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NEWS  
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**WHEELING  
PARK  
DISTRICT**

Mrs. W. Hancock  
386 Leslie Ln.  
Wheeling, IL 60090

WHEELING PARK  
DISTRICT

Book 1.

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Did you know that January of 1986 marks the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Wheeling Park District?

Initiated by a group of interested citizens, the County Clerk was petitioned for an election to form a Park District and elect a governing Board of Park Commissioners in January of 1961. That citizen involvement and desire to provide the community with park land, recreation facilities and programs was the beginning of the development of the Wheeling Park District. That citizen initiation and involvement remains the strength of the Wheeling Park District today.

The following is a brief history of the important dates in the acquisition and development of the Wheeling Park District properties and facilities:

- June, 1961 - Initial programs and activities of the Wheeling Park District conducted in various School District #21 schools and playgrounds, due to no land or facilities owned by the Wheeling Park District.
- ✓ March, 1962 - Meadowbrook Tot Lot, a ½ acre neighborhood playground park site purchased.
- ✓ March 1964 - Successful referendum passed to build a recreation fieldhouse and purchase 66 acres of park land known as Heritage Park.
- ✓ June, 1964 - Purchase of a 5 acre park site known as Husky Park.
- ✓ May, 1966 - Purchase and installation of original playground equipment at school sites.
- ✓ Dec. 1967 - Successful election authorizing a tax levy for recreation programs.
- ✓ April, 1969 - Purchase of Chamber Park.
- ✓ June, 1969 - Successful referendum to fund the construction of Neptune's Indoor Pool and the purchase of the Chamber Park Community Outdoor Pool.
- ✓ Nov. 1969 - Community Outdoor Pool purchased from Wheeling Community Pool Committee.
- ✓ June, 1970 - Purchase of Northside Park.
- ✓ Dec, 1972 - Successful referendum to purchase Horizon Park and further develop park and school sites.
- ✓ March, 1977 - Successful referendum to purchase Chevy Chase Club House and Golf Course and Childerley Park.
- ✓ Oct. 1978 - Wheeling Park District receives the National Gold Medal Award recognizing it as the nation's outstanding Park and Recreation Agency.
- ✓ Jan. 1984 - State Grant approved for the purchase and development of Horizon Park.

As you can see, the Wheeling Park District has grown and developed tremendously in size and quality since its formation in 1961. This growth and progress is primarily

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due to a community that is involved, supportive, and takes pride in its accomplishments, while holding out even higher expectations.

The 25th Anniversary of the Wheeling Park District is a reminder that the Park District has an established history, and that we are building on that history for our next 25 years of service.

# WHAT IS A PARK DISTRICT?

The Park District Steering Committee answers questions frequently presented by Wheeling residents:

**WHAT IS A PARK DISTRICT?** - A park district is a corporate body with the authority to levy and collect taxes on all the taxable property in the district; to plan, establish and maintain recreational programs; to acquire land or personal property necessary for its corporate purposes; to pass all necessary ordinances pertaining to the district.

**WHAT AREA WILL BE ENCOMPASSED BY THE PARK DISTRICT?** - All of Wheeling, with the exception of a small parcel on the Southern tip.

**WHERE WILL THE PARK BE?** - The park will be throughout Wheeling, in every area that can be utilized for recreational purposes. The School District has indicated a willingness to cooperate with the Proposed Park District in letting them develop land surrounding the schools and utilizing said lands for recreational areas; there are public lands available in various areas which can be developed to the extent of their capacity; there are lands to be rented for a token sum. There will be no ONE park, there will be programs for the activity of ALL areas.

**WHAT WILL IT COST?** - The average home owner will pay five dollars per year for a park and recreational system, at a rate of ten cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation. The nominal sum of five dollars will supply your children with a year round recreational program in park areas close to home.

**WHAT DOES THE STEERING COMMITTEE PROPOSE?** - When a park district is formed, one of the first proposals suggested by the community has been to develop local ice skating facilities. The steering committee feels this project can be undertaken immediately.

As soon as funds are available, a recreational director will be brought in to set up a full scale summer program for children of all ages living in Wheeling.

# VOTE FRIDAY ON PARK DISTRICT

A Park District, which could eventually provide Wheeling with much needed recreational facilities, now lies in the hands of Wheeling voters who go to the polls tomorrow.

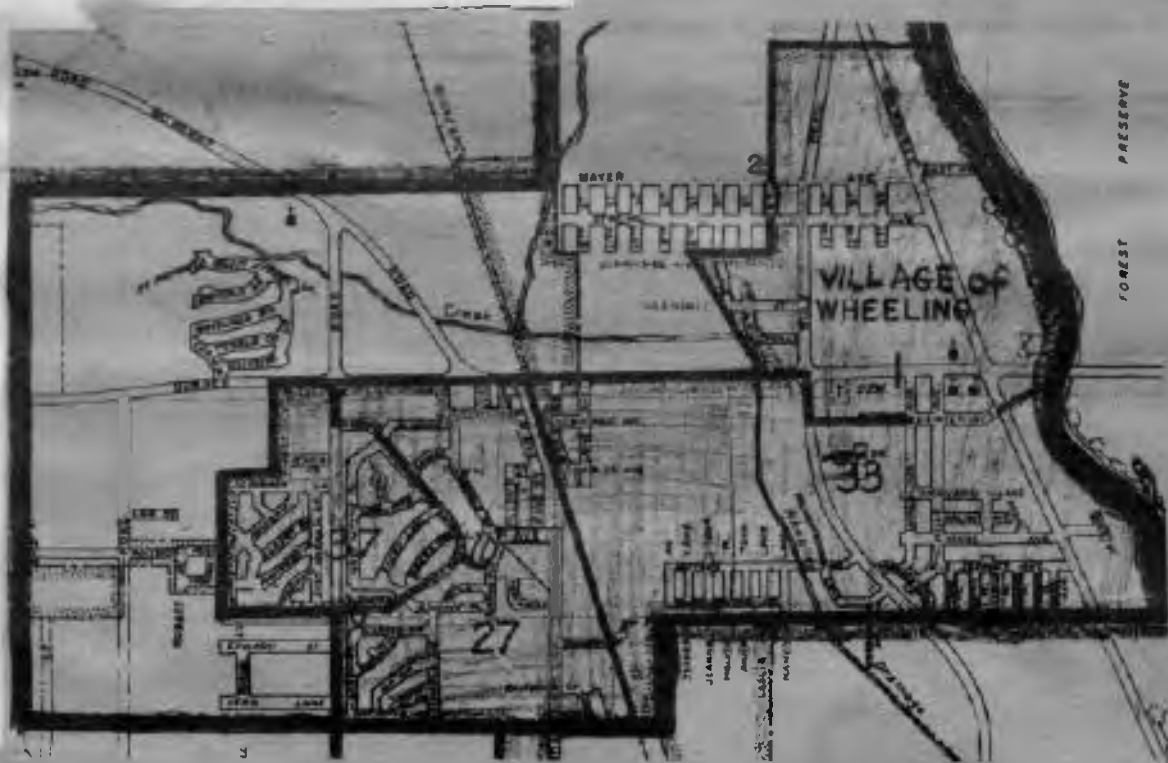
The voters will cast their ballots on a referendum to create a Park District for Wheeling. All of Wheeling, with the exception of a small parcel of land on the southern boundary, will be included in the proposed park district.

Much of this land area had until recently been a part of the Rural Park District. Home owners and property owners in the area, however, petitioned for disconnection from the Rural District, and a decision in their favor was granted in November.

In addition to the Park District Referendum, will be the election of Park District Commissioners. Five residents have filed petitions for the posts and include: Mrs. G.L. Duke, Arthur Brown, Ralph Neubauer, Arthur Aronson, and Ted Scanlon.

Pending a favorable outcome, the commissioners hope to offer a program to Wheeling residents immediately. The first project contemplated is ice skating facilities at all schools. Summer recreational programs will be larger in scope and long range plans include year-round and full scale summer programs.

The Mark Twain School on Merle Avenue will be the only polling place, with hours set from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.. Residents, over 21 years of age, who live in the proposed park district and meet the general requirements for state and local elections are eligible to vote.



Map of Wheeling area. Inside heavy line indicates Wheeling village limits. Outer line designates area to be incorporated in a Wheeling Park District. Residents in this area will vote on a referendum to create a park district tomorrow, December 23, at the Mark Twain school.

# Questions, Answers On Park Issue Given

The Park District Steering committee this week answered questions presented by Wheeling residents who will be asked to decide on a park system December 23.

**Q. What is a park district?**

**A.** A park district is a corporate body with the authority to levy and collect taxes on all taxable property in the district. It plans, establishes, and maintains recreational programs, and acquires land necessary for these purposes.

**Q. What area will be in the park district?**

**A.** All of Wheeling except a small parcel to the south.

**Q. Where will the park be?**

**A.** The park will be developed on available public lands throughout the new district. Actually, there will be not one park but many parks located in several areas. The school district has indicated a willingness to allow the parks on school lands.

**Q. What will it cost?**

**A.** The average home owner would pay about \$5 a year for a park and recreational system, at a rate of 10 cents for each \$100 of assessed valuation.

**Q. What kind of recreation-**

**al program does the steering committee propose?**

**A.** To develop ice-skating facilities immediately and as soon as funds are available to hire a recreation director to set up a full program for children of all ages.

The polling place for the referendum December 23 will be Mark Twain school. Balloting will be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Absentee ballots may be obtained from Mrs. George B.

balko, 706 N. Wayne.

A person need not be a registered voter to cast his ballot. However, a residency requirement of 30 days in the precinct, 90 days in the county, and a year in the state is required.

Mrs. Bobalko will serve as an election judge with Mrs. James Wleder, Mrs. William Lasley, Mrs. A. Bernstein, and Mrs. Edward Klocke.

(WF)

## Petitions Ready For Park District

Mrs. G. L. Duke, secretary of the park district steering committee, told the Herald this week that the last signature necessary for the disconnection of land from the inactive rural park district has been obtained.

According to Mrs. Duke, petitions bearing the signatures of 945 residents of the area to be disconnected will be presented to the rural park district as soon as possible.

**AFTER A 30-DAY** waiting period, the rural district will either approve or disapprove the petitions. If the disannexation is approved, a functional park district will be planned and presented to the public in a referendum in early December.

In all, 900 acres will be disconnected. The area is bounded by Schoenbeck rd., Merle

lane, Dunhurst's east border, and an uneven line north of Dundee rd.

Petition bearers obtained the signatures of land owners representing 540 acres, well over the required majority. Of a total 791 homes, owners of 606 approved the disconnection.

**THE STEERING** committee started in June to obtain the signatures needed for the establishment of a Wheeling park district. The committee, endorsed by the Community Council, is spearheaded by Art Brown, president, and Ralph Neubauer.

Disannexation proceedings were slowed considerably, Mrs. Duke said, by a time-consuming process of obtaining the signatures of owners of large plots of land. (WF)

## Seek Park Referendum

Announcement is made by the Park District Steering Committee that remaining signed petitions have been returned and indicate that Wheeling soon will be included in one park district.

Members of the Steering Committee said the results far exceeded their expectations. Not only were the majority of land owners in favor of disannexation, but the land areas as well. Results of petitions showed a land area of over 500 acres in favor; and, out of a possible 791 homes, 606 homes with a total of 945 signatures were obtained.

Some 900 acres will be disannexed from the Rural Park District. The area is roughly just West of Schoenbeck Road to East of Dunhurst Unit #1, South to South Merle Avenue.

The Rural Park District is required to keep the petitions for a month before a referendum can be held. As soon as the referendum is held and passed, Wheeling will have a single park district.

The petitions which seeked disannexation from the Rural Park District, are now in the hands of the Park District Attorney. The petitions will be presented to the Rural Park District for action within the week.

## Notice of Special Election

Public Notice is hereby given that on Friday, the 23rd day of December, 1960, an election will be held in the territory hereinafter described for the purpose of voting "for" or "against" the question of the organization of the proposed general park district to be known as the "Wheeling Park District," Cook County, Illinois, under the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois entitled "An Act concerning park districts of less than 500,000 inhabitants and to repeal certain acts herein named," approved July 8, 1947, as amended, said Act being commonly referred to as "The Park District Code," such general park district to consist of the territory described as follows:

Commencing at the intersection of the north line and the east line of Section Three (3), thence south to the east-west center line of Section Three (3), thence west on said east-west center line and the east-west center line of Section Four (4) to the north-south center line of the east-half of said Section Four (4), thence south on said north-south center line and the north-south center line of the east half of Section Nine (9) to the east-west center line of the south-half of said Section (9), thence east along said east-west center line and the east-west center line of the south-half of Section Ten (10) and the east-west center line of the south-half of Section Eleven (11) to the north-south center line of the west-half of Section Eleven (11), thence north along said north-south center line to the east-west center line of said Section Eleven (11), thence east along said east-west center line and the east-west center line of Section Twelve (12) to the center line of the Des Plaines River, thence in a northerly direction along said center line to the north-line of Section Two (2), thence west along said north line to the place of beginning, all in Township 42 North, Range 11, East of the Third Principal Meridian in Cook County, Illinois

and to elect five Park Commissioners.

That for the purpose of said special election said territory shall constitute a single election precinct and the polling place designated for said election is as follows.

Mark Twain School, located at 515 E. Merle Avenue, Wheeling, Illinois

The polls at said election will be opened at 6:00 A.M. and will be closed at 6:00 P.M. on the same day and all voters residing within said territory as above described, shall vote upon the question of the organization of said proposed general park district and to elect five Park Commissioners on a ballot to be substantially the following form:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
(INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Place a cross (x) in the square to the left of the statement indicating the way you desire to vote)

FOR PARK DISTRICT

AGAINST PARK DISTRICT

FOR PARK COMMISSIONERS  
(Vote for five)

(Here will be inserted names of nominees, if any, with square at left opposite each, and five additional blank lines for voters to write in names if desired)

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By order of the County Judge of Cook County, this notice is given by the Clerk of the County Court of Cook County, Illinois, this 29th day of November, 1960.

