pool at Wheeling High School.

The park board voted Thursday to accept the agreement, presented by the school officials, after adding an amendment to the agreement during an executive session.

The board adjourned its meeting until tonight in case any changes were made in

the agreement by the school board, and it had to be re-approved by the park board.

Under provisions of the proposed agreement which the park district board has signed, 36.97 per cent of the cost of constructing the pool facility would be paid by the school district as rent.

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT** board has agreed to sell one acre of the land in front of Wheeling High School to the park dis-

trict for construction of the indoor pool building.

The agreement specifies that the purpose and intention of both the school and park districts is for "maximum use of the recreation and physical education facilities . . . at the most economical cost" to taxpayers of both districts.

Under the terms of the agreement Wheeling High School would have use of the pool from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday from Nov. 1 to March 15.

During the rest of the regular school year the school would have use of the pool from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

**THE SCHOOL WOULD** also use the pool on Saturday's from Nov. 1 to March 15 from 1 to 5 p.m. when swimming competition was scheduled.

The park district would have use and control of the pool at other times, including evenings, weekends, and the entire summer.

The amendment added to the original agreement during the executive session would allow the park district use of the pool on school holidays when "school is not normally in session."

The arrangement as set out in the agreement will be the initial one used when the pool is completed next fall if the school board approves it tonight.

The school's portion of the cost of the pool will amount to \$314, 233 paid over a 20-year-period.

That figure is based on the cost of the pool itself excluding the sauna bath facilities and multi-purpose room which the school will not use. The school district is paying half of the cost of the pool facilities and architect's fee excluding the two rooms. Total cost of the pool is \$658,950. Excluding the two rooms the pool itself is costing \$590,110, plus an architect's fee.

**OPERATING COSTS** OF the pool will be paid by both districts with the school district paying 55 per cent of that cost.

A pool manager hired to operate the pool, and coordinate programs will be hired by the park district with the approval of the school district.

The school district has an option to extend its lease for a second 20-year-period if it so wishes under the agreement. Renovation and capital improvements necessary for the pool will be shared equally by the districts.



IT DOESN'T LOOK like much now, but next summer Wheeling's retention basin which lies west of the Heritage Park fieldhouse behind the village's new municipal building on Dundee Road will be a recre-

ational lake. The basin has already begun its role in the village's food control program by storing storm water from the Dunhurst and Meadowbrook West sections of the village. Gates to allow the water to

begin flowing into the basin were opened Friday as, from left, Village Pres. Ted C. Scanlon, Finance Director George Passolt and Village Mgr. Matthew Golden looked on.

12-8-69

## Retention Basin in Use First Time

The largest of Wheeling's retention basins was put to use for the first time Friday when water was allowed to flow into the Heritage Park West retention reservoir.

The basin, the largest part of the village's flood control program and the first part to near completion, receives excess water from the Dunhurst and Meadowbrook West sections of the village.

Although the basin is far from its completed state as a landscaped park area and permanent lake, it is already serving a flood prevention service by holding water which would otherwise flow into the drainage ditch west of Wheeling Road or flow immediately into the Des Plaines River.

THE TWO AREAS served by the new basin were two of the worst hit during the village's flood June 10, 1967.

Dunhurst residents reported \$91,000 in damages from that flood and the Mead-

owbrook West section of the village had about \$11,000 damage reported.

The new basin in Heritage Park consists of two levels. One basin farther to the south receives water directly from under Wheeling Road and from the east. When that basin reaches capacity, water is

allowed to run into the detention portion of the north basin. A retention portion of that north basin will hold water permanently as a lake facility. The detention portion of that basin would fill with water only during a heavy rain and would be used as park lands at other times.

Construction is expected to begin shortly on the smaller Heritage Park east basin which will serve the Meadowbrook east area of the village. Specifications for bids are also being prepared for the Husky Park basin which will provide drainage for the far western end of the village.

Friday, January 23, 1970

# *Snowmobilers: Cold 'Kooks'?*

Some people wake up on a cold, crystal clear morning and bury their heads under the blankets.

That kind of person will never make it on a snowmobile.

In the northwest suburbs, however, there are a growing number of people who brave winter's cold for the thrill of a snowmobile ride.

A GROUP OF 24 from Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Prospect Heights showed up last Sunday at snowmobile races sponsored for the first time by the Wheeling Park District at Heritage Park in Wheeling.

Winners in the races came from all three towns. First place winners in the four classes included James K. Wieder of 116 S. Wille, Wheeling, Duane Broten of 2109 Mockingbird, Buffalo Grove, Duncan

Kumbera of 619 Bernard Drive, Buffalo Grove, and Jay McEvers of the Convenient Food Part in Wheeling.

Entrants paid a \$3 fee to enter the races. The fees were split among first and second-place winners within the class each person entered. First-place winners were awarded twice as much as the second place winners.

THE PARK DISTRICT decided to sponsor the races after snowmobile owners began showing up in the park on Sundays to use their machines.

For the "snowmobilers" at Heritage Park, the sport is more than an occasional race. Some of the entrants had massive machines capable of traveling at 60 miles an hour, while others were left at the starting gate. The machines also are used for sightseeing and leisurely rides.

**OUT TO WIN** at the snowmobile races in Wheeling's Heritage Park Sunday was John F. Lemme Sr. of 307 W. Circle, Prospect Heights. Lemme managed a second place but was beat for first in his class by James K. Wieder of 116 S. Wille in Wheeling. Winners in other classes were

Duane Broten of 2109 Mockingbird, Buffalo Grove; Duncan Kumbera, of 619 Bernard Drive, Buffalo Grove; and Jay McEvers of the Convenient Food Mart in Wheeling. A total of 24 snowmobile owners competed in the first races sponsored by the Wheeling Park District.



The sun was out, but racers were far from warm.

Snowmobilers wear special gear, including helmets and quilted jumpsuits.



The younger set finds snowmobiling fun, too.

# Suburbia: A Place To Have Fun, Too

Monday, January 5, 1970

by GERRY DeZONNA

On a cold, crisp morning in January 10 years ago, a new decade dawned on the Northwest suburbs, a frontier settlement with resources yet untapped by pioneers in recreation and entertainment.

Although the Northwest suburban area still is not a recreation and entertainment stronghold today, the suburbs have come a long way in the last 10 years, and on the eve of the 1970s, having fun in the suburbs is a little easier now than it's ever been.

For recreation, entertainment and social relaxation, the last place anyone wanted to spend a Saturday night was in the Northwest suburbs during the early 1960s. Recreation and entertainment then was as difficult to come by as a parking space in town is today.

Until recently, the Northwest suburbs have been thought of as grinding along from day to day in the shadows of Chicago's bright lights and neon signs. In the early 1960s, urbanites, who had yet to join the exodus to the suburbs, were quick to criticize the "bedroom communities" and to scoff at the suburban social scene.

**SUBURBIA.** Dull, dreary, unsophisticated. The suburbanite was a social nomad who wandered between his house in the desert and his Chicago playground, an oasis of entertainment and recreation.

Chicago still had a corner on the market. All the good restaurants, nightclubs, shows, theaters and points of interest were entrenched within the city limits. All the suburbs really had to offer then were open spaces, laced with railroad tracks and dotted with houses, and a two-lane highway to the city.

But during the mid-1960s, more and more people moved out to the suburbs, businesses inched further and further from the city limits and the suburban image began to change. Everything that was happening in Chicago began to happen in the suburbs, although on a much smaller scale.

The shorter work week gave the suburbanite an opportunity to cut his grass and paint the house with time left to spend on recreation and relaxation. With more leisure time to himself and his willingness to foot the bill for his recreation and entertainment, the affluent suburbs began attracting commercial entertainment enterprises and encouraged recreation programs.

A COMMERCIAL entertainment drifted slowly to the suburbs, individual communities were first to jump on the bandwagon by organizing formal park districts to meet the demand for recreation.

Although the role of the park district is a selective one since no single district should or could provide all the recreation facilities and opportunities in a community, the park districts were first in providing recreation and entertainment for its residents.

The park district is structured to complement the total recreation program in the community, including activities sponsored by schools, churches, service clubs, special-interest groups and commercial entertainment and recreation enterprises.

And park districts in the Northwest suburbs have not been negligent in meeting

## THE '70s

the demands created by a booming population and an emphasis on leisure activities within park district limits and capabilities.

THE ARLINGTON Heights Park District, organized in 1925, is the oldest park district in the area. Mount Prospect and Wheeling park districts also were organized before the 1960s, but the biggest boom in the Northwest suburbs' recreation picture didn't occur until the decade just past, especially within the last eight years.

Elk Grove Village, Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg and River Trails park districts didn't emerge until the '60s and the expansion and development of facilities in the older districts didn't get under way until this time, too.

The Mount Prospect Park District is one example of the growth of park districts in the Northwest suburbs and the efforts of park district officials to accommodate the needs of recreation by steadily developing programs and expanding facilities.

In 1960, Mount Prospect owned 50 acres of land, operated eight parks and sponsored 23 park programs for the 25,000 people living in its district. Today the park district owns 287 acres of land, maintains 18 parks and provides 57 programs for 50,000 residents.

THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS Park District is another example of the growth in suburban recreation. Ten years ago, Arlington Heights owned 14 parks and 85 acres of land. Today the district maintains 28 parks and 211 acres of park property, while its assessed valuation has jumped from \$81,989,000 to \$190,051,992.

The Wheeling Park District is one of the most progressive park districts in the area, especially for a community of its size, and park districts from Palatine to Elk Grove Village are as equally ambitious and progressive.

Park district programs are much more than playgrounds and organized sports. Activities vary from judo and ballet to fencing and ceramics with classes that allow individuals with varying degrees of skills to participate as well as allow proficiency within the activity.

Park district officials are programming activities to provide more than just an opportunity to pursue an interest in traditional sports. They are trying to stimulate new interests in recreation and help residents develop skills to pursue these interests.

"I CAN'T THINK of one park district in our area whose facilities and programs are not in keeping with the times and the pace of the rapidly-expanding suburbs," said Paul Caldwell, assistant director of parks and recreation in Mount Prospect.

"The last 10 years have been spent in acquiring available land and expanding park district facilities, while the next 10

years will be directed toward refining our programs and utilizing the park land we have recently acquired," he said.

Most of the park districts in the area are implementing major park referenda passed within the last two years. Arlington Heights is expected to realize its goals from a \$2.8 million park referendum, approved in July, 1968, by the early 1970s. And Mount Prospect park district officials are implementing a comprehensive \$2.4 million park referendum passed last February.

As the exodus from the city to the suburbs continues, the role of the park district becomes increasingly important, not only in organizing constructive recreation but in preserving open space in an area that is rapidly becoming bereft of available land.

IN THE 1970s it will become more important for park district planners to utilize every inch of available park property, almost to 100 per cent of its maximum efficiency. As open space diminishes, park officials can place no dollars-and-cents value on the priceless park properties and the importance of preserving spaciousness as a relief from suburban pressures and an escape from confinement.

Multiple uses for land will become more necessary as land becomes more scarce, and extra burdens will be placed on park districts to increase efficiency in program planning and land utilization.

