

Scholarship Benefit Night at Claim Jumper

Come to Claim Jumper in Wheeling on Thursday, October 18, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., for the Wheeling Park District Scholarship Benefit Night.

The restaurant at 781 Milwaukee Avenue will donate 10 percent of all food purchases to the Wheeling Park District Scholarship Fund. The Fund is dedicated to offering program assistance in the form of scholarships to resident children ages 18 years and under. As of September 1, 2007, the Wheeling Park District has released \$60,000 in scholarships for the 2007 fiscal year. These funds have given youth in the community an opportunity to participate in Park District sports, camps, and activities that they otherwise would not have been able to enjoy.

The Wheeling Park District Scholarship Benefit Night is a great way to help the kids of the community while enjoying great food. Please bring the flyer pictured on this page to Claim Jumper and present it to your server when ordering. For more information, call (847) 465-3333.



Help the kids of the community by eating great food!

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT NIGHT

Claim Jumper Wheeling
781 Milwaukee Avenue
Thursday, October 18
5-9 PM

Claim Jumper will donate 10% of your food purchase October 18, 5-9 p.m., to the Wheeling Park District Scholarship Fund — dedicated to offering program assistance in the form of scholarships to resident children (ages 18 and under).

Present this flyer when ordering.

CLAIM JUMPER
RESTAURANTS

For more information, call (847) 465-3333.

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*Don't miss a
memorable experience!*

- Oct. 5 First Friday Family Fun at Arctic Splash
- Oct. 6 Community Health Expo
- Oct. 7 Family Baggo Contest
- Oct. 14 Fall Fest 5K/10K
- Oct. 14 Fall Festival
- Oct. 20 Fall Sweeper Golf Event
- Oct. 26 Halloween Hayrides
- Nov. 2 First Friday Family Fun at Arctic Splash
- Nov. 17 Turkey Shoot
- Nov. 24 Turkey Trimming Workout
- Dec. 7 First Friday Family Fun at Arctic Splash
- Dec. 8 Breakfast with Santa

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In The

Fall 2007

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A Newsletter for Residents and Friends of the Wheeling Park District

The Pieces Are Coming Together

These are exciting times for the Wheeling community. After months of planning, the pieces are coming together for the "new" Heritage Park. By creating a partnership with the Village of Wheeling and working with State legislators and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the Wheeling Park District has secured the funding for a land acquisition that will lead the way for Heritage Park to become the premiere community park for the residents of Wheeling.

On Monday, August 13, the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners and the Village of Wheeling Trustees finalized a land exchange agreement to allow for the expansion of Heritage Park and the construction of a new Village Hall on Dundee Road. The swap gives the Wheeling Park District approximately eight acres of land adjacent to Heritage Park and south of the current Village Hall, including the former public works/engineering facility which will be demolished. The Village of Wheeling will receive approximately six acres of land west of

the current facility on Dundee Road for a new Village Hall.

On the same night the Park District and Village finalized this agreement, the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners completed the purchase of 10 acres of open space adjacent to Heritage Park from St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church. The purchase of this property was made possible, in part, by a \$400,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant through the IDNR. This grant was available to the Park District, in part, due to the dedicated work of State Senator Terry Link and State Representative Kathy Ryg. Their leadership in preserving the funding for the OSLAD programs is a major reason why the Park District was able to acquire this property.

The Redevelopment of Heritage Park

Over the coming weeks, months, and years, the Wheeling Park District will be working closely with Wheeling residents to redevelop Heritage Park into their vision of a community park

through the unique "people-driven" process facilitated by Park District staff. The purchase of land from St. Joseph and the land exchange with the Village of Wheeling were the two vital pieces needed to set this process in motion.

The history of Heritage Park dates back to 1964 when the Park District purchased 66 acres of land from G.D. Searle and Company with a grant from the Federal Open Space Land Program. Situated between the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks and Wolf Road just north of the Meadowbrook subdivision, construction began on a community recreation center, a lighted baseball field, and an ice rink in 1965.

The redevelopment of Heritage Park represents the largest single project undertaken by the Wheeling Park District since construction of the Community Recreation Center in 1994. In some respects, it could be considered the Park District's most significant project because it means changing a long-standing community park used by every age group in the entire community.



Heritage Park offers a unique opportunity to develop, not only a community park, but a Municipal/Park District campus, a transit-oriented development, and a variety of natural areas. Because the property is contiguous with Village of Wheeling property, Park District facilities, potential development property, and the Metra rail station, understanding how all these entities will impact the design is crucial to its success.