Edward J. Barrett  
Clerk of the  
County Court of  
Cook County, Illinois

Published in Wheeling Herald December 1, 1960.

# REFERENDUM ON PARK DISTRICT DECEMBER 23

favor of disconnection from the Rural Park District. Filled along with the petition for the referendum were the petitions of five persons wishing to serve as Wheeling Park District Commissioners. They were Mrs. G. L. Duke, Arthur Brown, and Ralph Neubauer, all members of the Park District Steering Committee, and Arthur Aronson and Ted Scanlon.

All have displayed an interest in the establishment of a park district in the past. Mrs. Duke, Brown and Neubauer have been members of the Steering Committee since it originated, while Aronson and Scanlon have been active in youth activities in the village.

Aronson is a past president and member of the Wheeling Board of Education, while Scanlon is Police Magistrate of the Village.

The only polling place for the Park District referendum will be the Mark Twain School. Hours for voting will be from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A referendum to create park district for Wheeling will be put before the voters on Friday, December 23rd. This was the long awaited announcement of the Park District Steering Committee of Wheeling. The date for the referendum was filled on Monday by the Steering Committee Attorney, Roger Bjorvick, following a meeting of the Rural Park District on Saturday.

At the meeting, the Rural Park District reviewed the petition for disconnection of some Wheeling areas and drew up an ordinance of disconnection, also filed on Monday.

The creation of a Wheeling Park District has been a long slow process. Work was actually begun in January, 1959, with the biggest strides made in July, 1960. During that month, some 50 people, all representing organizations in the Wheeling Community Council, began a door to door campaign for signatures of property owners. An overwhelming majority, over ten thousand persons, were in

## Park Vote Set For Dec. 23

A referendum to establish a Park District in Wheeling will be held on Friday, December 23rd, at the Mark Twain School, Merle Avenue, Wheeling.

The Twain school will be the only polling place, and will be open from six o'clock in the morning until 6 p.m.

The December 23rd date was set in order to assure the canvass of votes by December 31st. If the election were not held before December 31st, the park district would not be on the tax rolls for 1961, nor would they be entitled to funds for the year.

All residents over 21 years of age, living in the proposed park district, will be eligible to vote. Other requirements are the voter must have resided in the area for 30 days, in Cook County for 90 days, and in the State of Illinois for one year.

Anyone who will be out of town for the holidays but wishes to vote may obtain an application for an absentee voter's ballot at the home of Mrs. George Bobalko, 706 N. Wayne, Wheeling.

Mrs. Bobalko, an election judge, was sworn in by the Clerk of the County Court on Wednesday in order for her to act in this capacity.

Joining Mrs. Bobalko as election judges are Mrs. James Wieder, Mrs. William Lasley, Mrs. Alvin Bernstein and Mrs. Edward Klocke.



# Disconnection Is Holding Up Parks

7-14-60

Machinery designed to produce a functioning park district in Wheeling has been slowed somewhat by a time-consuming process of obtaining disconnection permission from owners of large plots of land.

Petition bearers this week were continuing negotiations with the Hollywood Ridge developers and the American Marietta company.

"THESE PEOPLE are being most cooperative," said Mrs. Audrae Duke, a backer of the park program, "but difficulty has been encountered in obtaining signatures for a large amount of land in operation."

"The process of getting the necessary signatures is quite detailed, and attorneys for Hollywood Ridge and American Marietta are doing everything in their power to help us."

MRS. DUKE said the park district steering committee hopes to have disconnection

procedures all wrapped up by Monday. The committee must get the permission of 51 per cent of land owners in the rural park district area.

Wheeling school district 21 and Dunhurst Heights residents have given their approval to the new program. The International Iron Works company approved the program late last week.

## Rural Park District to Meet 'Soon'

11-24-60

Roger Bjorvick, attorney for the Wheeling Park District Steering Committee, reports that the petition for disconnection has been held by the Wheeling Rural Park District for the required 30-day period.

A meeting of rural park district officials will be scheduled soon according to the Rural Park District attorney, Francis E. Kelly. The district's decision on the disconnection petition is expected at the meeting.

AS SOON AS a favorable decision on the disconnection petition is reached, plans for a park referendum will be initiated by the Community Council of Wheeling.

Chairman Ronald Rank has indicated that the plans for the referendum have already been made and are just waiting for the Rural Park District's decision before being put into effect.

No referendum date can be officially set until after the Rural Park District has met and approved the disconnection of a large part of Wheeling which is now a part of the rural district.

(WF)

## Legal Snags Holding Up Park Plans

Legal technicalities are holding off land disconnection which will give Wheeling a functioning park system, Mrs. G. L. Duke, a member of the park district steering committee, reported Wednesday.

Mrs. Duke said a few large land owners have not yet approved disconnection from the old rural park district, but that "they are doing all in their power to hasten a decision."

SHE PREDICTED a referendum will be held sometime this November after residents have ended their summer vacations. Meanwhile, the new park district will operate on tax anticipation warrants until the summer of 1961.

The steering committee is well on its way to getting the permission of 51 per cent of land owners in the rural park district area.

(WF)

# Procedures Cited By Park Attorney

10-20-60

Roger Bjorvick, attorney for Wheeling's park district steering committee, outlined procedures between the disconnection of land and a public referendum at the October 12 meeting at the Community Council of Wheeling. Bjorvick spoke after Art Brown, committee chairman, presented the committee's report stating that petitions for disannexation have been completed.

THE ATTORNEY indicated a 30-day waiting period is required before the rural park district can approve a two-week publication of referendum hearing.

The proposed referendum will be presented for hearing

and then a voting date can be set. Bjorvick guessed the referendum date would be sometime in early December.

In other business, the projects committee reported on the United Fund and village beautification programs. Both projects were discussed and turned over to council organization for further study.

ED SCHULTZ reported on the progress of the flood control program and told what was being done in connection with the outline presented by the Metropolitan Sanitary district.

Welcomed as a new member organization of the council

was the Buffalo Grove Woman's club. Accepted as a member-at-large was Al Runeman of Wheeling.

The next council meeting was set for November 3 in the library of the Walt Whitman school.

## Attorney's Opinion Stymies Park District

Action on a request of the Wheeling park district to transfer to its jurisdiction three Meadowbrook subdivision lots owned by the village was stymied recently by an opinion of village attorney Fred Weismann.

Weismann said that the village could only transfer ownership of land through public auction to the lowest bidder, or lease it for a maximum of a 20-year period.

However, park district attorney Roger Bjorvick stated later that another law apparently gives one municipal governing body the right to transfer property to another, and would apply in this case.

ALSO, TRUSTEES Ralph Neubauer has questioned whether or not the board must sell the property to the lowest bidder or the right to ac-

cept any bid made in public auction that it sees fit.

The park board has indicated that it wishes to make a neighborhood playground of the lots, and possibly erect a storage building. The lots are immediately in front of the village sewage disposal plant.

The lots were donated to the village by Family Homes, developers of the subdivision.

# Disconnection Is First Step

The first step in a program designed to bring a functioning park district to Wheeling neared completion this week.

After attending an instructional meeting June 22, petition bearers set out to obtain signatures, returning signed petitions to the park district steering committee Monday night.

The petitions were checked by Roger Bjorvik, Palatine attorney, who is guiding the legal maneuvers to disconnect certain lands from the inactive rural park district so that they may be fused into an active park body.

**COMPILED** returns listed 943 signatures, representing 660 of a possible 791 homes in the area to be disconnected.

Art Brown, chairman of the steering committee, said business firms and new subdivisions will have been contacted by Friday for their petitions. This will complete the first step.

Then, after approval of the disconnection by the rural park district board, a referendum will be held in order to allow the new park district to receive tax income in 1961.

Brown estimated that the annual tax per home would fall somewhere between \$4.00 and \$7.50.

Volunteering June 22 to act as captains of specified petitioning areas were Mrs. H. Boyles, Dunhurst unit one; Jack Youngblood, Dunhurst unit two; Audrey Christensen, Dunhurst unit three, and unit four.

THE FOLLOWING captains, along

with 40 petitioners, beat the bushes for five days and five nights. Attorney Bjorvik gave instruction as to the proper procedure for securing signatures.

Brown has cited seven points emphasizing the importance of the entire community giving enthusiastic support to the park program. The points are as follows:

A park district will (1) increase property values, (2) provide recreational facilities; (3) upgrade the social and business community; (4) assure good land use; (5) pave the way for securing parks; (6) provide recreation at minimum cost, and (7) assure adequate administration of a park program.

AT THE JUNE 22 petitioners meeting called by the steering committee, 48 persons representing 16 community organizations were in attendance. Brown reviewed the groundwork already laid.

Petitioners were instructed and petitions were returned to the Mark Twain school Monday. The completion of the petitioning will represent the first concrete step in the series necessary to get a park district by summer, 1961.



**PARK PETITIONERS** Mrs. Lorraine Thomas, of 536 Audrey ct., and Gene Menia, of 735 S. Merle lane, discuss petition requirements with Roger Bjorvik, of Pal-

atine, attorney for the Park District steering committee. Petitioners turned in 943 signatures Monday night at the Mark Twain school.

# PROGRAM

# NEARER

# PARK DISTRICT.

# PARK DISTRICT VOTE IS DEC. 23

## Petition Is Filed In Court

After two years of planning and negotiations, a referendum to form the long-awaited Wheeling park district has been set for Friday, Dec. 23. A petition for the organization was filed Monday in Circuit court.

Final obstacle to the referendum was removed Saturday, when the Wheeling rural park district voted to disconnect what will be the western area of the new park district. This area includes most of Dunhurst Heights and the Hollywood Ridge subdivision as well as some unincorporated territory.

The new Wheeling park district would include all land in the village except one tiny parcel on the southern tip. It also will include some unincorporated areas.

The district would be bounded on the east by the Des Plaines river and on the west by a line 1¼ miles west of Elmhurst rd. Northern and southern boundaries roughly coincide with the village limit.

PETITIONS FOR the candidacy of five park commissioners were filed in County court immediately after the petition for the referendum was filed Monday. Three of the five candidates have been members of the park district steering committee since its organization in February, 1959.

They are Art Brown, 235 Reece terr.; Ralph Neudauer, 773 S. Merle; and Mrs. G. L. Duke, 107 Meadowbrook.

The other candidates are Art Aronson, 2818 N. Schoenbeck rd., past president of Wheeling district 21 school board; and Ted Scanton, 281 Park, current Wheeling police magistrate.

The rural park district did not provide park facilities but acted as a "preventative" district to keep rural property out of village park taxing districts. Disconnection of the Wheeling area included in the rural district was needed before it could be included in a new park district.

Petitions for the disconnection were circulated by 50 representatives of Community Council member organizations in July. Signatures of the vast majority of property owners as well as signatures of owners of more than 51 per cent of the land area were obtained. The petitions were submitted to the Wheeling rural park district in October. After the compulsory 30-day waiting period under Illinois statutes the rural park commissioners voted to permit the discon-

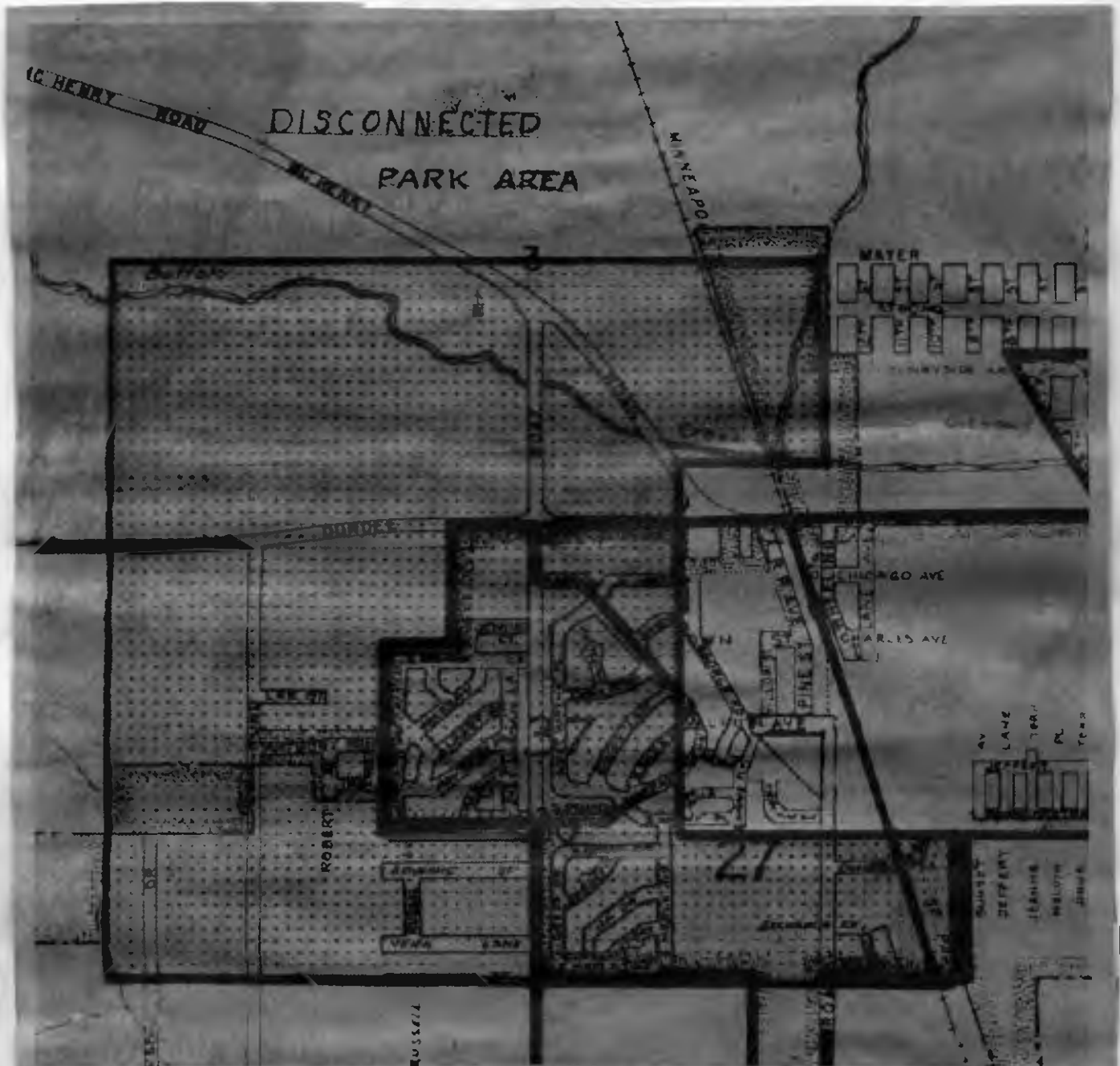
nection.