But the park district is only one answer in providing a broad program of recreation and entertainment in the community.

Programs sponsored by schools, churches and service clubs have provided residents with additional activities but the key to entertainment and recreation in the suburbs, in providing residents with a successful solution for social relaxation, will be met by commercial enterprises.

AS PARK DISTRICTS began to expand facilities and develop programs to meet recreational needs in the mid-1960s, attracting commercial entertainment and recreation enterprises to the suburbs was equally important to the social development of the communities.

As movie theaters, cocktail lounges and restaurants, bowling alleys, shopping centers and golf courses began springing up in communities overnight, the effect on the Northwest suburbs was important. It was no longer necessary to seek social relaxation in the city. Entertainment could be found in the suburbs now after 6 p.m.

The opportunities to have fun in the Northwest suburbs are far greater than they've ever been for children as well as adults. Perhaps the only advantage to the thousands of people who now crowd suburbia is that it will be a little easier to have fun in the suburbs in the 1970s.



# Park Seeks Loan To Renovate Church

1-20-70

Renovation of the 105-year-old Community Presbyterian Church in Wheeling as a community meeting center and historic monument could be completed within six months.

Wheeling's park board Thursday authorized its attorney, Roger Bjorvik to borrow from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the park district to renovate the building. The project will cost an estimated \$14,500.

Part of the cost will be paid by donations from the Wheeling Historical Society. The society is conducting a campaign to raise funds for the renovation and to pay back a "loan" from the park district of approximately \$4,000 used to help pay for moving the church from its former site to Chamber of Commerce Park on North Wolf Road.

The park board's decision to borrow the funds came after Bjorvik told the board that federal funds were not available to help renovate the building.

**BJORVIK SAID THAT** under federal law the application for federal funds could not be granted unless the state of Illinois had a state-wide master plan. Illinois is working on such a plan, but it is not yet complete.

Historical society members Ron Ignatius, Julius Benjamin, and John Koepfen told the park board they would write to Sen. Charles Percy for a second time asking his help in getting federal funds.

Ignatius and Benjamin were chairmen of the historical society committee which originally decided to save the church building. The building was moved last

summer from its former site next to the fire station on Dundee Road to the park.

Plans for remodeling the church include installing electricity and heating, repairing the outside of the building, and adding a kitchen and toilet facilities.

The park commissioners agreed the church will be an asset to the park once it is renovated. Park Pres. Lorraine Lark told the board "nowhere could we get a historical building with meaning that will give us what this will give us for \$14,000."

**COMMISSIONER Robert Ross**, who had lashed out at the historical society for inaction at the last park board meeting, suggested the park borrow the money to complete the renovation.

Ross had complained of the lack of plans for the renovation.

The plans were presented to the park board by the historical society at a committee meeting two weeks ago.

The board also discussed the transfer of the building from the historical society to the park district in the near future.

Koepfen told the park board the historical society would turn over donations for the church to the park district.

The park board also noted that efforts should be made to have the stained glass windows of the church returned. One board member said the windows are on sale in an antique store in Long Grove for about \$7,000.

The park board also noted that once a bank promise of a loan is acquired the board will seek bids on the renovation of the church.

## Church's Future Uses Considered

Tuesday, January 27, 1970

Although a loan to pay for remodeling of the 105-year-old Community Presbyterian Church building still hangs in limbo, the Wheeling Park District Board nevertheless has already started thinking about what it will use the church for after the remodeling is complete.

"Either we can use it as a recreation center or we can restore it to the church concept," said Gene Sackett, park commissioner. Sackett said he thought it be more economical to merely restore the church building "to the church concept."

The church was moved from its original site on Dundee Road to Chamber of Commerce Park last summer through efforts of the Wheeling Historical Society and the park district.

**SACKETT SAID** the Rev. George Ekstrom of the Community Presbyterian Church of Wheeling, had offered to donate the building's former altar for use in the restored church.

Lorraine Lark, park district president,

at the district's meeting Thursday, said she thought the church should be functional.

She suggested that the exterior be restored to look like the original church, but that the interior should remain flexible.

"I'd hate to see it become a church because it couldn't be used to its ultimate," she said, explaining that a folding altar over the altar area or even a portable altar would allow the building to be used for lectures, club meetings, or a teen center.

"We don't want a shrine, we want it available to anybody for any purpose," she said.

The board directed William Blank, treasurer and Supt. Ferd Arndt to look into the possibility of a loan for the remodeling.

The board earlier had instructed Atty. Roger Bjorvik to inquire about the loan, but received no report on the attorney's progress Thursday.

# Park Development,

1-8-70

## HELP Top Jaycee Goals

by ANNE SLAVICEK

Developing a new park for Wheeling and contributing manpower and money to the community's new HELP Committee (Help Eliminate Local Problems) are all included in the list of projects to be undertaken by the Wheeling Jaycees in the coming year.

This week is Jaycee Week nationwide in honor of the organization's 50th anniversary. In Wheeling Village Pres. Ted Scanlon has also declared this week as Jaycee Week.

Bob Strauss, Wheeling Jaycee president, said the chapter is in its 13th year. All but two of the chapter's 31 members live in the village.

**GETTING A JUMP ON** this year's Jaycee Week, the group held its "Mayor's Prayer Breakfast" Saturday morning.

Also during the week, the organization's "Bosses Night" dinner will be held, with awards to local businessmen and the announcement of the Jaycees annual Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Young Educator award recipients. Police Chief M. O. Horcher will speak at that night's dinner.

Each year Wheeling's Jaycees sponsor an extensive list of programs and activities. Funds raised through the Christmas tree sale and the Las Vegas Night each year which return a profit are put back into the community in the other Jaycee

sponsored activities.

In the upcoming year Strauss said the Jaycees will be working to create a Jaycee Park in conjunction with the Wheeling Park District.

**ALTHOUGH THE SITE** for the park is still to be chosen, the park district board has mentioned the possibility that a park adjacent to the proposed Hawthorne Elementary School could be developed by the Jaycees.

That park, referred to as North Side Park in park district discussions, lies between the end of 10th Street and Glendale Avenue, north of the Dundee Road municipal building and the new post office site.

The organization plans to develop the

park over a five-year period, providing all equipment for the facility and physically working to improve the site.

Strauss said, in return the park would be named Jaycee Park, by the park district.

**"WHEELING COULD USE** a good park," Strauss noted, explaining other Jaycee chapters nationwide have developed parks in their communities.

Another project includes the Jaycees' participation in the HELP program, a local organization seeking to deal with youth problems in the community. Five Jaycee members are working with the HELP group.

The Jaycees are also in the midst of plans to expand their annual Fourth of

July celebration in the village to last five days this year. Besides the fireworks displays and go-cart races that have been staged in previous years, the Jaycees this year will have a carnival with amusements rides, and a trade fair.

The organization's annual Christmas project last year involved buying food, clothing, and bedding for a family in the village's Dunhurst subdivision whose home was gutted by fire shortly before the holidays.

**FOR CHILDREN,** the Jaycees work each year to sponsor a sports jamboree of track and field events for both boys and girls, and a Halloween party complete

with movies, refreshments, and a clown.

The Jaycees also sponsored their first Christmas outdoor decoration contest last year, and awarded savings bonds for the best decorations in the village.

Strauss emphasized that in all activities sponsored by the Jaycees, the men are helped by "Jaycee Jills," an organization made up of wives of many of the Jaycee members.

This year the Jaycees are working to become a "blue chip" chapter for their fourth consecutive year. "The blue chip designation is awarded to more active chapters, and only about half the chapters can achieve such a designation," Strauss said.



## *Park May Oversee Dist. 21 Programs*

1-27-70

The Wheeling Park District may coordinate all after-school activities in five Dist.

21 schools.

If such a program were adopted next year, the park district could organize intramural programs. Parochial as well as public school students could participate.

A similar proposal is suggested for the Buffalo Grove Park District. The program is part of a major proposal for phasing out Community school services activities formerly funded under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The entire proposal will be submitted to the Dist. 21 and High School Dist. 214 committees next Wednesday, according to Keith Vernon, park district recreation director and coordinator of recreational services for Dist. 21.

VERNON TOLD the park district board Thursday that the Park district would have control of the activities in five school gymnasiums for six hours a week in the elementary schools and 14 hours a week in the junior high schools, not counting Saturdays.

Vernon said he thinks such a move would "strengthen the recreational program for the entire area."

The park board held up any decision on the proposal until its Feb. 11 committee meeting.

The commissioners asked Vernon to submit a report on reaction of the two school districts at that meeting.

# Restoration Teamwork Set

The Wheeling Park District and the Wheeling Historical Society will be working together for several years to come to raise funds for the restoration of the 105-year-old Community Presbyterian Church in Wheeling.

The actual work on the church, including restoring the outside to historic authenticity and remodeling the inside for a community meeting center, could start in less than a month.

Contracts for the restoration will be submitted by contractors to the park district within a month, the Park Board decided Thursday.

The board decided to act as its own general contractor in having the church restored, and to let contracts separately so that competitive bidding requirements would not hold up the church restoration.

THE COMMISSIONERS hope to have work started on the church immediately because if they waited until warmer weather when contractors are in demand, the price would be considerably higher, Commissioner Robert Ross explained.

The Park Board has a commitment from the Wheeling Trust and Savings Bank for a 10-year loan of up to \$20,000 payable in equal annual installments at a 6 per cent interest rate.

The church, which was moved from its original site to Chamber of Commerce Park on north Wolf Road last summer by the historical society has become a joint project of the park district and the historical society.

AT THURSDAY'S meeting, historical society President John Koeppen presented a resolution from the society promising to turn over any funds it collects for the

church to the park district on a quarterly basis for the next 10 years. The historical society plans to attempt to raise funds to reimburse the park district for funds borrowed for the moving and restoration of the church.

An agreement turning over the church ownership to the park district was also presented to the park board by Koeppen.

Total cost of the renovation is estimated to be approximately \$14,500.

The board agreed informally to call a special meeting once the contracts have been submitted so that work on the restoration can be started.

Plans for remodeling the church include installing electricity and heating, repairing the outside of the building and adding a kitchen and toilet facilities.

February 23, 1970



3-23-70

**SLIGHTLY HEAVIER** than the average ice skater, two bulldozers have invaded the Heritage Park ice rink as part of the village's flood prevention program. The retention basin will help eliminate flood-

ing each spring in the Meadowbrook East section of the village. Bulldozers have completed their earth-moving operations in the larger Heritage Park Basin

across Buffalo Creek, and bids were opened last week for the third phase of the program, a retention basin and pumping station in Husky Park.

# Husky Park Bids Exceed Estimates

2-18-70

Bids on construction of the Husky Park phase of Wheeling's flood control program, opened at the Wheeling Village Board meeting Monday, exceeded expected costs by 55 to 88 per cent of original estimates.

Bids on the project, the third phase of the village's flood control program, varied from \$220,650 to \$267,000. An estimate of the anticipated cost prepared two years ago by Harza Engineering Co. for the village was only \$142,000.

More recently, however, Harza Engineering Co. estimated the project would cost \$225,000. Village Mgr. Matthew Golden explained the increase included an expansion of the proposed basin.