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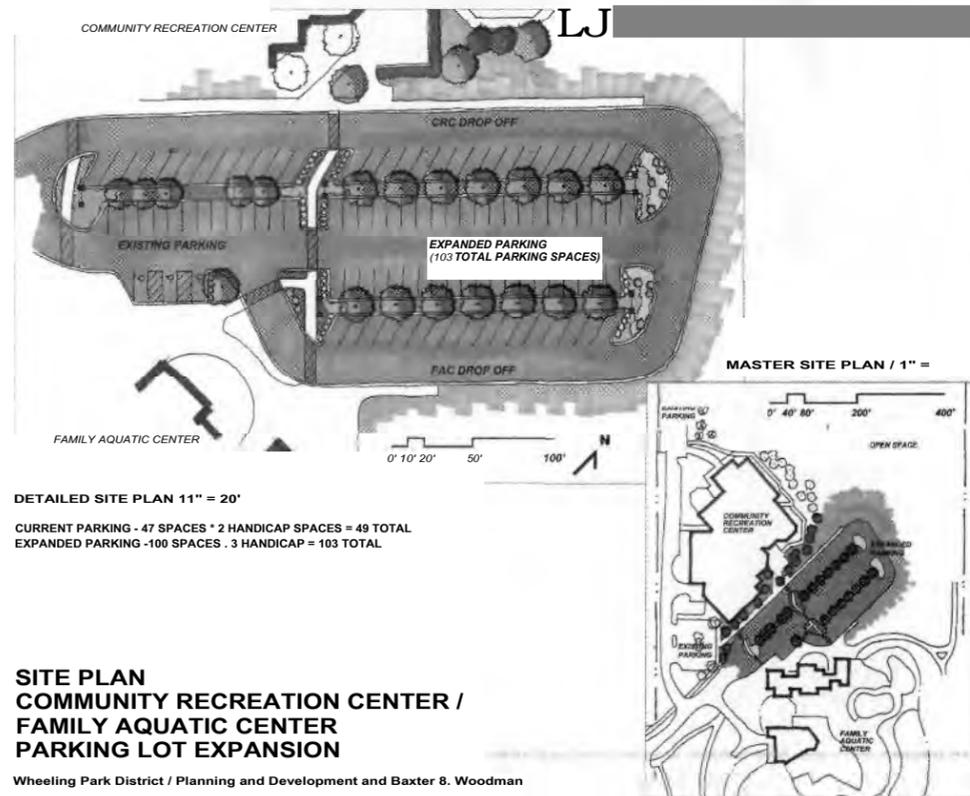
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More Parking Planned for Heritage Park

The Wheeling Park District is planning to add 54 additional spaces to the existing parking lot situated between the Aquatic Center and the Community Recreation Center. This modification will offer guest parking closer to the facilities, improved vehicular flow, and an expanded Aquatic Center drop-off area in addition to more handicap parking spaces.

The design also calls for planting 15 ornamental shade trees, native grasses, and perennials. Light fixtures will be installed to match the existing standards.

The parking expansion project will be configured to align with the proposed access road that will serve the future Municipal/Park District campus. The design of the parking lot, which has been approved by the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners, will fit seamlessly with the proposed Municipal and Park District Campus.



The Pieces Are Coming Together

The Park District places a high priority on a development process that seeks input and support from community leaders as well the general public. Equally important is understanding the sensitive nature of this park while striking the delicate balance between active and passive recreation. The public process, as well as the Community Attitude and Interest Survey and the Park District Comprehensive Plan, will drive this project. To augment these reports, the Park District expects to gather public support through stakeholder interviews and focus group meetings that will allow all concerned organizations to present their views. Information on these meetings will

be made available as they are scheduled. Funding will play a large role in the redevelopment of Heritage Park. Therefore, alternative funding opportunities, such as grants and partnerships will be explored and researched as part of the master planning process. It is important to note that due to the efforts of our legislators in both the House and Senate, the Park District will be eligible to pursue additional grants from the IDNR. The \$400,000 OSLAD grant the Park District received for the purchase of the St. Joseph property is a great example of potential opportunities for funding. However, had the purchase of the

St. Joe property not occurred, the Park District would have lost the \$400,000 grant in addition to being barred from obtaining any other IDNR grants for a period of two years.

CRC/Family Aquatic Center Parking Expansion

While not considered a direct part of the project, the CRC/Family Aquatic Center parking lot expansion will have a significant impact on the redevelopment of Heritage Park. The expansion began in September of 2007 and is expected to be completed by November of this year. The new parking lot will connect Park District facilities and Heritage Park to the new Park District/Municipal

Campus access road. See the article above for more details about this project.