THE PRE-CHRISTMAS referendum date of December 23 was set to permit the vote count and canvass before December 31. If the park district was not created before January 1, 1961, it would not be eligible for the 1961 tax rolls.

The referendum will be held from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Polling place will be the Mark Twain school, Dunhurst Heights.

The petition for formation of the park district was filed in county court by Attorney Roger A. Bjorvik. The petition contained signatures of 108 village residents headed by Lorraine Thomas, 556 Audrey. The petition was circulated by Jack E. Youngblood, 189 W. Manchester.

DEC 1, 1960



**THE AREA DISCONNECTED** from the Wheeling Rural Park district Saturday is marked on the map, above. The area included the major portion of Dunhurst Heights as well as the Hollywood Ridge subdivision of Wheeling. Disconnection of this area paved the way for a petition to

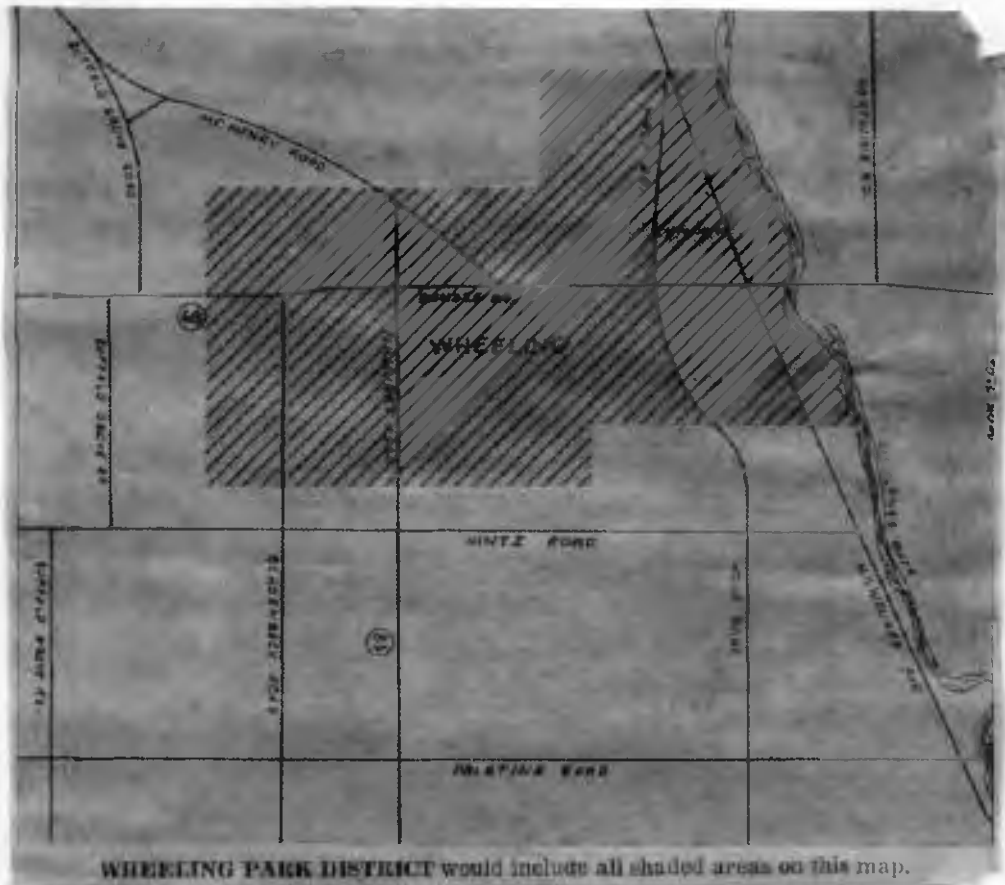
form a Wheeling park district. The petition was filed Monday in county court, with a referendum on the park formation set for December 23. The new park district would include the entire village as well as some adjoining unincorporated areas.

# PARKS' FUTURE

# AT

# STAKE FRIDAY

THURSDAY, DEC. 22, 1960



12/22/60

# Park System Before Voters

The Wheeling park district is up to you.

If you live within the shaded area of the accompanying map, you can decide Friday whether the village will have its own recreation system.

Voters will cast ballots on the issue in the Mark Twain school tomorrow from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

They will also be asked to vote for five park board commissioners. The five, all running unopposed, are:

Art Brown, 235 Renee tr.; Ralph Neubauer, 773 S. Merle ln.; and Mrs. G. L. Duke, 107 Meadowbrook ln., all members of the park district steering committee.

**THE OTHER** two are Art Aronson, 2818 N. Schoenbeck rd., past president of the Wheeling school board, and Ted Scanlon, 281 Park ave., police magistrate.

The December 23 date for voting was set so that, if created in the balloting, the district will be eligible for 1961 tax revenues. If formed after January 1, 1961, revenues would not be available for another year.

When established, a park district is limited to levying a tax of 10 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Steering committee members pointed out that most

home owners in the district would therefore pay about \$5 or \$6 a year to support and maintain a park system.

**THE** referendum comes after two years of planning and negotiations.

The final obstacle to the referendum was removed November 26, when the Wheeling Rural Park District — a "ghost" district formed almost 10 years ago in most of what was then unincorporated Wheeling township — disconnected a major portion of the new district's area.

The rural district provided no recreational facilities, but acted only as an obstruction

to the forming of a village taxing body.

**THE NEW** district would include all land in the village except for a small parcel on

the south. It also takes in some adjacent unincorporated land.

It would be bounded on the east by the Des Plaines river

and on the west by a line paralleling Elmhurst rd. 1½ miles to the west. North and south boundaries roughly coincide with village limits.

6/1/61

# Future Is Challenge, Park Boss Concludes

"Wheeling has the most challenging and interesting future of any place I have seen."

Digressing from his report on the Wheeling park district summer recreation program to the Community Council, park superintendent Eugene Sackett got into a lively discussion on the village itself.

Sackett moved to the village about nine months ago when he took a job as a physical education instructor and coach at Glenbrook high school. He had previously resided in Atlanta, Ga., and is originally from North Dakota.

The 44-year-old father of three was hired as park superintendent of the newly formed district about two months ago.

"It's a wonderful community. My wife is in love with this place.

"IF YOU PUSH it," he continued in his series of humorous colloquial verbalisms, "you have a great future here. If you don't, you will be all crammed in like in other areas (speaking of residential growth and planning.)"

"We have only one way to go—up."

Yet, "If you don't have a sense of humor around here,

you've had it."

His first acquaintance with Wheeling came when he and his wife were watching television in Atlanta a year ago. On the screen came pictures of the flood in Meadowbrook and Dunhurst subdivisions.

"WHEN I CAME to this area to find a place to live, the only words of advice my wife gave me were, 'Don't get a house in Wheeling.' She remembered the television report.

"This I promptly forgot—and when I returned to get my family . . ."

The flood came to within two blocks of their home at 324 W. Wayne pl., he has since discovered.

However, his wife is now so fond of Wheeling, she refused to listen to a suggestion from her husband that they move to California, he related.

HE SUGGESTED to the council that the village should begin a Community Chest fund or something similar—consolidate all fund drives into one.

"We have been hit more in this town by fund drives than we had been in the last 13 years."

He commended the community for its recent strides in the field of recreation, citing the swimming pool and park program. "There is

tremendous potential here. I won't be long before you are looking around for a fulltime park supervisor (12 months of the year.)"

Tennis courts, recreation buildings and winter activities will be a reality in the future, Sackett continued.

"But first we have to prove to the people that we (the park district) have something sound to offer. We will have to sell our program we have planned for this summer, make it into something, make it work."

ALTHOUGH a "great believer in multi-use recreational facilities," he would rather erect separate recreation buildings than use school

buildings in a dual purpose role.

It was reported at the May 23 council meeting that the park district budget for the year is \$1,095.

## Park Lines To Be Same As Village

The Wheeling village board unanimously passed a resolution Monday to help the Wheeling park district keep its boundaries contiguous with those of the village.

A request for the aid was submitted by the park board at Monday's village board meet. It followed several annexations to the village recently, and preceded several pending annexations.

"WE WILL GIVE them all the assistance we possibly can," Village President A. R. McIntyre said.

It was noted that the village board could make inclusion in the park district a condition of any annexations it approves in the future. (WF)

## Seek Park Goals In State Survey

A poll of members of the Illinois Association of Park Districts is to be conducted to determine major legislative goals of the association, Mrs. G. L. Duke, president of the Wheeling Park District board, reported.

Mrs. Duke, who was recently appointed to the association's legislative committee, attended a committee meeting held in Peoria Saturday.

Matters of discussion related to federal funds recently made available to communities for the purchase of park lands, tollway and highway annexations, sales taxes and legal liabilities.

PRIMARY PURPOSE of the committee, Mrs. Duke explain-

ed, is to propose state legislation for park districts and to facilitate recreation. Also, thought is being given to sponsoring federal legislation.

The poll is to be conducted early in 1962.

The committee is appointed for the 1962 year. Its first meeting was in conjunction with the association's executive board.

## Brown Elected Park President

Arthur Brown, 235 Renee Terrace, was elected first president of the Park District of Wheeling, when the newly elected commissioners held their first meeting on Wednesday, January 11. Brown, who had been working with the Park District steering committee for the past two years, was one of five commissioners elected on December 23rd.

Mrs. G. L. Duke, another member of the Steering Committee and commissioner, will serve as vice president for the year.

The meeting was essentially one of forming a working organization. Roger Bjorvick, attorney for the Steering Committee, was hired as secretary-treasurer and attorney. The commissioners found Bjorvick well qualified to handle the position in lieu of his previous work in Wheeling and his recent appointment as attorney for the park district of Palatine.

Since the five commissioners were elected at the same time, length of the individual terms were drawn and were: Mrs. Duke, two years; Brown and Ralph Neubauer, four years; and Ted Scanlon and Art Aronson, six years. The fiscal year for the park district is from April to April.

Future meetings of the commissioners will be held the first Thursday of every month at the Village Hall. The meetings, which are open to the public, will commence at 8:30 p.m.

A special committee has been formed to work on ice skating facilities in the area, while other commissioners are looking into a summer recreational program.

## Name Roy Hammond To Park Vacancy <sup>10/6/</sup>

Roy Hammond has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Wheeling park district board, it was announced by President Mrs. G. L. Duke this week.

He is to be sworn into office at the regular meeting of the board today, Thursday, at the village hall, she said. It begins at 8:30 p.m.

Also on the agenda, Eugene Sackett, park district superintendent, is to discuss plans for a winter recreation program, including ice skating facilities.

**POSSIBLE USE** of the storm water retention basin west of Meadowbrook subdivision as a neighborhood park site is to be reported on by park district attorney Roger Bjorvick.

In addition, a proposal by the park board to take over three lots owned by the village in Meadowbrook subdivision for

use as a playground will be discussed with village board trustee Edwin Smith.

Another proposal for an extensive park development program on a long range basis, to be combined with flood control planning, is to be aired. If deemed feasible, a joint meeting between the park board, village board, planning commission and county officials may be sought.

**HAMMOND WILL** replace Arthur Brown, who recently moved from the village. He is a lawyer, was a candidate for police magistrate in the last village election, is active in the Republican party, and is a member of the Wheeling Township bi-partisan committee working on re-registration. He has three children. (WF)

## Fill Vacancy

## Name Donzella To Park Board

Michael Donzella, of 933 Pebble dr., Wheeling, was appointed to the Wheeling Park District board of commissioners at its meeting Thursday, Nov. 9.

He replaces Ralph Neubauer, who resigned to devote himself to his position of trustee on the village board. Neubauer is also a member of the Zoning commission.

Donzella, 27, has resided in the village since January and is the first resident of Hollywood Ridge subdivision to become a village official.

**HE IS A** teacher for severely handicapped children in Evanston township high school and last summer directed an Evanston park program for such children.

His wife, Esther, teaches at Mark Twain school in Wheeling. They have two pre-school age children.

**OTHER MEMBERS** of the board are Mrs. Audrae Duke, president, Arthur Aronson, Richard Ault and Roy Hammond.

Mrs. Duke and Aronson are the only original members of the board elected about a year ago. Other resignations have been Ted Scanlon, police magistrate, and Arthur Brown, who was on the park district.

## Ault Is Appointed Park Commissioner

Richard Ault, 438 S. Wolf rd., has been appointed by the Wheeling park district board of commissioners to fill a vacancy on the board by the resignation of Ted Scanlon.

Ault is a physical education instructor, guidance counselor and track coach at Highland Park high school. He was formerly superintendent of the Arlington Heights park district, is married and has four children.