Monday night the bids were turned over to the village manager for an analysis with Harza Engineering.

THE HUSKY PARK phase of the flood control program includes construction of a detention basin with five acres in surface area and a pumping station to empty the basin and drain groundwater seepage.

The Husky Park and surrounding area of the village suffered a total of \$31,000 in damage during the storm of June 10, 1967 which precipitated the flood control program.

Flooding on Anthony Road is the main problem in that area of the village. The flooding is caused by runoff from the Cambridge subdivision in Buffalo Grove.

The Husky Park phase of the flood control program is the third phase to reach the bidding stage. Work is currently going on in the Heritage Park detention basins which serve the Dunhurst and Meadowbrook subdivisions.



**SAVED BY THE NET** are two apprehensive Wheeling residents in a men's volleyball session sponsored each Monday night from 7 to 9:30

p.m. by the Wheeling Park District. Don Jackson, left, and Ralph Krueger are among those cur-

rently participating in the district's volleyball program.

## Park Dist. Swim Pool Costs Set

Fees for the Wheeling Park District's indoor and outdoor swimming pools were set Thursday by the Wheeling Park District board.

Passes for year-round use of swimming facilities including the new indoor pool both summer and winter and the outdoor pool during the summer season are for \$35 for family passes, \$20 for single adult pass, and \$15 for a child's pass. Summer-only passes good at both pools for the eight-week summer season will be sold for \$20 per family, \$10 per single adult, and \$7.50 per child.

Reductions of prices on summer family passes to \$17.50 during the month of May will be continued from previous years.

Daily fees for pool use which are good only at the pool where they are purchased are 50 cents for children and \$1 for adults. On weekends and holidays daily fees are \$1 for children and \$1.50 for adults. Prices are double for persons living outside the park district limits.

## Tahoe Land Release Asked

Wheeling Park District commissioners were asked Thursday to consider releasing a public land-use designation on the proposed Tahoe planned development in western Wheeling.

Fred Hillman, Chesterfield Development Corp., vice president, asked the board to consider removing the public land-use designation.

Hillman, who explained that he met with school Dist. 21 officials last Friday about the school-park site designation on the property said he doesn't expect the board to reach a decision on the school park site reservation until a detailed site plan is ready for his proposed planned development.

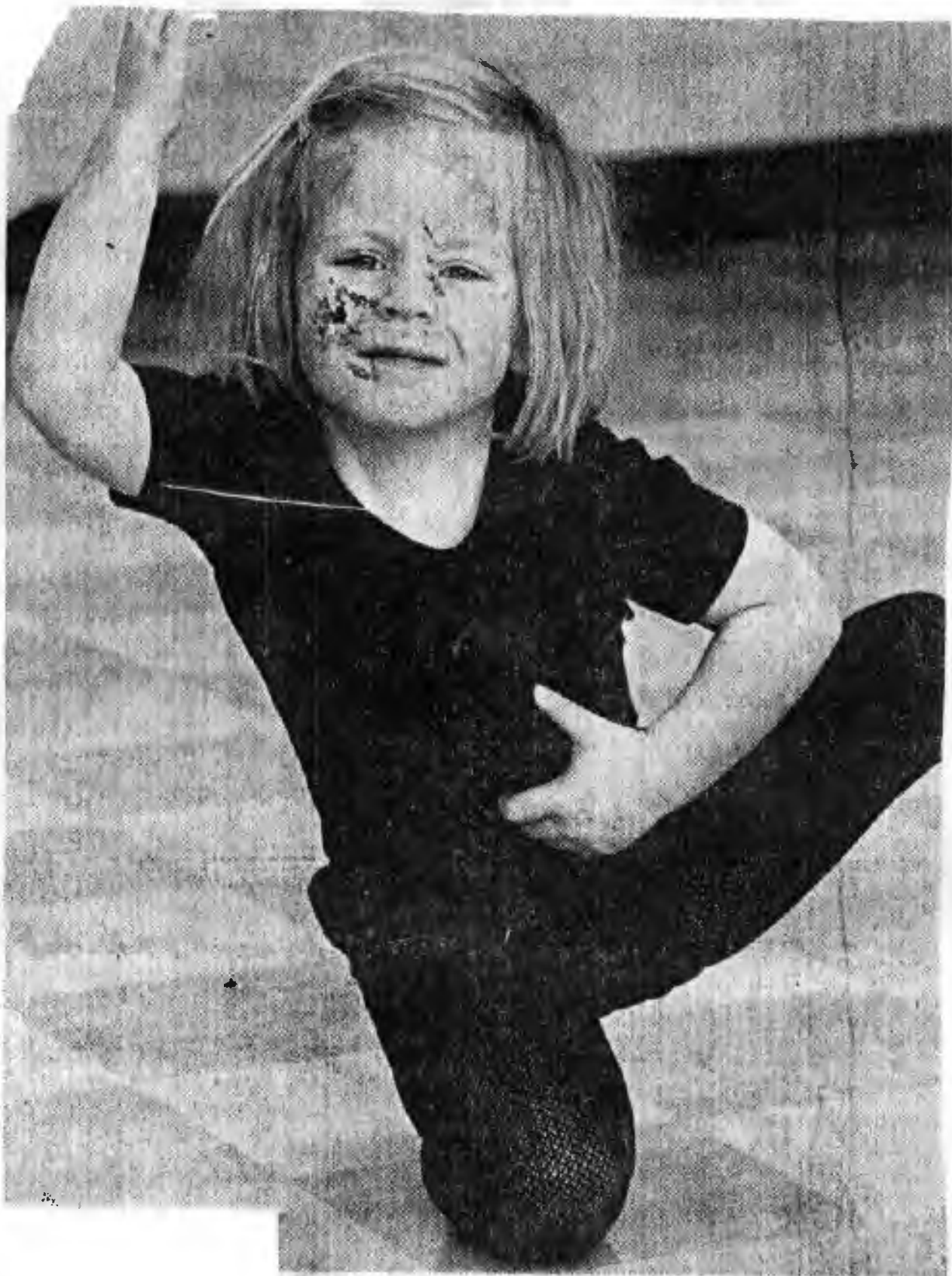
The school-park site in question straddles the property line of two planned development projects, with 5½ acres on each side of the property line.

HILLMAN REMINDED the park board of a promise made two years earlier to reconsider removing the public land use designation if the property was ever to be developed as a planned development with private recreational facilities. Such facilities would make a park unnecessary, Hillman suggested.

Another problem which complicates the situation, according to Hillman, is the proposed school-park site is on the low point in the two developments. It is the site of two future detention basin lakes.

Hillman told park board members a detailed site plan for the development would be available for study within 90 days of the time the village grants planned development zoning for the property.

He said the development of townhouses and apartments as proposed would take from two to five years to build.



he Wheeling Park Dis-  
r managed to maintain  
ncing exercise. Young-  
n a variety of activities

— acrobatics, ballet and tap dancing. Mrs. Rae-  
son teaches the course, designed to help improve  
coordination.

3/13/70



3-26-70



**IMAGINE A CROWDED** park and a modern school building. Currently the land is all weeds, but this site, between the end of Glendale Avenue and 10th Street in the north part of Wheeling

recently was bought by the Wheeling Park District as a site for North Side Park and Hawthorne Elementary School. School Dist. 21 is planning to purchase approximately half of the site for the school

which will open in September, 1971. The site is in the portion of the village that has come up for discussion recently as a possibly densely populated multiple-family living area in the future.

4/6/70



**LEVELING OFF THE MORTAR**, Jerry Dykyj of Chicago continues work on the new Wheeling Park District indoor pool being built adjacent to Wheeling High School on Hintz and Elmhurst roads. Work is ahead of schedule on the pool which is expected to be completed before school starts next fall. Fees for use of the indoor pool and the district's outdoor pool were established by the park district board Thursday.

# Kids Ask for Mini-bike Trail

5-26-70

A petition signed by 91 area youngsters in favor of a mini-bike trail was presented to the Wheeling Park District Board Thursday. Any decision on the use of park land for mini-bikes and gocarts will not be made until July, however.

Meanwhile, mini-bike riders who have recently begun using Heritage Park as a

riding area are being warned to leave the park by police and park officials.

Mrs. June Orłowski, chairman of the village's youth commission, presented the petition as part of a plea to the park board for establishment of such a mini-bike trail area.

A park insurance agent at the meeting

told the board that mini-bikes, gocarts or snowmobiles on park property would be "bad news" as far as insurance coverage is concerned.

MRS. ORŁOWSKI urged the board to find out "just how bad that news would be."

"The community is faced with other alternatives to mini-bikes, alternatives like marijuana, LSD, and heroin," she told the park board.

Mrs. Orłowski noted that bikes are not illegal throughout the country and that more and more local teens are buying the bikes even though they have no local areas in which to ride them.

The bikes can only be ridden on private property under present Illinois law.

Mrs. Orłowski said the youth commission would be willing to help the park board set up a supervised area. She said that in addition to stemming drug use she thought a trail might cut down on vandalism.

Park board members pointed out that no other area park district has such an

area and that riders might come from all over the area to use a Wheeling facility.

"If local children live on small lots in a subdivision they have no place to ride their bikes, I can't see that its such a bad pursuit," Mrs. Orłowski said.

A thorough study of a possible mini-bike trail will be completed by the district in a month and a half, commissioners said.

MRS. ORŁOWSKI also presented a petition signed by 245 area teens for a "teen plateau," a teen center or gathering place.

However, commissioners were quick to point out that even teen activities organized by the teens themselves had little turnout at the park district.

Supt. Ferd Arndt said that teen centers in Evanston, Skokie and a number of other local areas have had to close because of lack of interest.

The board decided that a future discussion of the two petitions would be made at a future committee meeting.

## Security Guard Hiring Approved

Wheeling's park district board voted Thursday to hire a security guard part-time to combat recent vandalism to park buildings and property.

The board decided to take the measure as an immediate measure while plans to meet with officials of School Districts 21 and 214 to discuss a shared guard service are considered.

Park Supt. Ferd Arndt reported to the commissioners Thursday that vandals has removed drain hoses and sprayed

red paint on the walls of the uncompleted indoor park district pool at Wheeling High School last weekend.

Arndt said workmen had to use acid in trying to remove the paint from the new building's outside walls. Other recent acts of vandalism has included breaking into a baseball equipment shed in Heritage Park.

The guard would work a variety of hours at various park district locations, Arndt said.

## Mini-Bikes 'Are Better Than Pot?'

Tuesday afternoon a 16-year-old Wheeling boy called the Herald to express his views on the issue of mini-bike trails, now being considered for Wheeling Park District property.

Although the boy did not want his name used, what he had to say about the mini-bike predicament faced by area teens, along with the suggestions he made for solving the problem were worthwhile additions to comments made by others.

The youth, who said he owned two mini-bikes himself, saw the proposed mini-bike trail in Heritage Park this way:

"I think it's a great idea. I've been over there myself riding around and it's the only place around here that you really can ride."

COUNTERING comments by others that supervision by park district employees would be necessary if mini-bikes were allowed in the park, he said: "The parents come over and watch. If they

their kids to ride mini-bikes they should be able to spend some time watching them. I've seen kids riding their bikes at 50 m.p.h. and when they "wipe out," they ruin their bikes. If their parents were standing there, they wouldn't do it," he said.