Get Involved

The Wheeling Park District Board and Staff are very excited about the opportunity the Heritage Park project presents for the community. As a resident of Wheeling, you are encouraged to take an active role in the "people driven" planning process and help us achieve our Vision to become the provider of choice in parks and recreation within the communities that we serve. If you would like to be involved in this process, contact Matt Wehby, Community Relations Manager, at (847) 465-2937.

Continued from page 1.

New Wheeling Park District Commissioner - Vivian Smith

On Tuesday, September 4, the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners unanimously selected Vivian Smith to fill the empty seat on the Park Board.

Vivian brings a well-rounded perspective to the Board as a long-time resident, parent, Park District participant, and business owner. When Vivian heard of Commissioner Philipp's resignation from the Park Board, she felt the timing was right for her to get involved on the Board and offer her expertise to the community of Wheeling.



"I have a diverse business background which includes corporate and criminal law, safety, risk management, and construction," said Vivian. Currently, Vivian is President of the Wheeling-based Smith Family Construction Company.

After graduating from Wheeling High School in 1976, Vivian and her husband chose Wheeling to raise their five children who range in age from six to 20 years old. Her involvement with the Wheeling Park District as an adult began 20 years ago when she registered her oldest son for swim lessons at the age of six months. She and her family continue to enjoy the facilities offered at the Park District and remain active in Park District programs.

One of Vivian's goals while on the Board is to see the community gain as much as possible from the new Park District/Municipal Campus and to ensure that all segments of the population — from seniors to toddlers — have ample opportunities to engage in activities there. Vivian is a strong supporter of more passive open space for people to walk, hike, and bike. She also would like to work for an increase in developmental sports at the Park District.

"I am very excited to be on the Wheeling Park District Board and to be part of the strategic planning to improve our parks and recreation system for the long-range needs of the community," said Vivian.

Vivian's appointment to the Board of Commissioners will run until 2009.

Community Health Expo

The Wheeling community is invited to a Health Expo Saturday, October 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wheeling Park District Community Recreation Center.

Co-sponsored by the Village of Wheeling and the Wheeling Park District, the event will feature health and wellness information. Blood pressure screenings, massages, spinal screenings, health screenings, acupuncture, and Living Will workshops also will be offered in addition to fire prevention tips and smoking cessation information. Many state, county, township, and village organizations also will provide information on their services including the Cook County Assessor, District 214 Community Education, Illinois Veteran's Affairs Office, Indian Trails Library, Omni Resource Center, SWANCC, Wheeling Fire Department, Wheeling Police Department, Wheeling Park District, and Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce.

This event is free to the public. There is a minimal charge for some health screenings requiring inoculations or lab work, but most services are free.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how the services in your community can help you live a healthier life. For more information, contact Beverly Slaby at (847) 459-2621 or Nancy Jenssen at (847) 459-2670.

Sponsor Spotlight - Westin Chicago North Shore

The Westin Chicago North Shore is approaching a one-year anniversary on October 12, 2007. It has been an outstanding year of hosting many corporate events in addition to numerous weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, fund raisers, and social events.

The Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling has successfully blended style and elegance with the convenience of a full-service hotel.

From the Westin Heavenly Bed® to the Westin Heavenly Bath®, each of their 412 luxurious guest rooms and suites feature all the comfort and amenities for which Westin has become known. To accommodate all of your travel needs, the hotel also offers a fully-equipped business center, Club Lounge, and the WestinWORKOUT® Powered by Reebok Gym. In addition to the expansive fitness center, unwind with a relaxing swim in the indoor pool.

A total of 35,000 square feet of flexible meeting and event space makes the Westin Chicago North Shore the perfect choice for weddings, conferences, and banquets. Along with the 14,825-square foot Ravinia Grand Ballroom, the largest on the North Shore, the hotel boasts three junior ballrooms, each measuring approximately 5,000 square feet.

For your dining pleasure, the hotel features three dining options: Osteria di Tramonto, a three-meal restaurant offering Italian specialties; Tramonto's Steak & Seafood, a dinner-only restaurant featuring specially-cut steaks and fresh seafood preparations; RT Lounge, a stylish lounge serving small plates of oysters, shrimp, and other 'crudos'; and Gale's Coffee Bar where you can indulge in great coffee drinks and breakfast pastries.

The Westin Chicago North Shore is designed to be the premier hotel and conference facility in Chicago's North Shore community. Visit them soon.