**HE WILL SERVE** on the board until its regular election next year.

Scanlon was put into office for a six-year term in the first district election December 23, 1960. He was re-elected as village police magistrate April 18, and resigned from the park board because of conflicting duties, it was reported. He stated that his services would be available to the board upon request.





THE FIRST annual lantern parade and family picnic of the Wheeling park district was a marked success, according to park director Eugene Sackett. Holding some of the lanterns constructed in the playground arts and

crafts sessions are, from left, first row, Jeff Maybee, David Mayec, Jane Suttic, Steve Sackett, Roy Sackett; back row, playground directors Mrs. Maybee, Jim Wolf and Ted Jacob.

7-61

# First Lantern Parade Staged in Preserves

By AUDRAE DUKE

A hundred and fifty people lined the east bank of Dam 1 Friday to witness the first annual lantern parade sponsored by the Wheeling park district.

Despite the threatening weather, many families picnicked in the forest preserve before the main attraction.

At dusk 40 children, who had participated in the arts and crafts project of constructing lanterns during the summer recreation program, were herded into parade formation, their lanterns lighted. Faces aglow

with delight of accomplishment, the children proudly displayed their unique creations.

Old milk containers, oatmeal boxes, tin cans and cardboard boxes touched by the magic of a youngster's imagination were turned into functional and novel lanterns.

WHILE THE parade was marching over its scheduled 2-block route, the observer's eye was directed to the flotilla of lanterns along the Des Plaines river. Each of the recreation playgrounds had constructed

large lanterns for the water display. A barge consumed by flames was a planned part of the water spectacle.

Visitors from neighboring park districts commented on the originality and creativity of the summer recreation program event and hope to incorporate it as part of their own program, while the spectators expressed equal interest in seeing the event continued and expanded to attract an even larger portion of the community.

(WF)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1961

# PARK DISTRICT MAPS PROGRAMS

## *First Summer Effort Hailed*

Wheeling park district's first summer recreation program is closing on a high note of optimism this week, with plans already being made for further activities through the fall and winter and again for next summer.

Park superintendent Eugene Sackett, in a report on operations to date, noted that about 800 children participated daily in activities at the three playground areas this summer.

The eight-week program was generally successful, he concluded in a presentation of the park program to the Community Council last week.

It was estimated that the park district itself will have expended about \$2.10 per child for the summer activities, excluding the \$1 fee for taking part in arts and crafts.

**BASKETBALL**, volleyball and softball leagues are being considered for both adults and children in the immediate future, Sackett said. Use of the new Jack London junior high school gymnasium is anticipated.

Other activities being planned are dances, ice skating, chess, duplicate bridge, art classes, tennis, family nights and movies and field trips for children.

Points of strength in the park program so far, Sackett continued, have been sufficient playground areas, cooperation from village and school officials, and qualified playground leaders.

**THE DISTRICT** has lacked, he said, a constant and reliable source of communication with parents, interest among youths 12 years of age and older, centralized facilities and storage, and volunteer workers from among teenagers.

Should the proposed village swimming pool at Chamber of Commerce park become a reality, it would greatly expand park activities next summer, Sackett noted.

Of the 1,200 children who registered in the program, 700 were at Mark Twain school playground area, 400 at the Walt Whitman school, and 100 at Carl Sandburg.

**LARGEST** attendance for the combined areas was during the second week of the program when 1,055 showed up. The following week showed the lowest attendance, 500. Total attendance for the first six weeks was

\$3,029 expenditure for the summer program, \$1,810

was for salaries, and \$1,219 for supplies.

It is hoped to reach a budget of \$19,000 per year, Sackett said. Tax anticipation warrants have been issued for the first year of operation. Fees furnished \$517. Park district tax is 10 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Last district-wide event of the season will be an arts and crafts display at Mark Twain school tonight, Aug. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Other events were a kite flying contest, field day, softball tournament, lantern parade and a museum field trip.

**ACTIVITIES** were daily from 9 a.m. until noon.

The park district was formed early this year.

Donald Paisley of the Community Council, representing the Wheeling Athletic Association, in lauding the program noted that 30 per cent of the Wheeling area school children attended.

7-20-61

## 2 Friday Programs Spark Park Action

A field day set for Friday, July 21, is the next big event of the Wheeling park district summer recreation program.

It is to begin at 10 a.m. at Walt Whitman school and will feature races between the champions of the three playground sites of the park district.

**THERE WILL** be three age categories for both boys and

girls in the competition, six through eight years, nine and 10 years, and 11 and 12 years.

Events will include a 50-yard dash, a sack race, softball throw, a three-legged and a wheelbarrow race, and a standing broad jump.

Runoffs are being held on the three playgrounds this week to determine the two top individuals or pairs in each age group in each of the events, to be finalists at the field day.

Awards will be presented to the winners.

**NEXT FRIDAY.** July 28, a lantern parade and family picnic is scheduled during the evening supper hour at dam No. 1 on the Des Plaines river in the Cook county forest preserve. (W)

7-20-61



**WINNER OF THE AWARD** for the oddest kite in the kite flying contest conducted last Friday by the Wheeling park district was Scott Reese, 56 W. Manchester dr. It is a modernistic, three dimensional piece of

handicraft flecked with sequins. All of the kites were constructed in the arts and crafts sessions held each morning on the playgrounds. Scott is a playground assistant. (W)



**TUGGING GENTLY** on the string of his kite to coax it a little higher into the air last Friday was Danny Connelly. Danny was one of the contestants in the Wheeling park district's kite flying contest. (W)

# 400 Attend Park Program

Over 400 children were on hand for the opening day of the Wheeling Park District's summer recreation program on Monday, June 19th, at the grounds of the three public schools.

Recreation Supervisor, Eugene W. Sackett, advised Park District Commissioners that the program was well received with an attendance breakdown as follows:

Whitman School-16-; Twain School - 200; Sandburg School-45.

Sackett added that judging from the attendance of the first two days, it will be possible to offer a greater variety of activities for the largest age group. Following the Monday morning session, additional purchases of equipment were made and consisted of those items which had the greatest appeal to the youngsters. Still more equipment and games will be purchased as the need increases.

According to Park District Commissioners and Sackett youngsters of school age will still be accepted into the program. Daily attendance is not compulsory, and a dollar fee is charged for those who wish to participate in arts and crafts. Qualified personnel has been employed to supervise each playground area.

In planning their first major project, it was the wish of the Park District to provide Wheeling youth with enjoyment and creative use of leisure time. Participants are encouraged to pursue activities of their choice rather than be directed under a regimented program. In keeping with this policy, children may participate individual and/or group activities.

## Consider Park in Meadowbrook Area

Use of three lots for a park in Wheeling's Meadowbrook subdivision is being considered by the village board.

The Wheeling park district board requested that the lots be deeded to the district for use as a neighborhood playground, that is, a "tot lot."

Also, the park district is considering erecting a storage building on the site if it can be obtained for a park.

IT WAS specified in the request that the park board would improve the lots by planting trees and installing playground

equipment.

Village President A. R. McIntyre noted that two acres of land adjacent to the three lots have been leased by the village from the Chicago Sanitary District for park use.

He said the sanitary district is evidently in the process of fencing this area, and implied that the possibility of combining the two areas should be explored.

He turned the matter over to the building and grounds committee for study. (WP)

## Attorney's Opinion Stymies Park District

11-2-61

Action on a request of the Wheeling park district to transfer to its jurisdiction three Meadowbrook subdivision lots owned by the village was stymied recently by an opinion of village attorney Fred Weiszmann.

Weiszmann said that the village could only transfer ownership of land through public auction to the lowest bidder, or lease it for a maximum of a 20-year period.

However, park district attorney Roger Bjorvick stated later that another law apparently gives one municipal governing body the right to transfer property to another, and would apply in this case.

ALSO, TRUSTEES Ralph Neubauer has questioned whether or not the board must sell the property to the lowest bidder or has the right to ac-

cept any bid made in public auction that it sees fit.

The park board has indicated that it wishes to make a neighborhood playground of the lots, and possibly erect a storage building. The lots are immediately in front of the village sewage disposal plant.

The lots were donated to the village by Family Homes, developers of the subdivision.

For Winter

11-30-61

# Recreation to Open Saturday

Winter recreation program of the Wheeling Park district will begin Saturday morning for ages 10 through 13, Sunday afternoon for teens, and Monday evening for adults, with sports ranging from basketball to weightlifting.

Activities for all ages will be at London junior high school gymnasium and will be for both boys and girls, men and women.

PARTICIPANTS will be able to choose from volleyball, basketball, badminton, weightlifting, tumbling and shuffleboard. Much interest has been expressed in woman's volleyball, it is reported.

A men's basketball league will be formed if enough interest is shown, it was announced. Also, an attempt will be made to expand the whole program should participation demand it.

ACTIVITIES will begin Saturday at 9 a.m., Sunday from 2-5 p.m., and Monday from 7-9:30 p.m. Only charge will be for adults, 25 cents.

Those interested in forming a men's basketball league or who wish additional information on any aspect of the program are asked to call recreation superintendent Eugene Sackett at LE 7-5288. (WF)

ation superintendent Eugene Sackett at LE 7-5288. (WF)

## Ice Skating Rink Opens

Sunday saw the opening of Wheeling's first major ice skating rink — and the culmination of the first project of the newly named village park district board of commissioners.

An area of about 8,000 square feet was ringed with old telephone poles, and a plastic undercoating was sprayed over the area to prevent the water from seeping into the gravelly ground.

Saturday the rink was flooded and Sunday morning it was ready to go.

About 500 persons had tramped to the rink by Tuesday, it was estimated.

Residents are reminded by the park commission that lights are available for night skating, and are asked to help take care of the rink by not tampering with the plastic undercoating where it is exposed.

Also, in the best interests of all, it is asked that hockey sticks and sleds be kept off the rink.

THE VOLUNTEER fire department, which provided much of the labor to build the rink, will flood the surface of the ice each night.

Special thanks are extended by the commission to Jack and Bob Ahr of Capri building company for picking up the expense tab, to Geest and Wheeling Lumber company for furnishing the undercoating at cost and the necessary lumber, and to police radio-man Jack Kimsey and Arvid Ohman for labor contributions.

Also, to the Chamber of Commerce for donating the site. (W)



ICE was far from smooth, but Wheel-  
 skating enthusiasts hastened to take ad-  
 vantage of the ice rink in the Chamber of  
 Commerce park immediately after the fire  
 flooding operations.

1/25/62

## New Assistant Is Hired by District

1-11-62

Girls activities in the Satur-  
 day morning Wheeling park  
 district program have been  
 given a boost by the addition of  
 a new park program assistant.  
 The Wheeling park district  
 board announced the hiring of  
 Mrs. Dolores Harris, 769 S.  
 Wayne pl. She is to assist park  
 district superintendent Eugene  
 Sackett with youth activities  
 conducted Saturdays from 8:30-  
 10:45 a.m.  
 MRS. HARRIS has a bachel-  
 ors degree in physical educa-  
 tion, was a high school physical  
 education teacher for four  
 years, and has six seasons of

experience in camp work.  
 All girls from 8 through 13  
 years are invited to attend the  
 Saturday morning sessions.  
 Volleyball, tumbling, shuffle  
 board, table tennis and request-  
 ed activities are to be conduct-  
 ed.  
 The hiring of Mrs. Harris  
 was approved unanimously by  
 four of the five members of the  
 park board at its regula-  
 monthly meeting Thursday  
 Jan. 4. Member Art Aronson  
 was absent. (W)

## NEW CONTRACTS FOR PARK SUPERINTENDENT & SECRETARY

4-12-62

New contracts were approved Thursday night for the  
 Park District superintendent Gene Sackett, and the Park  
 Board's secretary, Roger Bjorvik. Sackett and Bjorvik  
 were commended for their outstanding service to the  
 community and the park board during the past year.  
 Gene Sackett is currently boy's Physical Education  
 instructor and Track Coach at Glenbrook High School.  
 He has the primary responsibility of formulating and  
 administering the Wheeling Park District's recreational  
 program. A large share of the credit for the success  
 OF THE Park District's recreational program for the la-  
 year is owed Gene, whose concern for the Wheeling  
 Community prompted him to extend himself in time and  
 effort beyond the requirements of his contract.  
 Roger Bjorvik is an attorney currently associated with  
 a Chicago law firm. He has been employed by the Wheel-  
 ing Park District since the founding of the Park District  
 in November of 1960. Through the efforts of Mr. Bjorvik,  
 the Wheeling Park board has been able to proceed with  
 all of its legal action without undue delay. In adminis-  
 tering a new park district, the board has had to have  
 many legal documents prepared for annexation leases,  
 contracts, etc. With the expert counsel of its attorney,  
 the board has been able to avoid many of the legal pro-  
 blems that would ordinarily involve costly litigation.  
 As Treasurer, Bjorvik has set up a system of book-  
 keeping of the highest order, eliminating the cost of  
 hiring an accounting firm. In addition to being the board's  
 attorney and treasurer, Bjorvik is also employed as the  
 board's secretary. The accurate recording of the minutes  
 of all the board's meetings is imperative. This job also  
 involves keeping the board posted on previous action  
 taken to prevent overlapping or contradiction.  
 The citizens of Wheeling can take pride in the fact that  
 this newly formed governing body has had the foresight  
 to employ such capable people, as well as the fortitude  
 to resist the temptation of allowing the tax dollar to be-  
 come the sole criterion for the quality of its operation.

## Break Down Costs

# Park District Budget Approved at \$8,948

An \$8,948 budget for the 1962-63 fiscal year was approved by the Wheeling Park District Board at its regular monthly meeting last Thursday at the village hall.

A total of \$7,148 is to come from tax revenues, expected tax income, and \$1,800 is expected from fees for recreation programs.