Commenting that mini-bikes were "better than pot", he admitted that providing a place for mini-bikes is not really the park district's responsibility. He said, however, he thought the park district would be helping local teens if they did provide a riding area.

HE SUGGESTED the park be open on Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m. for riders of the small bike and possibly for two hour periods after school on alternate days. He said such time periods would allow teens to ride the bikes but, not interfere with all other park programs.

"The bikes aren't dangerous," he said, explaining he could name 25 or 30 other teens who own mini-bikes.

As an alternate to Heritage Park the youth suggested a hill now used by motorcyclists and mini-bike riders on Hiltz Road near Glenn Road in the village's industrial area. He said if mini-bikes were allowed in an area, tens wouldn't try to ride them on the streets.

To add to the problem that mini-bikes are only allowed on private property, the boy said he had a friend from Prospect Heights who received 11 warnings for riding his bike two years ago without being charged by police.

"He only got picked up once this year, and they charged him with everything, no directional signals, no helmet, no goggles and the fact that the bike was too small to license."

5/28

# Cambridge Flooding Issue

## Still Unsettled

Settlement of the controversy and lawsuits over the flooding in Buffalo Grove's Cambridge subdivision area may not be as close as once thought.

Wheeling Park District commissioners learned Thursday that one development firm apparently refuses to sign the suit settlement.

As a result, the village of Wheeling may have to redesign the Husky Park Flood control detention basin which is about to be built.

Wheeling village officials asked the park board to approve an enlargement of the Husky Park basin as an emergency measure to hold water from the Cambridge subdivision in case the village is ordered to provide for Cambridge runoff.

Village Atty. Paul Hamer indicated that Fred Hillman, vice-president of Chesterfield Development Corp. which is

building Tahoe in western Wheeling, has refused to sign the Cambridge suit agreement unless Wheeling rezones his property for a planned development.

At the meeting Hamer charged that Hillman is holding up solution of the Cambridge drainage suits by refusing to sign the court decree and build a retention basin to handle water from south Cambridge.

**HAMER EXPLAINED** the original proposal in the court decree was to have three retention lakes, one each in Chesterfield's Tahoe, Mallard Lake, and a Miller development in northern Arlington Heights.

Chesterfield wants the village to grant a zoning change to PD-4 (planned development) which would allow construction of multibedroom townhouse and apartments on the Tahoe property.

That property is now zoned for apartments and single-family homes, Hamer said.

Hamer said the village learned four weeks ago that Chesterfield would only sign the suit agreement "conditional to the granting of its rezoning petition."

"The zoning hearings are next Tuesday and pending the outcome of that rezoning Hillman will sign or not as he sees fit," Hamer said.

Hamer said that Hillman had met with Buffalo Grove officials and Hamer about signing the Cambridge flooding settlement. "Buffalo Grove wanted to pressure Hillman into signing the agreement, but he gave them the same story about the rezoning," Hamer told the park board.

**PARK COMMISSIONER** Robert Ross attacked village officials for not informing the park board earlier that changes

might have to be made in the Husky detention basin plans.

Hamer explained to the park board that the village had Harza Engineering Co. draw up a new plan for the retention basin at Husky Park as an emergency measure in case a court rules that Wheeling has to take care of runoff from the southern 27 acres of Cambridge.

"If Hillman doesn't want to develop his property or won't agree to the retention basin we may need to provide for the additional drainage in Husky Park," Hamer said.

He said the village contends that Cambridge developer Richard Brown would have to pump the water to his detention basin if the Tahoe basin was not built.

"**BUT IN CASE** the court rules against the village I don't want to 'burn our bridges' behind us," Hamer said.

Hamer said the agreement on the Cambridge suit was to have been signed six or eight months ago, but that "Hillman stymied it and refused to sign until Wheeling Township granted a drainage easement."

Once the township granted the easement, however, Hillman told the village of Wheeling that his new attorney had advised him he didn't have to sign the agreement because he wasn't originally a party to the suit, Hamer said.

**PARK OFFICIALS** postponed any decision on the retention basin change Thursday after Commissioner Bernie Erlin pointed out that if the park board approved the changes, a court might use that as a reason to require Wheeling accommodate the Cambridge drainage.

In the meantime, Wheeling has accepted bids on the original plan for the

Husky park basin and must award those bids by May.

Enlarging the Husky Park basin to accommodate southern Cambridge would reduce the usable park lands in the area by half.

Park Board Pres. Lorraine Lark said Thursday that because the Cambridge court agreement defined exactly by map the area which could drain into the Husky basin, the park district would not have to accommodate Cambridge drainage.

Hillman was unavailable for comment Friday, but he had told the Herald in an earlier interview that he needs the zoning change to make Tahoe a planned development in order to provide the detention basin facilities required by the Cambridge decree within the amount of money outlined in the decree.

4-6-70

### 4/8/70 School-Park Sites Wanted

Wheeling's village board received a letter Monday from the boards of School Dist. 21 and the Wheeling Park District asking for establishment of three new school-park sites and abolishment of a current site.

The sites, all in the northern section of the village are approximately 12 acres each.

The three new sites are in an area in which multi-family dwellings are expected to be built, resulting in a heavy burden on school and park facilities.

One site is located southwest of the intersection of Wolf Road and the Lake-Cook County Line.

A second site is proposed at the county line just east of the Soo Line R.R. tracks.

**A THIRD NEW SITE** is located west of the tracks along an extension of Elmhurst Road immediately north of the Hollywood Park Apartments project.

The existing site which the school and park officials want dropped is close to a recently acquired site for Hawthorne School and North Side Park.

April 30, 70

# Not Mini-Bike Ride Areas

If you own a mini-bike in Wheeling you're probably having trouble finding a place to ride it.

Wheeling police are issuing tickets for riding the mini-bikes on sidewalks because of state laws which forbid motorized vehicles on sidewalks. Moreover, the bikes are too small to have license plates so they are illegal on the street.

The only place the mini-bikes are legal is on private property.

Meanwhile school officials and local merchants have found it difficult to keep the mini-bikes away from schoolyards and shopping center parking lots.

A MINI-BIKE resembles a motorcycle or motorbike, but is much smaller.

Wheeling's park district board tonight will consider one possible solution to the problem, a mini-bike trail through Heritage Park.

Park Commissioner Gene Sackett told the Herald yesterday that he plans to suggest such a trail, which could be used for snowmobiles in the winter and mini-bikes in the summer, at tonight's meeting.

Sackett said that establishment of a trail would depend on the legal aspects and possible insurance costs for the park district.

Park commissioners have discussed the possibility of such a trail at committee meeting, but no formal decision has been made on the matter.

**YESTERDAY SACKETT** met with Wheeling Police Chief M. O. Horcher to discuss the feasibility of such a trail and to find out whether the trail might eliminate police problems with the bikes.

Horcher pointed out that while such a trail might provide a recreational service to residents, police might still have problems if people rode the mini-bikes to the park to use the trail.

The chief said it would be difficult to force people to haul the bikes to the park in the back of a car or to walk them along the sidewalk rather than riding them.

He told Sackett that unlike snowmobiles which cost about \$700, a mini-bike can be bought for \$30 or \$50.

Horcher said that fact alone would mean that more people might buy the mini-bikes and that overcrowding might result.

**HORCHER ASKED** Sackett to have the park board consider the possibility of buying the mini-bikes with park funds and renting them for use on the trail.

Another suggestion the chief made was that residents might store their bikes in a storage area at the park.

Horcher also suggested the possibility of the district allowing a private firm nearby to rent the bikes for use on the trail.

Sackett said that one advantage would be that there could be adequate supervision over children riding the bikes in the park and that safety requirements such as helmets would be enforced.

# Drive Is On <sup>5/4/70</sup> For Restoring Of Old Church

The Wheeling Park District has written to various community organizations and clubs in the village seeking help in rehabilitating the 105-year-old Community Church in Chamber of Commerce Park.

The letter, mailed April 27 by Supt. Ferd Arndt, explains that the district wants to make the building available for public use.

"In order to do this we are in need of some help. We are adding a kitchen, two washrooms, and a gas heating system," the letter explains.

The letter asks for contributions of various items or for money earmarked for a specific purchase.

Among the items needed for the church are a refrigerator, a gas stove, 50 chairs, banquet tables, a 75 cup coffee maker, 10 windows (clear glass) which will cost \$85 each, a flag and stand, light fixtures, coffee decanters, large trays, portable coat racks, waste receptacles, a lectern, a clock and landscaping and walks.

Information on the items needed and their cost is available by calling Arndt at 537-2222.

# ative Park Budget

**EMPLOYES' SALARIES** include \$4,680 for a new custodian to work in the main park building in Heritage Park and in the renovated Community Church in Chamber of Commerce Park.

Salary for the district's superintendent, Ferd Arndt, is included in both the administrative portion of the budget and the recreational portion. His total salary is \$12,250.

An expenditure of \$15,000 is budgeted for the salaries to various instructors who teach district programs.

Also included in the \$42,000 recreational program portion of the budget are funds for supplies used in the programs.

Total monies budgeted for operation of

the outdoor pool are set at \$21,600, while indoor pool expenditures are expected to total \$29,650 including a \$9,000 salary for a pool manager.

Still to be finalized before the official budget is adopted are figures for the district's bond and interest fund for the upcoming year. Arndt said that the board estimates that amount will be about \$46,000.

Total revenue from taxes levied expected by the district for the year is \$166,974. In addition, other revenue will come from fees charged for programs and from rent paid by School Dist. 214 for use of the indoor pool by Wheeling High School classes.

# Board Okays Rezoning; Tahoe Closer to Reality

Tahoe is one step closer to becoming a planned development.

Tuesday, Wheeling's zoning board of appeals voted 4 to 1 to recommend that the ~~site~~ <sup>new</sup> site in western Wheeling on which the Tahoe subdivision ~~was to be~~ built be rezoned for construction of a planned development.

The zoning board's action came after six hours of testimony and discussion on the matter at a public hearing involving representatives of the developer, a group of homeowners from Buffalo Grove's Cambridge subdivision and John Barger, assistant school superintendent for Dist. 21.

Final action on the rezoning request will be taken by Wheeling's village board. Rudolph Johnson, the only board member who voted against the rezoning, will submit a minority report to the village board. Johnson said he opposed the zoning change because he thought the developer failed to supply enough specific information on the development.

APPROXIMATELY 75 people jammed the Wheeling Council Chamber for Tuesday's meeting. Among those there were representatives of the Wheeling and Buffalo Grove Plan commissions, Wheeling Park District Commissioners, Wheeling Village Pres. Ted C. Scanlon, Trustee Michael Valenza, and Buffalo Grove Trustee Ed Fabish.

At Tuesday's hearing, certain plans for the development were outlined by the developer. A study showing the financial impact of the development on the community was also presented.

However, Chesterfield representatives presented no specific plans either for the number or the locations of the buildings. They did say the development would include townhouses with three and four bedrooms along its northern section and one and two-bedroom apartments on the southern part of the property. A swimming pool and a retention basin lake are also included in the plans.

Hillman said the company had first sought to develop Tahoe three years ago but delays resulting from the Cambridge suits had held up development until now. He said a change in the market conditions nationwide had made his firm seek the planned development zoning on the property which it had originally planned for single-family homes and apartments.

Hillman said the altered development would include 350 townhouse units, half three-bedroom units and half four-bed-

room. Also planned are 798 garden apartment units, one third of those one-bedroom, and the other two-thirds two bedroom types. The townhouses would sell for \$30,000 and \$32,500, and the apartments would rent for \$200 and \$250 per month, he said.

THE TAX IMPACT study indicated that 3,572 persons would live in the planned development while 2,828 could live there under present zoning. The number of school children living in the development would be slightly smaller if the zoning changes were granted, it said.

Hillman described the surrounding area, showing single-family, multi-family and planned developments encircle the property.

The attorney for the 27 Buffalo Grove homeowners, who had signed a petition opposing the zoning change, said his clients feel the increase in the number of units on the northern portion of the property under a planned development would materially devalue the homes in Cambridge, overcrowd the schools, and increase flooding problems in the area.

Peter Klein, of 242 Selwyn Lane, Buffalo Grove, told the zoning board that once a piece of property was zoned, "It

should be left that way unless there's some magnificent change suggested. I bought a home here because I wanted to live in a single-family area," he said.

FOLLOWING the testimony the zoning board members discussed the proposal. A motion by Johnson to deny the zoning failed for lack of a second. Another motion by Johnson to continue the hearings also failed for lack of a second.

Finally, after a short silence, the zoning board voted to recommend the petition be approved by the village board.

4-9-70

4-9-70

## Builder Answers Charge

At a recent meeting, Village Atty. Paul Hamer charged the Chesterfield Development Corp., would not sign an agreement to settle the Cambridge subdivision flooding suits unless the village rezoned the firm's Tahoe subdivision as a planned development.

Chesterfield Vice Pres. Fred Hillman commented on that charge Tuesday in response to a question from Wheeling zoning board member Rudolph Johnson.

Hillman explained Chesterfield has not signed the Cambridge suit agreement because, "The village of Buffalo Grove is required to reimburse us for up to a maximum of \$5,000 in connection with construction of the storm sewer system and Richard Brown (developer of Cambridge) is required to reimburse us for up to a maximum of \$16,000. Our engineer's cost estimate for that work shows that it will cost in excess of that \$21,000," Hillman said.

HE EXPLAINED, "to the extent of the difference between the cost of the sewers and those reimbursements, we are contributing to the sewer cost.

"We submit that until we can be sure how the basin system is to be layed out we don't know if that \$21,000 will help." Hillman said Chesterfield is now seeking a final plan for development of property as a planned development and the basin system layout.

Johnson asked if the village board had told Hillman there would be no rezoning unless Chesterfield installed that retention system to service Cambridge. Hillman said his only meeting with village officials recently was one with Hamer, former Village Mgr. Matthew Golden and Chesterfield's attorney, at which Chesterfield's desire to rezone Tahoe was discussed.

## Land Donation Highest Hurdle

If Tahoe subdivision in western Wheeling is to become a planned development, the highest hurdle the developers will have to cross is reaching an agreement with school and park officials on the donation of land for public use on the property.

At a hearing on a zoning change for Tahoe Tuesday, John Barger, Asst. School Dist. 21 Superintendent, said the development plan shown Tuesday included a retention basin on the proposed school site. He said the school district had been agreeable initially to the idea of a cash donation instead of land from the development, but that was when the district expected only 100 or 200 students from the development.

Barger said that with current projections of 500 or 600 students in the area regardless of whether the zoning is kept the same or changed to a planned development the district will need an extra school site to serve the area.

Barger said the cost of a new school building could require the district to seek a \$1.5 million bond issue.

Chesterfield's attorney pointed out to Barger that the school and park districts only have options to purchase the property for a school or condemn it.

Chesterfield will meet with park district officials on the land designation April 16 and a meeting with the school board is expected to be set at a later date.



**GIVING THE WYELING** community pool a final check before it opens for the summer on June 13 are Park Dist. Supt. Ferd Arndt and Dist. Pres.

Robert Ross, inside the pool. Repairs on a leak in the pool's intake pipes have been completed recently and passes for family and individuals for

the pool are now on sale at the park district building at 222 S. Wolf Road.

5-28-70



## Park boss irked by <sup>5/1/70</sup> fire loss

Wheeling Park District Commissioner Eugene Sackett last night expressed his displeasure because park officials were not notified until yesterday that fire destroyed a storage garage at 4 a.m. Monday.

The garage, recently donated to the park district by Mr. and Mrs. Victor Nicholson, 248 W. Jeffery, was recently moved to Heritage Park to be used for storage with tentative plans for use as a boat house. Although it was empty at the time, within 10 hours it would have housed bags of fertilizer.

Sackett told board members he knew nothing of the fire, which completely destroyed the garage, until Mrs. Nicholson called him Wednesday.

Saying he himself suspected arson, Sackett said, "I know it wasn't lighting. Draw your own conclusions. I'm extremely upset because we (commissioners) can't spend tax payers' money for facilities that eventually are destroyed," he said.

Sackett cited other examples of what he called vandalism, including the "wrecked" F-4J Navy plane that had been placed in the Meadowbrook tot lot, and other park damage.

Through Sackett's efforts in 1963, the airplane in "A-1 condition" was provided gratis by the Navy Department in Glenview.

"Our kids did what the North Koreans couldn't do," Sackett said. "They wrecked it to the point where it became a safety hazard so we gave it back to the Navy," he said, "and they used it for fire fighting practice."

## <sup>5/1/70</sup> Donation Goes 'Up In Smoke'

A recent donation to the Wheeling Park District went up in smoke early Tuesday morning.

Wheeling firemen battled a blaze in a garage donated recently to the park district at 3:18 a.m. Tuesday, but were unable to save the building. <sup>MONDAY</sup>

The garage, which had been given to the district by Mr. and Mrs. Victor Nicholson of 248 W. Jeffery Ave. had been moved on to park district property by the toboggan hill temporarily until work on the retention basin area of Heritage Park is completed.

Shortly after the garage was moved onto park property, nearby residents complained because it was placed directly behind their backyards. The garage was then moved to the area by the toboggan hill.

Wheeling Park District Supt. Ferd Arndt said yesterday that when firemen arrived the building was engulfed in flames. Arndt said a pile of debris remained from

Bernie Koeppen, Wheeling, was unavailable for comment as to the cause of the blaze.

## <sup>5/4/70</sup> Sackett Calls Park Garage Fire 'Arson'

Wheeling Park Commissioner Gene Sackett charged Thursday that arsonists were responsible for a fire last week which destroyed a garage being stored by the district in Heritage Park.

Sackett said he was "perturbed" that the district commissioners were not notified of the fire. He said he thought the district should pursue a program to hire a security force in cooperation with School Dist. 21.

Commissioner Alf Wilson suggested the district get a guard dog to protect its property from vandals.

## Registration For Tennis Begins

Registration for tennis classes sponsored jointly by the Wheeling Park District and Wheeling High School has begun.

The classes for fourth graders through adults are being held weekday afternoons in Wheeling High School beginning the week of June 15.

A \$10 fee is charged for the six-week program. Both beginner and intermediate classes for elementary school students, junior high school students and adults will be offered.

Students must provide tennis shoes, a racquet and three tennis balls.

Registration is at the Wheeling Park District Office, 222 S. Wolf Rd.



**TOMORROW IS THE LAST DAY** to buy family summer passes, left, at discount rates for the Wheeling Community Pool. Passes good for all year, right, for both the community

pool and the indoor pool now under construction at Wheeling High School are also on sale at the Wheeling Park District Building, 222 S. Wolf Rd.



IT WAS A BIT OF A struggle, but Roger Stricker, 7, finally made it in to one of the Wheeling Park District's new T-shirts. The yellow shirts with bright green em-

blems are now on sale at the park district fieldhouse, 222 S. Wolf Rd., in Wheeling for \$1 each.

*June 26, 1966*

# Parade Shines As Climax To Fourth

7-6-70

A grand parade under sunny skies yesterday afternoon highlighted the Wheeling Jaycees Fourth of July celebration.

A climax to the five-day celebration which featured fireworks, a carnival, Go-Kart races and model rockets, the parade drew a crowd of several thousand spectators.

Thirty four major units and more than 100 decorated children's bicycles rode past a reviewing stand of village officials who were parade judges.

Winning the best of parade trophy was the Wheeling High School Spurettes marching group which also was chosen as the best marching group by the judges.

Other winners in various categories included the Wheeling Park District's float which depicted summer activities for local children. It won the "best float" trophy.

THE BEST ANTIQUE car trophy went to a Lincoln touring car, while the best decorated car trophy was won by the AC Square Wheels kiddie car which was decorated with a variety of stuffed animals.

Two unclassified trophies provided to honor special units were awarded to the Road Runners Motorcycle Club of Oak Park and the Colt 45 Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps from Dubuque, Iowa.

Other units participating in the 45-minute parade included Shriners Tin Lizzie and mini-bike units, Cub Scout Pack 19 float of a pup tent with sleeping cub scout, and Boy Scout Troop 212 Drum Corps.

An all-girl marching unit, the Bellettes from Bellville were on hand for the festivities yesterday.

Among the other local units were the AC Square Wheels, The Wheeling Lions Club, Phillip Carpenter Amvets Post 66, The Guardsmen Cadets from Mount Prospect, and a Wheeling Township Republican organization float.

Saturday afternoon "Big Bertha" and "Little Hercules" were there and so were a lot of go-kart enthusiasts for the go-kart races and model rocket demonstrations at Wheeling High School.

The Go-Kart demonstration from noon until 2:15 p.m. included races between members of the River Valley Kart Club and a chance for local residents to inspect the karts and talk to their drivers.

A track for the races was laid out in the back parking lot at the high school just north of the carnival.

The model rocket activities, sponsored by Tony's Hobby Lobby, began at 3 p.m. in a field west of the carnival.

Plans to shoot down balloons with the rockets were foiled by brisk gusty winds. Numbered tickets in the balloons could be redeemed for prizes. However, the wind obliged by breaking the balloons for local children.

EACH OF THE tickets was good for a prize valued anywhere from \$25 to 25 cents at Tony's Hobby Lobby.

Some of the larger rockets such as the "Big Bertha" model failed to fire when placed on the launch pad. The smaller "Little Hercules" rockets wowed the crowd with their fast take offs.

Several rockets headed straight for the ground again when their parachutes

failed, some of the individually designed ones wobbled heavily into the air before falling to earth.

Despite the wind and cool temperatures, both the rocket enthusiasts and spectators enjoyed the show.

Saturday night the Jaycees presented their third annual fireworks display. In addition to 45 minutes worth of aerial fireworks, the crowd was treated to ground displays including a Liberty Bell, complete with crack, a massive Niagara Falls of shooting fireworks, a Jaycee crest, and a sign reading "Thanks, see you next year."