Major expenditure slated is \$5,336 for salaries for the park superintendent and recreation supervisors, and the second major expense is \$2,470 for administrative and legal expenses.

EUGENE SACKETT and Roger Bjorvik were rehired as park district superintendent and attorney, respectively, and both commended for their service over the past year. Sackett's contract calls for a \$1,500 salary, and Bjorvik's for \$1,300.

Bjorvik's fee is broken down into three parts, \$500 for legal work, \$400 for acting as district treasurer, and \$400 for serving as secretary.

Besides income from the park district tax levy, revenue is anticipated as follows: Summer playground registration fees, \$1,000; winter program fees, \$300, and sale of T-shirts, \$500.

**OTHER - EXPENSES** listed are: Office supplies, \$250; interest and insurance, \$480; audit of accounts, \$150; election expenses, \$250; playground equipment, \$50; athletic supplies, \$50; labor and landscaping, \$50; tables and

benches, \$50; arts and crafts materials, \$450; school gymnasium rental, \$288; equipment rental, \$50; transportation, \$50; and miscellaneous supplies, \$50.

The park district, although entering its second year of operation, receives its tax levy for last year this year. Therefore, the first year's tax funds are being used to pay for the first two years of operation. Next year about \$20,000 is anticipated for the year.

## Organization of Parks Discussed

Park district organization and functions were discussed by the

Wheeling Park Board and a

University of Illinois Department of Recreation official at a meeting Feb. 15.

Plans for a large park area which would include facilities such as a swimming pool and field house were suggested by the park board and Edward Storey, chief of the Department of Recreation Field Services.

Smaller neighborhood parks would be used to provide smaller play equipment, ball fields, and wading pools for the community.

STOREY CITED the recommended ratio of people to parks as one acre of ground for 500 people.

He pointed out savings which could be made if the park board cooperated with village planners and school officials. Duplication of facilities and equipment could be avoided through such planning, he said.

The park board evaluated their ability to meet requirements which would make them eligible for federal grants under Title 7 Housing Act.

THE FEDERAL government will provide grants up to 30 per cent of purchase cost to local park districts for acquisition of open space. The government stipulates that the village have in the process of formulation or completion a master plan for land use.

In addition, the park district must apply for this grant with the purchase of a minimum of 10 acres of land. It is expected to raise the 70 per cent of the land's purchase cost within one year of approval.

In urging effective foresight in park planning, Storey commented that the way leisure time is spent by a community determines the kind of people who will live there.

## Park District's Tax Income Told

Assessed valuation of the Wheeling Park District is \$21,596,088, it was reported at the regular monthly meeting of the park board last Thursday at the village hall.

Anticipated tax income for this fiscal year is \$15,300, it was reported. Tax rate is eight cents per \$100 assessed valuation. The fiscal year ends June 30.

IT WAS pointed out that part of the money has already been expended for this year's recreational program, but the remainder will go for next year's program. Tax income of the park district, as of other taxing bodies, is received at the end of the fiscal year rather than the beginning.

The park district was formed late in 1960, and only received a small amount of taxes for that period. It has been operating on tax anticipation warrants.

Budget for the next fiscal year is presently being prepared. (WF)

MAY 31, 1962

## Summer Park Employees Are Named

The Wheeling Park District announces the employment of a full staff of summer playground employees for the 1962 season. The following will be in charge of the playgrounds:

They are Gary Matteson, Len Swanson, Mrs. Dolores Harris and Mrs. Maureen Shelly.

THE FOLLOWING teenagers will assist the above named directors: Ted Jacob, Scott Reese, Karen Schavitz, Cynthia Hodge, Louie Provost, Gene Pielin, Cynthia Harris and No-reen Alsdorf.

Actual assignments to the various playgrounds will be made at the first staff meeting, Park Superintendent Gene Sackett announced. (W)



BALLET, tap and acrobatic dancing lessons are being offered by the Wheeling Park District beginning as of April 25. Instructor is to be Mrs. Donald Swanson, shown above in her home studio with her son, Bobby. Classes are to be held at Whitman and Mark Twain Schools on Wednesday and Friday after school, and on Saturday mornings at Mark Twain. They are open to children 3 through 10 years of age. Fee is \$4. To enroll, call Mrs. Swanson at LE 7-2366.



TROPHIES were given the champions and runners-up of the Wheeling Park District adult basketball league last week. Mrs. Audrae Duke, park board president, is shown presenting the trophy to the Chester Ander-

son, captain of the champion Nostars team. Looking on are Ted Bracke, (left) and John Flood of the runner-up Police team. The Nostars defeated the police 44-42 in overtime.

(W)



# Park Forms To Be Sent All Parents

Parents are urged to be on the lookout for Wheeling Park District pre-registration forms for its summer program that will be sent home with the school children the next few days.

The prompt return of these forms to the Wheeling Park District will allow the latter to organize the program as was done last year. Opening day will be Monday, June 18, at 9 a.m.

THIS YEAR the Park District is charging a \$1 per child fee which will be used to defray the arts and crafts program. This program was tremendously popular last year, and will be expanded this year to include all of the children, it is announced.

The Lantern Parade at Dam 1 will be a highlight again of this year's program. Additional field trips have been scheduled with a greater degree of variance. (W)



LEAGUE BASKETBALL play for teens and adults got under way last week, conducted in the Wheeling park district. Above is the game in the teen league, which plays

on Sunday afternoons at London junior high. The adult league of five teams plays on Friday nights at London.



SCHOOL IS OUT and summer has a long time to go. Above a girl was found in a completely relaxed state at the Whiteman School playground in Wheeling Tuesday, where she was cavorting with friends.



JUNIOR OLYMPIC CONTESTS took place on both Sunday and Monday of the Wheeling-  
Buffalo Grove Family Fair Labor Day weekend.



AN EXHIBITION by the dance classes of the Wheeling Park District was one of the concluding events of the Family Fair activities at Whitman School.

## Name Rae Swanson to Dance Association

7/23/72

Rae Swanson, 336 S. Sunset, head instructor of the Wheeling Park District Dance Instruction Program, was awarded membership in the Chicago National Association of ~~Dance Masters~~, Inc., at the group's 50th anniversary convention held at the Sheraton Hotel recently.

Mrs. Swanson and 14 others were the only dance instructors awarded membership into the Dance Masters this year. Prerequisites of membership include a minimum of three years employment as an instructor or assistant instructor of dance, sponsorship by a member and a high rating in an examination, both written and oral, given by the Association.

Complete knowledge of at least two categories of dance is required to pass the examination. Mrs. Swanson was awarded her membership in the association based on her knowledge of tap, ballet, acrobatics and baton.

IN ADDITION to the professional prestige which membership in the Association denotes, it also allows the dance instructor to keep abreast of all innovations in her field with eight-hour classes given every six weeks by leading instructors in various phases of dance.

Concluding the special summer dance instruction program sponsored by the Wheeling Park District for intermediate students, Mrs. Swanson is preparing pupils of the program for a dance recital to be given Labor Day weekend as one of the attractions of the Family Fair.

Mrs. Swanson stresses that the recital is to acquaint parents with the progress of children in the program after 14 weeks of instruction, and to familiarize the community with the program.

WORKING WITH Mrs. Swanson have been Beth Vandenberg and Carol Schwind.

Plans are being formulated for a Fall and Winter Program of Dance instruction for beginners, intermediate and advanced pupils, to be set by the Wheeling Park District Board at its September meeting.

THURS., AUG. 9, 1962

## Slate Arts, Crafts Displays on Friday

Concluding the summer recreation program conducted by the Wheeling Park District will be a display of arts and crafts Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. at each of the playgrounds.

On display will be all the baskets, hot pads, letter holders, paintings and varied items created in the arts and crafts segment of the eight-week summer recreation program.

THE MOST outstanding items will be chosen by playground directors and assistants to be entered in the art show to be held

Labor Day weekend in conjunction with the Family Fair.

Playground activities will not be held Friday morning, to enable the Park District employees to set up the displays at each playground. The public is invited. (WF)

# LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

2/30/62

Mr. Kenneth Gill, Superintendent  
Community Consolidated School  
District No. 21  
133 South Wille Avenue  
Wheeling, Illinois

Dear Mr. Gill:

The Wheeling Park District has just concluded its second annual summer recreation program. Many favorable comments have been received from the residents of the Park District concerning the summer program. With full knowledge that this summer program could not be made available to the residents of Wheeling without the cooperation of the School Board of District No. 21, the Commissioners of the Park District would like to extend their sincere appreciation for the use of the school facilities.

It is a well-established fact that the taxpayers receive a double benefit when public land is used by both school and park officials. It is a credit to the school board that they recognize and support activities outside the field of education, which tends to enrich the lives of citizens of each community.

We have gone to great lengths to insure that the employees of the Park District and the participants in the summer program take due precautions when using school facilities. We trust that this admonition has been adhered to and would appreciate any comments from you to the contrary.

It is our hope that the relationship established over the past two years will continue to add enjoyment to the residents of the community served by our respective boards,

Sincerely yours,  
Audrae L. Duke, President  
Wheeling Park District



## WHEELING MAN GETS PROMOTION

7/16/62  
Michael Donzella, who lives with his wife and three children at 933 Pebble, Wheeling, an instructor for the mentally handicapped at Evanston Township High School for the past two years, has been named principal of the Shore School and Training Center, 2525 Church Street, according to Donald Newton, President of the North Shore Association for Retarded Children, sponsors of the Center. He will also supervise a new 'sheltered workshop' which will open this September.

Donzella received his B.A. in special education from the University of Illinois in 1958. He continued his studies at the University while teaching classes for the educable mentally handicapped at Urbana Junior High School. He also served as a visiting teacher in the University program for training of teachers in this field.

## Park Importance Being Discussed

17-27-62  
Questions of how Wheeling can secure at least one park and how much longer can the village allow building development to crowd the banks of Buffalo Creek have been discussed with increasing intensity by the village board and park district.

A glimpse into the future can perhaps be gained by looking at the current activities of more established communities in these areas:

A \$1.2 million Federal grant for urban renewal activities has just been awarded Joliet by the

Urban Renewal Administration.

IT INVOLVES the clearance of a 39-acre area located on the west bank of the Des Plaines River and just two blocks from Joliet's business district.

Niles Park District voters have approved bond issues of \$395,000 for purchase of four park sites and of \$310,000 for construction of a swimming pool, a bath house, and a community youth center.

Expenditures of millions of dollars are being contemplated in Mount Prospect and Des Plaines to help rectify Weller Creek problems. (W

# BURKE TELLS

# PLAN FOR PARKS

## Expenditures

## Hit \$590,000

A \$590,000 park acquisition and development program was outlined Tuesday to the Wheeling Park Board by representatives of its consulting firm, Ralph H. Burke, Inc., of Park Ridge.

Major expenditure would be for the proposed 76-acre park behind St. Joseph Catholic School on Dundee Road and between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad.

Next most expensive item would be \$175,000 for a building to be erected on the 76-acre park site. Plans for it were presented to the park board by the Burke firm.

A total of \$315,000 was designated for land acquisition. Besides the 76 acres, this would include about five acres west of

Holland subdivision off Dundee Road, two lots in Dunhurst subdivision for an easement to the London Junior High grounds, and the Chamber of Commerce Park.

A MEETING was tentatively set for Tuesday, Nov. 5, 8 p. m., to discuss with the school board expanding the use of school grounds as parks.

Other meetings are to be arranged by the Chamber of Commerce and the High School District 214 Board of Education to discuss purchase and use of their respective properties, it was indicated.

The tentative park development program outlined by Burke emphasized the use of school grounds as neighborhood playgrounds.

ALL OF THE existing school sites would be utilized, and also the site of the new elementary school to be constructed at Dundee Road across from London Junior High.

A round figure of \$6,000 was listed for improving for park use each of the seven sites besides the 76-acre major park.

Another \$25,000 was designated for "grading" the 76-acre park.

A sum of \$39,000 was included in the total estimate for various "fees."

The park board was told that 30 per cent of the \$315,000 needed for land acquisition can probably be obtained from the Federal government under its aid program to local governments for the purchase of open space.

PRECEDING his presentation of plans for a building, the park planner commented that the village was not planning a new village hall.

However, Edwin Smith, a village board trustee who had just entered the meeting, told the park board that the village board is definitely considering new quarters or expanding its present ones.

He said a committee of the board is to determine the building space requirements of the

village, and is to contact the library and park boards in regard to their space requirements and possibility of a combined building program.

SMITH ALSO inquired if the village might be able to construct a sizable artificial lake on the 76-acre park site. He explained that the village board is to explore the possibilities of a multi-purpose water storage basin along Buffalo Creek.

Uses of the lake, he said, would be for water supply, flood control and storm drainage as well as for recreation purposes.

Smith further proposed that perhaps the village, library and park boards could explore purchasing another 25 acres on Dundee Road adjacent to the 76 acres.

FINALLY, HE suggested the park board purchase a four-acre parcel at the rear of the London Junior High site. He said development of the land for other purposes appears to be unfeasible from the standpoint of the village.

No action was taken on any of the recommendations made at the park board's special meeting.

The board intends to have a bond issue referendum in December, it has previously reported.

CCX-62

## At Two Schools

# Winter Park Program Registration Oct. 20

Registration for the Wheeling Park District winter program will be Saturday, Oct. 20, from 9 a. m. to Noon at the Walt Whitman and Jack London Junior High School gymnasiums.

The winter recreation program will begin Nov. 6 and continue for 14 weeks.

Each week 23½ hours of recreation will be offered by the park district in the two gymnasiums.

THIS, IN addition to the eight hours of school facilities already in use for the dance programs (tap, acrobatic, ballet, modern and ballroom) is "exemplary of the ultimate in the Illinois program advocating school-park cooperation, from which the taxpayer is the chief beneficiary of dual use of the same facilities," according to Mrs. Audrae Duke, park board president.