As a ground display American Flag was ignited, a burst of fireworks lit the sky. The crowd almost filled the high school stadium bleachers, as other residents watched from their cars and carnival grounds. Light showers dampened the crowd, but not the enthusiasm.

Fireworks displays in surrounding communities to the northwest, southwest and north east could be seen simultaneously with the Wheeling display from the stadium bleachers.

# Near Completion Of Flood Basins

7/9/70

Completion of the flood control detention basins north of the Heritage Park fieldhouse will take two or three weeks once work resumes, village officials said Monday.

A meeting was held last week among George Passolt, acting village manager; Ferd Arndt, park district superintendent; D. E. Kleiner of Harza Engineering Co., village consultants on the flood control; John Moselle of Glenview Sewer and Water company, contractor for the work; and Larry Oppenheimer, village director of public works.

Kleiner told the village in a letter that work to be completed on the basins includes grading, clay lining, topsoil and seeding, installing the under drainage system and flap gates, excavation of the ditch along Wolf road and general clean-up and fence repairs.

Most of the work on the two small basins cannot begin until the strike of operating engineers is settled, Kleiner said.

**PUMPING OF WATER** from the basins by the Glenview firm has dried the basins so work can begin once strikes are settled.

Work on the two basins was originally scheduled to be completed in March. Park officials wrote to the village late last month urging action on the project.

The park district had planned to use the completed basins for softball and archery classes this summer.

Moreover, piles of topsoil to finish the

project are piled on a playground south of the fieldhouse, so that playground is also unusable.

The park board charged that in addition to interfering with its programs, the uncompleted project is a health and safety hazard and is unsightly.

## Flood Basin Cost Increases: \$610

Costs of the flood basin in Wheeling's Heritage Park ice rink, designed to alleviate flooding in the Meadowbrook east section of the village, have been increased by \$610.

Wheeling's village board approved the additional amount Monday.

The added costs are to provide additional drainage tile and a sewer gate for the 7-acre basin, Larry Oppenheimer, director of Public Works, told the Herald.

**OPPENHEIMER** said the realignment of the tile was needed to make sure the basin would drain when the level of the drainage ditch (creek) goes down after a rain. Oppenheimer said it was doubtful that the water would have drained from the basin adequately under the old plan. He said the additional tile and the gate would provide a steeper grade for the flow of water and assure the basin would empty itself of water after the creek level subsides.

# Drainage Set For Cambridge

6/9/78

by ALAN AKERSON

Apparently construction will soon begin on a temporary drainage system to relieve flooding in the Cambridge area of Buffalo Grove and the western portion of Wheeling.

An agreement for the construction of both the temporary and, later, a permanent drainage system is now being signed by the several parties involved in the Cambridge flooding controversy and the lawsuits that have resulted from the flooding.

**YESTERDAY**, Fred Hillman, vice president of Chesterfield Development Corp., the firm in charge of the system's construction, said work will begin within 30 days after the agreement is signed.

Last week, Wheeling trustees authorized Village Pres. Ted Scanlon to sign the agreement. Hillman said his firm had also signed the agreement.

Last night, Buffalo Grove's trustees were expected to consider a resolution approving the agreement, according to Village Atty. Richard Raysa. Raysa said yesterday he was going to draw up the resolution.

Among the other parties who are to sign the agreement are Richard Brown, Cambridge's builder, and William Frazier, a resident of Jackson Drive whose property is directly behind the southeast corner of Cambridge.

Once all the parties involved sign the agreement, Judge Daniel Covelli, in whose court the matter is being handled, is expected to issue a consent decree. The pending lawsuits then will be dropped, and work will go forward.

**THE AGREEMENT** now being signed is one that has been revised. According to Hillman the original agreement underwent the revision because it specified that various phases of the work be started by certain dates. That agreement was drawn up about 11 months ago, however, and the dates have long since passed according to Hillman.

Included in the agreement is a provision that Chesterfield must start work on the permanent drainage system only after Wheeling approves to Chesterfield's will be built on Buffalo Grove Road just south of Cambridge. It lies in the village

limits of Wheeling, however.

Signing of the agreement in no way commits the village to approving either plats of subdivision for its proposed Tahoe development. That development the zoning changes of the plats for Tahoe, said Paul Hamer, Wheeling village attorney.

Raysa criticized the agreement because of the provision of plat approval as a prerequisite for construction of the permanent system. He also criticized both Wheeling and Chesterfield Development, saying they were the "ones that were holding it up." He added that "Buffalo Grove has always been ready to sign the agreement."

Raysa said a report was to be made to Judge Covelli today as to the progress in having the agreement signed. He indicated that if it was not signed, the judge might be asked to take certain steps to have it signed.

## 'Basin' Bids Are Accepted

In connection with the flooding that goes on in the northern Cambridge area and in the western portion of Wheeling, bids have been accepted by Wheeling for work on the Husky Park retention basin. That basin will handle drainage from the northern Cambridge area. Village officials accepted the bids last week only after announcing the agreement was being signed.

Village board members noted that until the parties involved indicated they would sign the agreement, the village was unable to begin work on the Husky Park basin because final engineering plans were undetermined.

The indefinite plans resulted from the fact that if the agreement had fallen through, the village would have had to enlarge the Husky basin to handle additional Cambridge drainage. That drainage will be handled by the sewer system to be installed by Cambridge.

The Cambridge flooding has resulted in several lawsuits over the last four years. The suits were consolidated for trial purposes about 18 months ago. In a series of pretrial negotiations an agreement for a drainage system to end the flooding was drawn up. The system included both the project to be done by Chesterfield and the Husky retention basin.

## Park Guards Are Hired <sup>5/9/70</sup>

A security police force to protect Wheeling Park District property against vandalism has been hired by the park board.

The force, men from the Illinois County Detective Agency, will be hired on a trial basis for a three-month period with a year-long contract coming later if service is satisfactory.

The security guards will periodically check all park facilities including the outdoor and indoor swimming pools as well as park sites and buildings. When they will be on duty will be kept secret.

The guards will also direct traffic for park events.

Park board members noted that the agency is also employed currently by the Mount Prospect and River Trails park districts.

BOARD MEMBERS noted that the cost of the service should be not much more than vandalism is costing the park district at present.

Park Treasurer William Blank commented that he felt "it is terrible to have to use recreation funds and corporate funds to get protection of taxpayers' property. It's absolutely wrong that this has to be done," Blank said.

Commissioner Gene Sackett noted that the district may have to charge higher fees for programs to help pay for the policing service.

Vandals have already broken three of the new windows installed at the Community Church building in Chamber of Commerce Park, the board learned Thursday.

## Swim Teams Now Being Organized

A new swimming team for boys and girls in elementary and junior high schools is being organized by the Wheeling Park District.

The team will compete with other local teams and attempt to start an area conference. Plans are also being made for the team to participate in Amateur Athletic Union meets in summer.

The new district aquatics director, Ray Kittendorf, is organizing the team. He has scheduled an information and registration meeting for participants and their parents at 2 p.m. Sunday.

All prospective team members are required to attend the meeting at which team plans will be discussed.

Participants must live in the Wheeling park district.

## Sunday Bike Rides Planned

Bicycle rides for the long-distance rider and the short-distance amateur are planned for Sunday by the Wheeling Wheelmen Bicycle Club.

A 45-mile ride will leave Heritage Park on Wolf Road at 7 a.m. and will include a breakfast stop enroute to Wright Woods Forest Preserve northeast of Wheeling for the Chicago Council of the League of American Wheelmen picnic.

The shorter 18-mile ride will leave Heritage park at 9 a.m. and proceed directly to the forest preserve for the picnic.

Participants in either ride should bring lunches. Beverages will be provided at the picnic.

ON JULY 19 a ride will leave Heritage Park at 9 a.m. for a trip to Deer Grove Forest Preserve near Palatine by way of Long Grove.

Every Wednesday night social and training rides for riders leave Heritage Park at 7 p.m.

## Wheelmen Set Area Schedule <sup>5/9/70</sup>

A regular schedule of bicycle rides for area residents has been planned by the "Wheeling Wheelmen" bicycle club in conjunction with the Wheeling Park District.

Rides will be held every Wednesday night beginning at 6:30 p.m. and each Sunday beginning at 9 a.m. All rides will begin at Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Rd.

Special rides planned during the summer will include a June 28 ride along the bikeway in the Fox River Valley with the St. Charles Bicycle Club. Riders will meet at the park at 9 a.m. and drive to St. Charles in a group.

On July 12 area riders will join the Chicago Council of the League of American Wheelmen for the annual picnic in Wright Woods forest preserve. An 18-mile ride to the picnic will begin at Heritage park at 9 a.m. and a 40-mile ride to the same picnic will leave Heritage park at 7 a.m.

Other rides planned this summer include a ride to Deer Grove Forest Preserve. An 18-mile ride to the picnic will begin at Heritage park at 9 a.m. and a 40-mile ride to the same picnic will leave Heritage park at 7 a.m.

Other rides planned this summer include a ride to Deer Grove Forest Preserve (and to Barrington and back for long-distance riders) June 21.

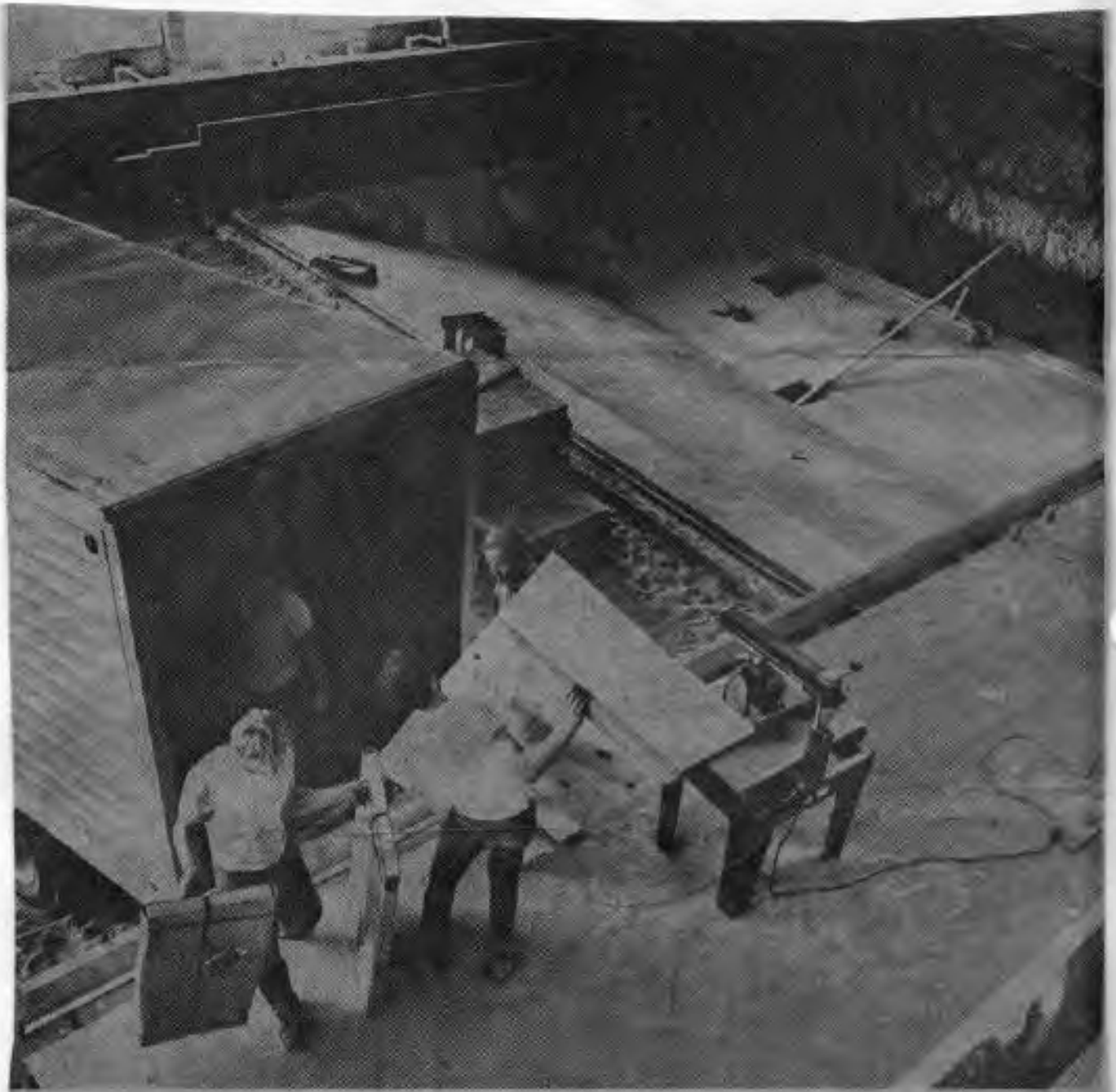
July 19 the ride will be to a farm in Libertyville where white Lippizan horses are raised.

Additional information on club activities is available from Keith Vernon, Park District Recreation director at 537-2222.

## Archery Classes Open <sup>20 1970</sup>

Registration for the second session of summer archery classes sponsored by the Wheeling Park District is now open. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday the weeks of June 29 to July 10.

A \$2 fee is charged for the course which meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Heritage Park. The class is open to children age 10 and up. Instructor is R. Mudd. Additional information and registration forms are available from the park District fieldhouse at 222 S. Wolf Rd.



**INTERIOR WORK IS** now being completed on the new School by the Wheeling Park District. WHS students indoor pool, being built next door to Wheeling High should begin to use it about Oct. 1. 7-29-70

# School-Park Sites Shift to Planners

Consideration of four new joint school-park sites in Wheeling, three of them in the northern area which will eventually be in the village, has been shifted to the Village Plan Commission.

The Village Board Monday directed the Plan Commission to hold hearings on the sites recommended by park and school officials.

Before sending the sites to the Plan Commission, however, the board discussed problems which might arise with one site which is partially located on land already within the village which has been zoned for industry.

**TRUSTEES QUESTIONED** Village Atty. Paul Hamer on whether a public land use designation on property already in the village and already zoned would be legally effective.

Hamer said that the land use designation remains effective until the property is subdivided or, in the case of a planned development, until the final plat of the development receives approval.

Board members also asked Hamer if a property owner could object to the placing of a designation on his property. Hamer said the owner could appear at the public hearings before the plan commission and testify if he objects.

The four sites include one located south of the intersection of Wolf Road and the Lake-Cook County line; one at the county line just east of the Soo Line R. R. tracks; one west of the tracks along an extension of Elmhurst Road immediately north of the Hollywood Park Apartment project; and a fourth site in the southern part of the school district just north of the Lamplighter Apartments on Wolf Road.

The school and park board also asked

that a public land use designation on another site in the northern area be removed.

If the village board places a public land use designation on a piece of property, the public bodies have one year after the land is subdivided to purchase the land or condemn it for public use.

## SHARED Facilities

Groundwork was laid for mutual sharing of facilities and programs between the Buffalo Grove and Wheeling park districts at a joint meeting of the two boards last Thursday.

The co-operation could include having Buffalo Grove residents travel to Wheeling to participate in programs and Wheeling residents participating in programs held in Buffalo Grove.

Buffalo Grove Commissioners John Bell summed up the attitude of the Buffalo Grove district when he said, "I know we can benefit from the sharing and I hope you can too."

Wheeling Commissioner Bernard Erlin replied, "if we have room, then I see no reason why we can't share."

The Wheeling board wanted to know the relationship between the Buffalo Grove district, the village board and the school districts.

**WILLIAM KIDDLE**, Buffalo Grove district president, said that the district has been working with School Dist. 21 in developing school-park sites.

The park district has taken over title to the recreational land and facilities previously owned by the village, he added.

The discussion then moved to the use of Wheeling's soon-to-be completed indoor pool. Commissioner Mrs. Lorraine Lark said that no policies for the use of

the pool have been formulated so perhaps some type of agreement could be worked out.

The two boards also discussed the possibility of jointly buying an existing golf course to be available to residents of both districts. Fees would be charged on a daily basis. Commissioners talked about the possible purchase of either the Arlington Country Club on Dundee Road or the Buffalo Grove Golf Club on Lake-Cook Road in Buffalo Grove.

Eugene Sackett, a Wheeling Park District commissioner, cited the success the Glenview Park District has enjoyed with the golf course it owns.

"They've got so much money from the golf course, they don't know what to do with it."

**HE ALSO SAID** there is no difficulty in selling revenue bonds to pay for acquisition of the golf course, because golf courses are "paying propositions."

For the near future, both boards agreed to investigate the possibility of combined maintenance of an ice skating rink between the Tarkington and Sandburg school sites in the area of the baseball fields. It was agreed that the superintendents will pursue the matter further.

Both boards agreed that another meeting will be held in January to iron out the mechanics of sharing programs for the spring schedule.



# Board: No Soo Depot Help

Monday, June 8, 1970

Wheeling's Park board turned down an offer Thursday from the Wheeling Historical Society to participate in a program to save the old Soo Line R.R. depot as a local monument.

The park board's refusal came after a discussion of the depot and of the \$18,500 the district has spent helping the historical society move and renovate the 105-year-old Community Church now in Chamber of Commerce Park.

The Soo Line R.R. had offered to sell the depot to any local organization for \$10 — provided the organization will pay a contractor to move the old depot and clean up the depot site after removing the building.

**THE PARK BOARD** considered placing the building on a corner of Heritage Park, installing some railroad track and placing an old railroad car or caboose there.

A letter and a draft of an agreement to buy the building had been sent to the park board by Historical Society member Marshall Balling.

Balling said yesterday the Historical Society has limited funds because tax rebated from the Township have ceased. Members had hoped the park district might be able to help save the depot.

Balling said the Historical Society has photos of the original depot when the railroad went through the village in the 1880's and that he thinks the building is the same one.

He said new siding has been added to the building however.

**THE DEPOT IS** currently boarded up. It stands about a half block south of Dundee Road along the side of the tracks.

Before the park board voted against participating in the saving of the depot, Commissioner Alf Wilson said that the first step would be to have a contractor look at the building to see if it is struc-

turally sound and whether it could be moved.

Board Pres. Robert Ross noted that the renovation might cost the district "another \$20,000" like the Community Church had.

Gene Sackett, the park commissioner who made the motion to deny the request from the historical society, said he was doing so with reservations. "We have to reject the offer purely for economic reasons," Sackett said.

**HE NOTED THAT** the two best historical buildings in the village, the old village hall and the church, have been preserved. "We have to look at park needs first."

The board members also discussed a \$100 check received from the historical society to help pay for the church renovation.

The Park board borrowed \$20,000 to pay for the moving and renovation of the church building. The loan will be repaid with park funds and with monies raised by the historical society.

The 150-year-old church which once served as a community church for all of Wheeling will be used as a meeting place for area organizations following completion of its renovation.

**A dedication** of the building is planned in August.

# Kids Give Old Church New Look



Paint-spattered Jack Kimsey



An old church got a new look recently thanks to about 15 Wheeling-area teenagers.

The teens, most of them from Wheeling, painted the outside of the 105-year-old Community Presbyterian Church, one of the oldest buildings in Wheeling.

Their work is part of the planned renovation of the historical monument.

The group, led by members of the Community Presbyterian Church Youth Group, began painting the church July 19 and completed work last Tuesday after being held up by rain July 18.

With a radio blaring popular music, painters used ladders and scaffolds to help restore the church that will be used as a community meeting center when finished.

Jack Kimsey, who along with his wife sponsors the youth group, said the teens

worked hard to finish the outside painting of the church.

"And it's not just kids from Wheeling. There have been some from Buffalo Grove and Prospect Heights, too," he explained. He stressed the paint crew was a non-denominational group.

"It's nice when you have kids who like to work and have fun, too," said Kimsey covered with white paint from a morning accident with a full paint can.

**PAINTING THE** outside of the church is one more step in completion of the restoration process. Washroom facilities, tiling, floor refinishing and inside repairs are still needed before the building can be used.

The Wheeling Park District has borrowed approximately \$20,000 for restoration funds and has bought siding to winterize the building. The park district plans to use the land around the church

as a recreational area primarily for adults and small children.

For many years the building housed the congregation of the Community Presbyterian Church of Wheeling. The congregation's present church structure is at 196 E. Highland Ave.

The venerable church building that at one time served not only Presbyterians but other denominations in the community, ~~was moved from its original site on Dundee Road just west of the fire station to make room for a Dunkin' Donuts Shop.~~