Mrs. Duke also said, "being aware of the growing national interest in and stress upon physical fitness, it is with pride that the park district announces Wheeling's contribution to the national program."

A physical fitness program for children will be held at the Walt Whitman school gym after school on Mondays. This first

attempt will serve as a pilot program to determine the interest and enthusiasm of the students.

AS OUTLINED at present, the program will be based on national standards for physical fitness in the various age categories and will include the training, tests and trials outlined thereunder.

For youngsters of school age, Saturday morning programs will be conducted at both the Walt Whitman and London Junior high school gymnasium. Children who wish to participate in the Saturday morning recreation should register Oct. 20 at either of the schools.

A \$1 fee will be required upon registration, which will entitle the youngster to participate in any of the 84 hours of recreation to be offered by the Park District throughout the winter program.

YOUNGSTERS living east of the Soo Line tracks will be eligible for Saturday morning recreation activities at the Walt Whitman school, while those students in the Dunhurst and Hollywood Ridge areas, West of the Soo line tracks will be eli-

gible for the activities at London Junior High School.

A basketball league for teenagers has been scheduled for Sunday afternoons at London Jr. high school. A \$1 fee is required to participate in 42 hours of officiated play. If sufficient registration is shown, the park board has indicated another school may be opened for teenage basketball on Sunday afternoons.

Adults' free play, primarily featuring volley ball and table tennis, will be available at Walt Whitman school on Monday evenings and at Jack London Junior High on Wednesday evenings. The registration fee is \$1. This will entitle the registrants to 84 hours of recreation throughout the 14 week program.

A LOCAL resident who has had a great deal of experience participating in and scheduling urban table tennis tournaments, Dr. Ian W. Taylor, has agreed to run the Wheeling Park District table tennis tournament if enough people indicate their desire to participate.

Adult basketball has been scheduled at the London Jr. high school gym on Monday evenings. The league, which will operate in a self-sustaining

manner, such as it has in the past, will play a minimum of 10 games. For the team entry fee of \$30, there will be offered two officials for each game, plus a time and score keeper.

Trophies for the winning team will be purchased by the Wheeling Park District. Already six basketball teams have registered and more are invited to join the league by calling Park District Superintendent Gene Sackett at LEhigh 7-5288.

ADULTS INVOLVED in the basketball league are not required to register as individuals in the winter recreation program unless they are interested in participating in other events.

The proposed volleyball league has three team entrants, with a minimum of six required for a full league. Interested individuals may also contact Sackett for further information. A fee of \$10 per team will be required for officials' fees to keep the program on a self sustaining basis. Trophies will be presented by the park district.

Friday evenings at Whitman school have been set aside for the adult volleyball league. Individual registration is not required for those team members.

# Ponder Solution to Flooding Problem

## *For Wheeling*

Is Wheeling going to "spend money" to build extensive storm sewer facilities, or to set aside flood plain areas to minimize the need for drainage facilities?

It was the unanimous opinion of eight of the nine members of the plan commission Oct. 24 that Wheeling development be in other than flood plain areas, and that all necessary steps to prevent flood conditions should be taken.

On hand for the discussion were six of the seven members of the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove District 21 School Board, plus School Supt. Kenneth Gill, Asst. Supt. Winston Harwood, and Wheeling Park Board President Mrs. G. L. Duke. They, too, unanimously urged avoidance of development which will compound flood hazards.

The question was posed by Marwood Rupp of Stanton and Rockwell, village planning consultant firm.

"Somehow you are going to have to protect" the village from improper use of flood plain areas (that is, areas which are subject to floods or areas in which development will cause flooding there or elsewhere), according to Rupp.

He was asking for direction in preparing the village master development plan. With him he had a map which showed Wheeling areas which have flooded at least once in recent history.

He reminded the board that Wheeling has been flooded "three times in 14 years." The "idea" of planning, he said, is that such problems be discussed and the "opinions and general feelings" of the village be given to the planner.

He reminded the board that Wheeling has been flooded "three times in 14 years." And he warned that persons owning land in flood plain areas "will want to come in quick" with developmental plans to avoid flood zoning regulations, and will protest.

In areas subject to floods, uses of the land should be of a nature which will not be harmed by flooding, such as parks, it was pointed out.

Further, if flood plain areas are filled up with earth and buildings, the water is only forced elsewhere. And all new development continually increases the amount of immediate runoff, pouring water into creeks and drainage facilities in a matter of hours rather than days and weeks.

Since it is being proposed to combine park and school sites, the school district will be directly involved. (A map showing general locations of where schools must be located was on hand.)

It would not be desirable to build schools in flood plain areas, but school and park playgrounds could extend into such areas, it was pointed out.

Under state law, Rupp said, flood plain zoning can be established and enforced. Flood plains can be set aside for parks, easements along stream beds can be obtained, water channels designated and special building standards required in flood plains.

"I personally was amazed to find" an area along Buffalo Creek zoned for industry, Rupp stated.

All flood areas should be designated now, he indicated, for it is nearly impossible to guess where the next development is going to be.

If flood plain areas are filled in, other land should be set aside to compensate, he said.

Public use areas may be designated on the village master plan, and any public agency has up to one year to acquire these tracts after developmental plans are submitted by the owner. However, a long term contract to purchase them could probably be entered into, Rupp noted.

But it is up to the village to see that sites for schools, parks and all other public uses are set aside, and all public agencies must "anticipate" what they will need in the future.

Changes in zoning will usually require changes in public use sites, the planner emphasized, inferring that a far reaching plan is needed which will require a minimum of changes.

It isn't "logical" to first develop flood plain areas in the village and as opposed to high and dry areas, Plan Commissioner Bernard Erlin said. (Village development has essentially been near or adjacent to Buffalo Creek. One reason offered is that flood plain land is cheaper.)

Commissioner Edward Welflin said a "priority" should be put on certain sites according to immediate needs.

The village should adopt flood plain regulations "as soon as possible," Commissioner Howard Hart stated.

As much of the flood plain area as possible should be reserved, Commissioner William Galow indicated and the village board should be contacted.

"Proper reservation of flood plain areas (should be done) as soon as possible," Commissioner Donald Paisely opined.

Satisfactory rather than unsatisfactory use of flood plain areas should be sought, Mrs. Duke said in behalf of the park district.

School Supt. Gill commented that proper use of flood plain areas would require the village "to hold up some development."

## ARONSON RECIPIENT OF CTSC MERIT AWARD

Arthur E. Aronson, 2818 N. Schoenbeck... Arlington Hts., is the recipient of the Chicago Technical Societies Council's 1962 Merit Award. The award was presented to Aronson at a testimonial dinner Tuesday night at the Furniture Club of America.

The CTSC awards are made annually to prominent scientists from the Chicago area on the basis of their professional achievements and contributions to civic betterment.

Aronson is an Augustana College Graduate. Currently he is the manager of standards and cost analysis for A.B. Dick Company in Chicago.

He lectures on industrial management at the Fort Sheridan branch of Roosevelt University, and has lectured frequently at other midwestern universities.

He is past president of the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Industrial Engineers and a former vice-president and director of the national organization.

The CTSC Merit award also recognizes Aronson's active participation in community affairs.

Aronson is currently a member of the Board of Education for High School District 214. From 1957-1959 he was president of the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove School Board.

In conjunction with the State of Illinois and the Superintendent of Schools for Cook County, he was instrumental in setting up a plan for blind children to attend school with normal children of their age. He was also one of the organizers of the Wheeling Park District. 11-29-62

## Public Knowledge Of Parks 'Short'

12-13-62

Commenting on the Wheeling Park District winter recreation program at the regularly scheduled meeting of the board of commissioners last Thursday evening were directors Keith Vernon, Jack Cole, Len Swanson, Gary Matteson, Monica Powell, and Charles Gaut.

Each of the directors expressed his concern about the lack of public knowledge concerning the programs available. Their suggestions to correct the situation included more extensive press coverage, and mass distribution of brochures.

FURTHER suggestions to improve the winter recreation pro-

gram were for more activities during the Sunday afternoon program, now primarily centered about teenage basketball, and a less regimented program for the upper grade levels in the Saturday physical fitness program.

These ideas are expected to be incorporated into the program when it resumes Jan. 7.

Referred to the recreation committee, chairman Richard Ault, were proposed band and movie programs. A report on the feasibility of each has been scheduled for the January meeting. (W)



OFFICIALS OF Wheeling and Buffalo Grove gave Donald Rumsfeld, elected 13th District U.S. Representative last month, a tour of their areas Saturday morning. The event began at about 9 a.m. with a presentation of work that has been done on planning future development as well as a short resume of the history of the two villages. Particular attention was given to flood problems and reservation of flood plains as open space. Above Buffalo Grove President welcomes the assembly before it departed on the automobile tour, and Wheeling

# Basketball Games Are Re-Scheduled

Teams of the Wheeling Park District Adult Basketball League, scheduled to play Monday, Nov. 19, were postponed until Dec. 17.

Results of the competition on Wednesday, Nov. 21, saw in the first game, Ekco Containers Corp. win over Westbrook Farms, 42-41. In the second game, Jeffery Lanes beat the Roadrunners, 38-26.

INDEPENDENTS scored 50 points to McDonalds Drive In's 43 Nov. 26, first game, and Martin Metals team won over

Wellin's Sporting Goods, 46-44. New starting times have been announced for the basketball league. The first game on Monday and Wednesday evenings will begin at 7:15 p.m. and the second at 8:30 p.m. All games are played in the London Junior High School gym. Spectators who are relatives or acquaintances of the players are welcome.



## TOYS FOR TOTS

Kathy Hopkins, 270 East Mores, Wheeling, donates toys to the Marine Air Reserve's 1962 Toys for Tots program Dec. 8. E. W. Sackett, right, Wheeling Park District Superintendent and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, and Sgt. K.D. Winters, of the Glenview Marine Detachment, accept the toys. The Marines' drive will end Dec. 22. Their goal this year is 25,000 toys for needy northwest suburban area children. Toys may be left at any Shell Oil station or the Marine Detachment, NAS, Glenview. (Official U.S. Marine Corps Photo)

# Park Board OKs Public Use Areas

Areas designated for public use lands on the proposed temporary Official Plan for Wheeling were given the unanimous approval of the Wheeling Park Board last Thursday night.

Park sites, school sites, and joint park-school sites are suggested on the proposed map. All designations were approved by the park board.

PUBLIC hearing on the Official Map will be Tuesday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m., at the village hall. The map is to serve the village until the master development plan, is completed about a year from now.

Extensive flood plain areas along Buffalo Creek are to be designated for park sites and other open land public use.



ICE SKATING got under way last weekend at the rink maintained by the Wheeling Park District in the Chamber of Commerce Park

next to the community swimming pool. Above one father had his hands full. (W

12-20-62



# Two Park Members To Seek Election

1/10/63

Richard Ault and Roy Hammond of the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners indicated at the board's Jan. 3 meeting that they will probably seek election in April, it was reported.

Four of the five seats on the park board will be open. Terms of Michael Donxella and Mrs. Audrae Duke are also expiring.

Mrs. Duke announced that she definitely will not seek reelection. Donzella was absent from the meeting.

HAMMOND, Ault and Donzella were all appointed to the board to fill vacancies, and appointive terms terminate at the next regular election after the appointment.

Terms of office are for six years, and elections are held once every two years.

However, only one of the four open positions is for a six year term. The remainder of the terms being temporarily filled by appointment are one for four years and two for two years.

# Joint Recreation Meeting Awaited

Wheeling Park District officials still had not met with the Wheeling Athletic Association regarding cooperative action on recreation facilities, it was reported at the Dec. 12 meeting of the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove District 21 School Board meeting.

A representative of the WAA present said his organization is still waiting for the park district to contact it as to a meet-

ing date. THE PARK district is seeking a cooperative agreement with the school district regarding joint use of present and future school and park facilities.

The school board has asked the park district to first work out an agreement with the WAA on use of the four baseball diamonds the WAA has constructed at Sandburg School. (V)



SINGING SEASONAL SONGS at the Burning of the Green event of the Wheeling Park District Saturday night at the Chamber of

Commerce Park was the choir of St. Mark's United Church of Christ. 1-10-63



A DANCE-EXERCISE class for adults will begin next Tuesday, Feb. 5, at Wheeling's Mark Twain School, 8:15-9:15 p.m. Exercises will consist of rhythmic movements and dance patterns. Instructors are, from left,

Mrs. Rae Swanson and Mrs. Carol Walker of Wheeling. The program is a new addition to the Wheeling Park District activities. Fee is \$8 for 10 sessions. 1-24-63

# Three Vie for Park Board Commissioner

Three persons have taken out petitions for candidacy petitions for election to the five-man Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners, it is reported.

They are Richard Ault, 438 S. Wolf Road, Mrs. Audrey Christiansen, 26 W. Manchester, and Roy Hammond, 577 E. Merle. Hammond and Ault are presently serving on the board by appointment to fill vacancies.

Filing period for the April park board election is from Feb. 1 to March 2.

**PETITIONS** may be picked up and filed with Roger Bjorvik of Palatine, attorney for the board as well as secretary-treasurer, or by arranging for them by calling Mrs. G. L. Duke, park board president, LE 7-0909. They will also be available at the

park board meeting tonight, Feb. 7, at 8:00 at the village hall.

A minimum of 25 signatures are needed on the petitions of each candidate.

Four of the five seats on the board will be open. Terms of Michael Donzella and Mrs. Audrae Duke are also expiring with Mrs. Duke announcing that she will not seek reelection.

**TERMS OF** office are for six years, and elections are held once every two years.

However, only one of the four open positions is for a full six-year term. The other three are to fill out the terms of persons who have resigned from the board, whose seats are being temporarily filled by Donzella, Hammond and Ault. One of the three terms is for four years and two are for two years.