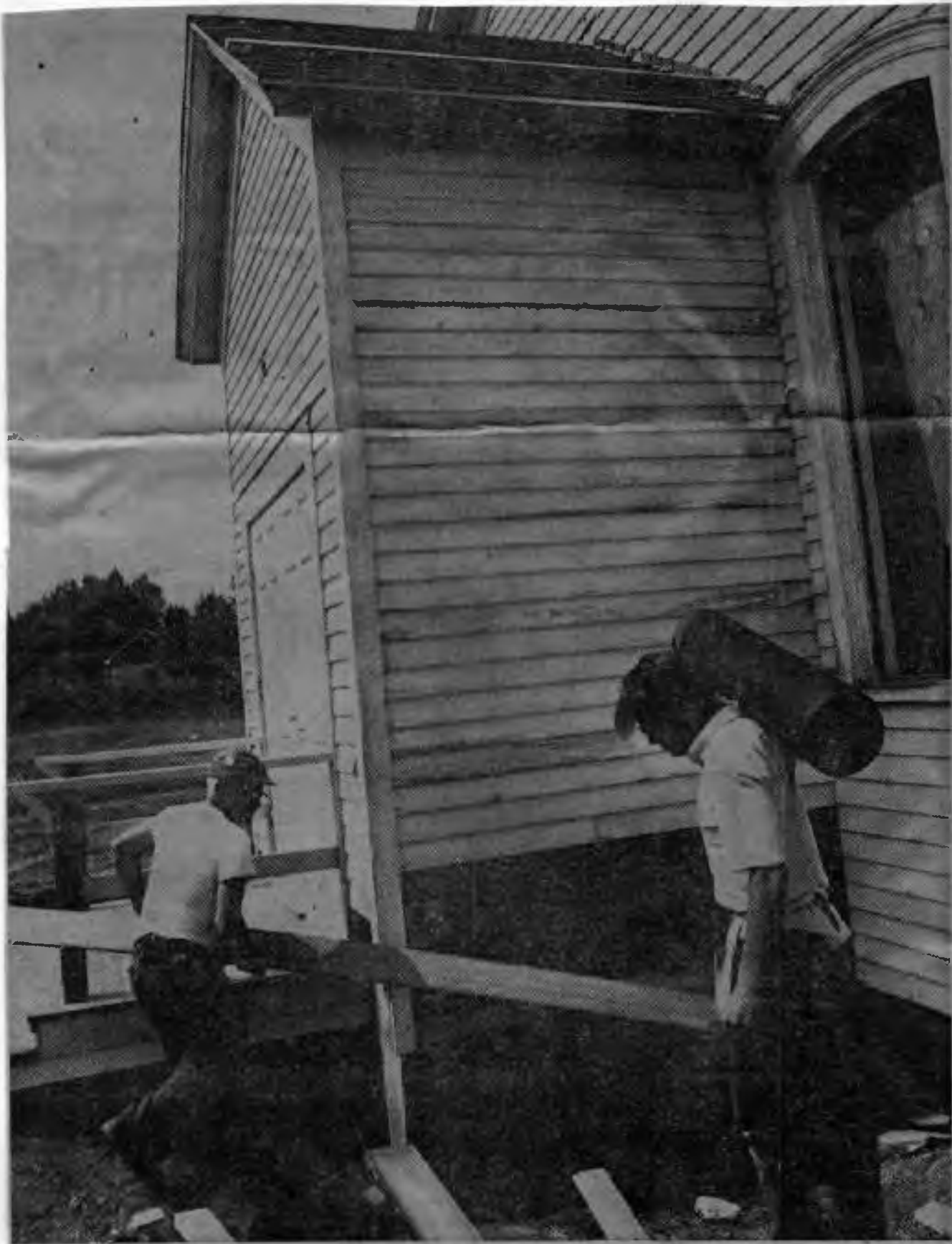
The building now rests on Chamber of Commerce Park land adjacent to the Wheeling Community Pool on Wolf Road and is owned by the park district. The park district is working with the Wheeling Historical Society to raise money to pay for the moving and renovation of the monument.



**LINING UP FOR THE BIG** parade, 34 units from Wheeling, surrounding communities and out-of-state prepared to march from London Junior High to Wheeling High School yesterday. A group of children watched prepara-

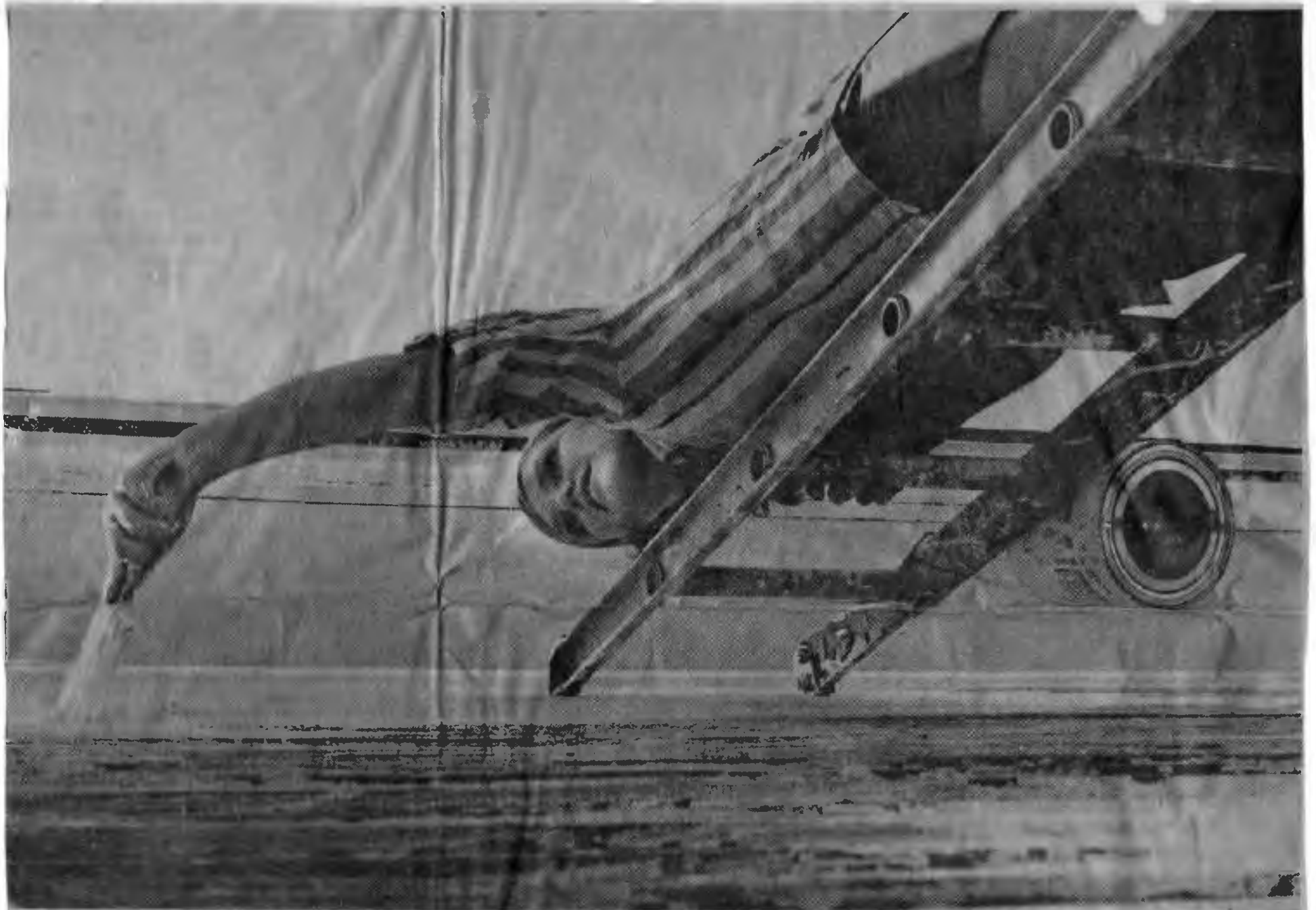
tions for the Wheeling Jaycee sponsored parade from the pedestrian overpass just west of London Junior High.

7-6-70



**RESTORATION OF THE** 105-year-old Community Church in Chamber of Commerce Park is nearing completion, Wheeling Park Board members said Thursday. The board decided Thursday not to help renovate the

old Soo Line Depot with the Wheeling Historical Society because of limited funds. Contractor Erwin Maihack, left, and son Terry are shown working on the front of the church.



7-27-70

Reaching for the top is Dreama Hans' job.



Female muscle provided by Ruth Carlberg, left, Pattie Kish and Diane Gill.

# Park To Protest Tahoe

Wheeling's Park District Commissioners are concerned about the village's plans for a school park site on the property being developed as the Tahoe subdivision in western Wheeling.

And the park commissioners intend to express that concern to the village.

While Chesterfield Development Co., builders to Tahoe, have reached an agreement with School District 21 officials, no agreement has been reached with the park district as yet.

When the property was rezoned from single family homes and apartment zoning to a planned development of apartments and townhouses June 24th, the developers told the village about the agreement they had reached with the school district.

The school district will waive its rights to a joint school park site on the property in exchange for money, the developers said.

**THE DEVELOPERS** have asked the park district to waive its rights to the site as well, noting that recreational facilities for the residents of the complex

have been provided. No decision has been made by the park board.

The provision remains until removed by the village board. It would probably be removed after a final plat of the Tahoe project is approved by the village.

The park board members said Thursday at a committee meeting that they would ask the village to consult the park district before any action to remove the school-park site public use designation is taken.

## \$25 Prize For Best Poet Name

Wheeling school children are going to choose the new name for the Wheeling Park District's indoor swimming pool in a contest sponsored by the district.

The contest to choose a name for the new pool located at Wheeling High School offers a prize of a \$25 savings bond and a plaque for the best name.

Children in grade school and junior high school are eligible to enter the contest. Deadline for entries is Oct. 3.

Entry blanks are being distributed in local schools and boxes to deposit completed blanks are available at the schools and at the Heritage Park fieldhouse at 222 S. Wolf Rd.

The opening date for the new pool is tentatively set for Oct. 15.

# Park District Rental Rates Changed

Certain local organizations may be eligible for a discount on room rental rates under a new program adopted Thursday by the Wheeling Park District Board.

A new schedule of rates approved last summer had recently resulted in much opposition from members of the Wheeling Over 50 Club, the AC Square Wheel's square dancing club, and the Wheeling Women's Club.

Basic fees for rental of park facilities were increased to \$15 for the gymnasium and \$5 for other rooms on week nights, \$25 for the gymnasium and \$10 for other rooms on Saturdays, and \$35 for the gymnasium and \$10 for other rooms on Sundays.

**RENTALS OF THE** new church building facility in Chamber of Commerce park are set at \$5 for week nights, \$10 for Saturday, and \$15 for Sunday.

These new rates would have doubled the costs of room rentals for at least one of the organizations, according to a member of the AC Square Wheels.

The park board did set up an alternate procedure, however, any organization could plead a hardship to the district and

ask for reduced rates such as \$30 per year for 12 meetings in a room or \$100 a year for 12 meetings in the gymnasium, the board said.

To apply for such a variation an organization must submit an application in writing 15 days before a meeting of the district board.

**ON THE FORM** the organization must include reasons for the requests for the variation, aims and purposes of the organization or club, a list of contributions (monetary) the organization has made for community improvement in the past with emphasis on contributions in the last 12 months, and the number of members in the club both active and inactive residing in or outside of the park district.

For the next 30 days organizations who have filed for a ruling on a variation will not have to pay a fee for use of the facilities until their request is ruled on.

After that time normal fees will remain in effect even if the board is considering a group's variation. The variations can be reviewed each year if the district board wishes. Organizations which are not granted variations may

cancel their contracts to use district facilities if they wish.

Among the things to be considered by the board in ruling on a request for a variation are where the organizations efforts are channeled, the total community involvement of the group, the effect on the park district's role in the community, the sincerity of the request, and if the organization is responsible enough to use facilities without a custodian on duty.

**THE BOARD APPROVED** the new plan Thursday night by a 4 to 1 vote. Commissioner Gene Sackett was the only commissioner to vote against setting up the variation system.

Sackett said he thought the district had "opened a Pandora's box" and that no organization would end up paying the established fees.

Commissioner Lorraine Lark disagreed saying she thought the district should try the variation system for a year and see if it was financially feasible.

Ten members of the Over 50 club and two members of the AC Square Wheels attended Thursday's meeting to encourage approval of the variation system.



**THE DAWN OF LIFE**, a water ballet skit, was part of a special water show at dedication ceremonies Sunday for the new indoor pool at Wheeling High School. The

Wheeling Park District pool, officially named "Neptune's Pool" at the dedication, will be open for recreational swimming later this week.