**PROGRESS ON A** painting is discussed by Mrs. Len Abrahamson, instructor of the new oil painting class being sponsored by the Wheeling Park District, with "student" Mrs.

Robert Brower. The class was initiated a few weeks ago, and meets Tuesday night at London Junior High.



**GOING THROUGH** limbering and stretching exercises are members of the adult dance-exercise class recently begun by the Wheeling Park District on Tuesday nights at Mark Twain

School. Instructors are Mrs. Carol Walker and Mrs. Rae Swanson.

## Winter Program Success

7-21-63

# Park Registration Peaks Here at 499

Registration in the Wheeling Park District winter recreation program has hit a peak of 499, it was announced at the last regular meeting of the board of commissioners Feb. 7.

Using the school facilities a total of 40 hours a week, the park district has accommodated one out of every 19 persons residing in Wheeling in the winter program, it points out.

Outranking the attendance in any other phase of recreation or instruction are the youth activities, primarily the Saturday morning recreation and physical fitness classes at London and Whitman school gyms, with a total of 220 registrants.

TWENTY-ONE teenagers are involved in the Sunday afternoon basketball league, while only 20 adults are participating in volleyball, table tennis and badminton Monday and Thursday evenings at Whitman School.

Heading up the list of sustaining programs, by attendance, is the adult basketball league Monday and Wednesday evenings. The 10 teams comprising the league have about 10

players per team, for a total of over 100. Running second in attendance are the tap, acrobatic and ballet classes with 94 children, ages 3-13, in eight classes.

The adults exercise and dance program has 10 registrants, the junior high school modern dance program has eight, and the newly initiated oil painting class at London School on Tuesday evenings now has an enrollment of seven.

**THE BALLROOM** dance classes which had been scheduled were cancelled because of lack of response.

The recreation portion of the winter program will be concluded Feb. 28. However, instruction classes and the adult basketball league will continue.

About 4840 skaters utilized the facilities of the ice-skating pond and warming shelter in 36-days of activity, it was reported. Out of the possible days since the beginning of the skating seasons, the rink has been closed nine because of high winds or melting temperatures.

Ice skating will continue as long as weather permits. (W



GOING THROUGH dance exercises are the above participants in the dance classes being conducted at Whitman School. They are learning fundamentals of tap, ballet and acrobatic dancing. Classes are Tuesdays, Wednesdays

and Thursdays at Whitman School, Fridays and Saturdays at Mark Twain School, and Thursday at London Junior High. Instructor shown is Mrs. Beth Vandebloom.

7-21-63

# Park Districts May Be Eligible for Aid

Local park districts may be eligible for a 30 per cent federal grant given to urban areas which approach open space planning and land acquisition in a region-wide coordinated manner.

Northeastern Illinois Metropolitan Area Planning Commission officials are contacting federal officials to see if the local park districts would qualify for the aid, said L. S. Botts, planning commission, spokesman.

VILLAGE park districts now are eligible for 20 per cent federal aid under the Open Space Land Program established by Congress in 1961. Four villages, Highland Park, Niles, Homewood, and Lake Bluff have applied for aid under the program. Last week Highland Park received a \$73,000 grant for its park district.

Officials of local park districts last week said they were aware of the possibility for federal aid but few considered it was possible or practical to go after it.

Last week five counties, Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and Will

counties, signed an agreement to cooperate and thus become eligible for the 30 per cent federal grant. "We were the catalyst" in getting the districts together, said Botts.

"The main thing which has held us up from applying for federal funds is the impossibility to acquire land except through a bond issue," said William Milne, Palatine park and recreation director. He pointed out that the park district would not be able to acquire land using its operating capital since this goes for recreational purposes and usually the cost of land is "prohibitive." The park district's village attorney is looking into availability of funds.

"Our land purchase has not begun yet but we are well aware of the existence of federal funds for parks," said Audrae Duke, president of the Wheeling Park Board commissioners. Park district areas are included in the Wheeling master plan, she added.

ARLINGTON Heights Park District board of commissioners

have discussed federal funds and have information from the federal government, commented Tom Thornton, Arlington Heights park district superintendent. Arlington Heights Park District officials are looking for acquisition of two sites in the north and south part of the village, Thornton added.

"Our land needs are taken care of for a long time," indicated Charles Payne, president of Mount Prospect Park District board of commissioners. "We were able to make other arrangements and more profitably," he added in saying Mount Prospect had not used federal funds. Meadows Park and the park area south of Golf Road were not the type to make the park district eligible for federal aid, Payne noted.

Bensenville Park District has not used any federal funds for park acquisition though it is aware of the availability of such funds, said Robert S. Nichols, president of the Bensenville Park Board. The possibility of getting 30 per cent federal aid has not been contemplated, he said. (A14)

THURS., MAR. 7, 1963

## One Contest For Seat on Park Board

There will be a contest for only one of the four open seats on the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners.

Clayton Wieder and Frank Wojek both filed candidacy petitions for the one four-year term to be filled.

UNOPPOSED will be Mrs. Audrey Christiansen, for the six-year term, and Richard Ault and Roy Hammond for the two two-year terms.

Ault and Hammond are incumbents, appointed to fill unexpired terms. Commissioner Arthur Aronson still has four years of his six-year term remaining.

The park board election is Tuesday, April 2. Final filing date was March 2.

To Elect 4 Members

3-28-63

# One Poll for Park Board Vote Tuesday

Four of the five seats on the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners will be filled Tuesday, April 2, in the biennial park district election.

The one polling place will be the village hall on Dundee Road at Milwaukee avenue, where three voting machines are to be set up. Votes may be cast between 6 a. m. and 6 p. m.

To be eligible to vote, persons must be 21 years of age and residents of the park district for 30 days, the county for 90 days, and the state for one year.

**VOTERS DO NOT** have to be previously registered for park district elections as is required for village, state and national elections.

The Wheeling Park District is bounded by the Des Plaines River on the east, County Line Road and Mayer Avenue on the north, Merle Lane and Manchester Drive on the south, and about the village limit on the west.

On the ballot will be Clayton Wieder, 306 S. Park, and Frank Wojek, 150 E. Highland, both seeking the one four-year term; Mrs. Audrey Christiansen, 26 W. Manchester, running for the one six-year term; and incumbents Richard Ault, 438 S. Wolf and Roy Hammond, 577 E. Merle, running for the two two-year terms.

Therefore, unless there is a write-in vote, the only contest is for the one four-year post.

**WIEDER IS A** 10-year resident of the village and has three children ranging from 10 years to three months. He has been active in scouting, sold pool bonds, is a member of the Masonic Lodge and is employed by the Illinois Public Service Co.

He believes the park district summer recreation program has been somewhat poorly su-

pervised and that the park district should acquire some land. He generally agrees with the recreation activities that have been provided to date.

Wojek has been a resident of the village for 13 years and has two children of pre-school age. He expressed an interest in athletics, is employed as a safety coordinator, and is a member of the National Safety Council.

He also was a bond salesman for the Wheeling Community Pool, and endorses the park district operation to date.

Mrs. Christiansen, a housewife and mother, has been continuously active in the Meadowbrook Woman's Club and the Community Council as well as numerous civic projects.

**AULT IS A** member of the

Masonic Lodge and has taken part in community functions besides being in regular attendance at park board meetings. He is a teacher and coach at Highland Park High School.

Hammond, who has had one of the best attendance records at park board meetings, has also maintained an active interest in village government and participated in national party politics at a township level. He has worked closely with Park Board President Mrs. Audrae Duke and the village planner in mapping out potential park sites and planning their purchase. He is an attorney.

Retiring from the board are Michael Donzella and Mrs. Duke. Remaining on will be Arthur Aronson, who is seeking election to the High School District 214 Board of Education.

## WHEELING PARK DISTRICT ELECTION RESULTS

Listed below are the unofficial results, as of press time, of Tuesday's Wheeling Park District election. Six-Year term (one vacancy): Audrey Christianson, 81. Four - year term (one vacancy): Clayton Wieder, 60., and Frank Wojek, 58.

Two-year term (Two vacancies): Richard Ault, 88, and Roy Hammond, 84.

Audrey Duke, current Park District President, received 10 write-in votes for the six-year term. Receiving one write-in vote for the six-year term was Ray DeCarlo. Orville Hammer and Wallace Lischette each received a write-in vote for the two-year term.

121 persons were reported to have voted in the election. An official canvass of the votes will be made at tonight's Park District meeting.

4-4-63

# Summer Park Program <sup>6/19/62</sup> Under Way



**LUSTY SOFTBALL GAMES** are on the docket daily at the three school playgrounds in Wheeling, supervised by park district employees. Above Mrs. Delores Harris ump's a game at Whitman School.



**TABLE TENNIS ANYONE?** There were plenty of takers as the Wheeling Park District summer recreation program began in full swing Monday.



**THIS IS HOW** it is done. Ted Jacobs, assistant supervisor at the Whitman school playground in Wheelings, explains. Arts and crafts activities are part of the park district's summer program.



**A SUMMER ACTIVITY** are free-for-all games of baseball as above at the Sandburg School playground. (WF)

# Adopt Map, Plan

## Trustees Enact New Subdivision Controls

An "Official Map" and interim long range development plan, and a new subdivision ordinance were adopted by the Wheeling Board of Trustees Monday.

Both had been in the process of preparation and approval for about seven months, and the majority of the board was evidently anxious to enact them.

However, the board was put into a temporary quandary by a last minute request by Roy Hammond, president of the Wheeling Park District board, to defer action on the Official Map for two weeks.

He said that passage of the Official Map might jeopardize negotiations the park board is conducting to acquire about 75 acres for a major village park.

IT WAS pointed out that the map would not go into effect until 10 days after its passage, and the park district should be able to complete its negotiations by then. Whether the adoption of the map would actually have any detrimental effect upon the negotiations was also severely questioned.

Trustee Ira Bird stated that it appeared that the owner of the property involved, G. D. Searle, was angling more toward an amendment to the map. Representatives of Searle then said that they intended to ask for a change in designation on the development plan as part of their negotiations with the park district.

Public hearings on the map and subdivision ordinance were held by the plan commission over a 2½-month period beginning last December. Representatives of the Searle property were among several persons who objected to their land being included in the flood plain zones shown on the map.

The commission held that the plan was arrived at by the U. S. Geological Survey, and its data is the most accurate the village has to go by. It declined to change the flood plain designations.

THE MAP AND subdivision ordinance were submitted to the village board by the commission at the beginning of April for final action. They were held in abeyance until after the village election April 16, and have been in the process of review by the board since. A special board meeting was held to jointly review the subdivision ordinance May 13.

The Official Map was on the agenda for approval at the May 6 board meeting, but was deferred by a majority of the trustees until the May 20 meeting at the request of Village President A. R. McIntyre.

McIntyre at that time informed the board that the school and park districts were negotiating to purchase portions of the Searle property, and that their negotiations would be "com-

pletely shot" if the map were passed then.

There was no representative of the park district present at the May 6 meeting. School Supt. Kenneth Gill, who was present, told the board that he didn't think adoption of the map would affect School District 21's negotiations in any way. Agreement with his statement was indicated at that time by representatives of Searle, according to others present.

HAMMOND'S request to the board evidently came as a complete surprise to the trustees. The map had formerly received the endorsement of the park and school boards, and the plan commission, all of whom worked on it in conjunction with village planning consultant Marwood Rupp.

Hammond said he was not at liberty to divulge all the particulars of the park board's negotiations with the Searle people. He explained that the property was behind St. Joseph Catholic School and Church on Dundee Road, and between Buffalo Creek and the Soo Line Railroad.

Village board members, seemingly taken aback, said they failed to see how adoption of the map could possibly cause an increase of the cost of the land to the park district. The Searle representatives said adoption would not affect the price as far as the school district is concerned.

IT WAS POINTED out that the map had passed within 90 days after the completion of public hearings on it, or the public hearings would have to be held over again. June 6 is the 90th day, and a two-week delay would mean no action on the map until June 3.

Supt. Gill reiterated that he didn't think adoption of the map

would affect the school's negotiations for a site on the east side of Wolf Road and south of Highland Ave.

Even if it did, he said, the map and all the over-all planning it includes is more important than any single piece of property. "There are a lot of things depending on the passage of that map. I would like to speak for passage of that map tonight."

Hammond was informed that amendments to the map could be made after its adoption if they are warranted. And areas designated for public use could be released to private development by the village, school, park and library boards.

BUT HAMMOND replied that the "Searle people tell us (the park board)" that the negotiations would have to be revised and the transfer of the property

delayed perhaps a year if the map is adopted. He indicated that a price substantially below the appraised value was at stake.

In reply to questions from Village Atty. Paul Hamer, Gill said that the school negotiations probably couldn't be terminated with the park district, a re-designation of the land west of St. Joseph Church on Dundee Road would be sought. The map designates it as a flood plain and public use area.

Public hearings were held to determine the present map, Bird reminded the board, and public hearings should also be the method by which any changes in the map are made, including the Searle property.

Bird strongly called for its passage.

TRUSTEE RALPH Neubauer pointed out that the ordinance was worded so that the map would not go into effect until 10 days hence, which is nearly the two weeks asked for by the park district.

Neubauer suggested making the effective date 15 days hence, but Trustee Edwin Smith asserted that this would bring the village too close to the 90-day limitation.

Miller cast the lone dissenting vote for adoption of the map. The subdivision ordinance was passed unanimously.

Following the meeting it was commented that the park district can only obtain an option to buy the tract, until after it can hold a bond issue referendum.

The map sets aside tentative school and park sites, and indicates what probably should be rights-of-way for future roads. It is to serve as an interim plan until the final comprehensive development plan is





A RECITAL of the achievements of the dance classes sponsored by the Wheeling Park District will be held Friday, May 24, 8 p.m. at London Junior High School. There will be ninety pupils ranging in age from 3 to 13 taking part. In addition, there will be a number by the adult dance class. The public is invited. There will be no

admission charge. Above are Linda Ford and Lynn Zorie Schwind, Jud Dietz, Mary Harvel, Diane Sharp, Mary Trunda, Sue Rank, Kathy Bobb (Staff Photo)

5-23



PLAYGROUND DIRECTOR at Whitman School, Petra Rinehardt, counsels a child. The Wheeling Park District's summer program opened Monday and will continue for eight weeks.

6-20-63

(W



ABOUT 400 CHILDREN were enrolled in the Wheeling Park District's summer recreation program as of Tuesday. Above Mrs. Carol Harrison accompanies two of her

children and three of the neighbors to register at the Mark Twain School playground.

6-20-63

# Winners Listed in Junior Olympics <sup>7-18-63</sup>



**RELAY RUNNERS** reach out to tag off — group as well as individual events were on the program for the Park District's annual field day July 10 at Walt Whitman School playground.



**TWO YOUNGSTERS** found the going pretty tough as they made like a wheelbarrow in the Wheeling Park District Junior Olympics. (Staff Photo)

# HEARING FOR PARK BUDGET SET JULY 11

7-4-63

## Doubles Expense Of 1962

Public hearing on the working budget and appropriation ordinance of the Wheeling Park District will be held by the park board Thursday, July 11, 8 p.m. at the village hall.

A \$25,500 working budget for this fiscal year of from May 1 through April 30, 1964, is slated for final approval by the board. It is about double last year's budget.

Major appropriation is for salaries, \$14,400 of the total budget.

**SALARY SET** for Eugene Sackett, district superintendent, is \$1,900, and \$10,900 has been allocated for program supervisors.

Salary for the board's attorney, Roger Bjorvik, will be \$1,600, it has been agreed by the park board, an increase of \$300 over last year.

Allocation for recreation equipment and supplies is \$5,100, another \$2,075 is slated for park development, and \$900 is the sum appropriated for "grounds" machinery.

AN EQUAL sum of \$250 each has been designated for "planning park sites" and "landscaping."

There is no money slated for the purchase of park sites.

The park district has been operating on about half as much over the past two years, having had to make one year's tax income serve for two.

Roy Hammond is president of the park board. The four commissioners are Richard Ault, Arthur Aronson, Mrs. Audrey Christian-sen and Clayton Wieder.

## \$25,000 Park Budget Voted

7-11-63

A \$25,000 working budget for the current fiscal year has been adopted by Wheeling Park District.

Park commissioners last Thursday approved the budget, with an appropriation of \$31,025, for the year May 1, 1963, to April 30, 1964.

Difference between the budget and appropriation, \$5,525, is accounted for by outlook for increased tax revenue through higher assessed valuation in the district.

If available, the extra funds will be divided between new park site development and salaries for recreation personnel. Some \$2,075 is budgeted for site development; the appropriation adds \$2,925, for a total of \$5,000, to be used on a three-lot site in Meadowbrook, the district's only property. Size of the site is 150 by 100 feet.

**NO MONEY** is allocated for purchase of park sites, although \$250 is set aside for site planning.

Budget for recreation supervisors and instructors is \$10,900; appropriation is \$13,500.

This year's \$25,000 budget is

slightly more than \$3,000 greater than total disbursements for the past fiscal year, \$21,938.62.

A significant increase is the salary of Eugene Sackett, district superintendent, separate from supervisors and instructors. He now earns \$1,900, a raise of \$400.

With administration salaries — treasurer, \$600; secretary, \$400, and attorney, \$600 — the salaries allocations total \$14,400, major segment of the budget. Estimated labor costs add \$625.

**OTHER MAJOR** items include purchase of playground equipment, \$1,500; recreational supplies, \$1,500; purchase of maintenance machinery and tools, \$900; recreational facilities rental, \$700; arts and crafts supplies, \$600.

The \$25,500 in estimated receipts for the current year will come from general taxes, \$20,000; registration and entry fees, \$5,000, and unexpended funds, \$500.

THURS., JULY 11, 1963



At the third annual kite sponsored by Wheeling Park own by Michele Warger of ook Lane. Michele also won

second in the highest flying division of the contest, held July 3 at Jack London playground. (W



**SKEPTICAL MALES** watch as Tracey Klein puts all her effort into the broad jump, winning a division in that event for girls at the Junior Olympics.

7-18-63

(Staff Photo)

(W



**LEARNING TO PRANCE** and twirl at Whitman School are girls instructed by Mrs. Connie Gillespie. A baton twirling class is offered at each of the elementary school playgrounds one

day each week during the eight-week summer recreation program of the Wheeling Park District.

7-4-63

(W

# Park District Considering Referendum for This Fall

A bond issue referendum is being contemplated by the Wheeling Park District this fall, according to Roy Hammond, park board president.

The board has directed its attorney, Roger Bjorvik, to prepare a written agreement to purchase a 76.3-acre tract near St. Joseph School on Dundee Road for \$236,500, or about \$3,100 per acre.

It is an L-shaped tract extending from Dundee Road south along Wheeling Road, and east from the Railroad tracks to Buffalo Creek.

IT BACKS upon the north side of Meadowbrook West subdivision. Owner has been stated as J. D. Searle.

Negotiations for the land have been going on since early this year. Most of the area was

recently officially designated as a flood plain, and it, along with several other sites are designated for parks on the new Official Map of the village.

Mrs. Audrey Christiansen of the park board suggested that a citizens committee be formed to aid the park district with the referendum proposal. Her suggestion was taken under advisement, according to the minutes of the July 11 meeting.

SHE ALSO noted that such a committee had been suggested last summer.

Hammond said that the referendum may be held about a month after the School District 21 referendum of a \$2,425,000 bond issue Oct. 5.

THURS., AUG. 1, 1963

# No Space For Park Supplies

The park district of Wheeling was informed by the village of Wheeling Monday that the village probably doesn't have any spare space for storage of park district equipment.

In a letter read at the village board meeting Monday, the park district asked for storage space, evidently hoping for some in the old village hall and (later) public works building on Milwaukee Avenue at Center Street. (The public works department office was recently moved to its new quarters on Hintz Road.)

Village Pres. A. R. McIntyre announced that the Civil Defense headquarters is now located in the old village hall, and the police reserve unit is also using it for a meeting place.

JAMES BENNETT, public works superintendent, said he didn't have any spare storage space, particularly as much as the 20-by-20 square feet requested by Eugene Sackett, park superintendent, who was at the meeting.

However, Trustee Ira Bird moved that Bennett make a survey to determine whether or not the village has any empty storage space at all, and what it can be used for. It was approved unanimously. (W)

# Sackett Makes Report To Local Park Board

There is a paid enrollment of 404 in the Wheeling Park District's summer recreation program, according to Supt. Eugene Sackett's monthly report to the park board.

He said 200 men are also participating in the adult softball league, which includes 10 teams.

The children's baton twirling class has an enrollment of 80, with Mrs. Connie Gillespie the instructor.

SACKETT recommended to the board that it: Maintain closer liaison with them in purchasing equipment and on land usage.

—Follow a suggestion by a University of Illinois recreation advisor, E. H. Storey, that the park district locate several 20-acre parks about the village.

Sackett named Chamber of Commerce Park, Sandburg School and Mark Twain School as possible sites.

—Start a tackle football for boys in grades 6-8.

—Send speakers to local organizations to talk about the "necessity" for acquiring park land.

—Seek federal aid for a planning consultant for the park district.

—Direct the recreation committee of the park board to meet prior to regular board meetings.

SACKETT TWICE referred to last year's one-day visit of Storey, head of the recreation and parks field service of the University of Illinois. He made no reference, however, to the

comprehensive village development plan being prepared, according to the minutes of the meeting.



EXHIBIT AT SANDBURG SCHOOL Friday, Aug. 2, of the handicraft completed during the Wheeling Park District's summer recrea-

tion program is shown above. Park activities end Friday, Aug. 9.



ALL MEETS BAT. Vic Koelper of the minor league entry connects during action recently in the all-star softball game sponsored by the Wheeling Park District. The game was staged at the Jack London field in Wheeling between the major and minor all-stars. (Staff Photo by Joe Reece).

## Get Insurance for Park Activities in Schools

9-19-63

A "hold harmless" agreement has been requested of the Wheeling Park District by Wheeling-Buffalo Grove School District 21 for all park district activities conducted on school property.

School Supt. Kenneth Gill said this week that the park board has agreed to take out liability insurance equal to the amount held by the school district.

THE PARK BOARD at first contended that it is not liable for mishaps which occur during its activities, and that the school district therefore is also not liable to injury or damage claims resulting from park district activities being conducted on school property.

This position is still maintained by the park board, although agreeing to take out insurance nevertheless. Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik said, however, that doing so might mitigate against the principle of park district immunity.

At the Sept. 12 meeting of the

school board, Bjorvik also questioned the school's insistence on indemnification of school employes who might happen to be in the building during park district activities.

EXAMPLE USED by the school board was that if a janitor, who must be present, were to leave a piece of equipment in

the hall for a moment, and a child were to trip over it, hurting himself, the janitor might possibly be sued.

School Board Atty. Everett Lewy asserted that the school district is taking its greatest extra-curricular liability risks with park district activities, almost all of which are conducted on school grounds. (W

# Board OK's Buying Equipment for Tot Lot at Local Park

Purchase of \$600 worth of equipment for its tot lot in Meadowbrook Subdivision was authorized by the Wheeling Park District Board Sept. 5.

A "jungle maze," basketball hoop, sandbox and more swings were okayed by the board.

A motion by Park Commissioner Richard Ault to purchase a "jungle maze," basketball hoop and backboard, sandbox and four more swings was approved unanimously by the board, with Commissioner Arthur Aronson absent.

**THE BOARD** decided against a see-saw and slide, which were also sought by Park Supt. Eugene Sackett, which would have cost about another \$200.

Ault stated that see-saws are dangerous, and that the slides were expendable, with the money being better spent on more swings.

A future consideration will be paving the basketball area with asphalt. But Sackett said a dirt surface would be sufficient for the present.

**AULT ALSO** questioned placing any "sub-par" equipment in village parks. Referring to

possible donations of equipment, he said "backyard swing sets" are not constructed for the heavy use they would incur in the parks.

Sackett reported that the Meadowbrook park area, consisting of three lots on Nancy Lane, has been graded.

However, there were still numerous rocks about the area, Commissioner Mrs. Audrey Christiansen reported. Sackett said it would be difficult to eliminate them.

**SOMETHING** should be done to prevent children from throwing them, Mrs. Christiansen continued. One thrown by a child had struck an employee of the adjacent sewage treatment plant, she said.

Meadowbrook Park ought to be made into a "model" one in order to "prove first" to village residents what can be done before seeking voter approval of the purchase of a 70-acre park site (now in the final discussion stage), she said.

Since the meeting a detail of children was organized to scour the park for rocks, it was reported.



**SWING SETS,** jungle bars and several benches have been added to the tot lot of the Wheeling Park District on Nancy Lane in Meadowbrook subdivision. Fence in the rear surrounds

the sewage disposal plant adjacent. A tot lot is also to be established on a small tract on Jenkins Court next to St. Mark's United Church of Christ, it is announced. 9-26-63 (W)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1963

# STUDY BUYING 8 PARK SITES HERE

## Special Board Meeting Set

Development of eight "neighborhood" park sites is being tentatively considered by the Wheeling Park District in addition to the proposed 76-acre "central" park between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad adjacent to St. Joseph Catholic School.

The sites were tentatively recommended by Ralph H. Burke, Inc., of Park Ridge, newly hired park planners, following a tour of the village Oct. 1.

THREE OF them would probably involve purchase or lease of privately owned land, and the remainder would be joint utilization of school sites, it was reported.

A special meeting is to be arranged with Wheeling-Buffalo Grove School District 21 officials to discuss utilizing school sites for parks.

Burke, Inc., was retained by the park board at a special meeting two weeks ago at a fee of one-half of one per cent of the bond issue referendum slated for sometime in December.

MAJOR ITEM on the bond issue is to be the 76-acre central park, estimated cost of which will be about \$250,000. Two or three of the neighborhood park sites may also be included in the bond issue, as well as additional funds for park improvements.

The contract with Burke calls for a rebate of \$500 of its fee for work on the bond issue for each \$100,000 of park improvements that it may be contracted to design.

The five-member park board has slated a special meeting for Oct. 22, 8 p.m., at the village hall, to discuss further location of parks in the village.

TO DATE THE Wheeling Plan Commission, in the process of preparing a master plan for the village, has not been consulted or informed of the park planning program.

Sites have been designated on the preliminary master plan for parks. It was not reported

whether or not they coincide with those under consideration by the park board.

However, two of the tentative neighborhood parks would be located in or adjacent to flood plains, which has been previously recommended by village planning consultant, Marwood Rupp.

District 21 School board worked closely with Rupp in initially locating its future school sites, it was reported.

AT ITS regular meeting Thursday, Oct. 3, the park board listened to a financial consultant it invited to the meeting. He related what a financial consultant and an underwriter would do if hired to help with the proposed bond issue.

Publicity would be the "big expense" item for which the park district would be billed if a financial consultant were hired, he said.

Burke, Inc., also listed publicizing the bond issue as one of its major functions under its present contract.

Absent from the Oct. 3 meeting were Commissioner Mrs. Audrey Christiansen, and for the first two hours of the meeting, Commissioner Arthur Aronson.

## \$502 Bid On Lights Approved

A bid of \$502 for the installation of light fixtures and two poles at the parking lot of the Wheeling Community Pool was approved by the park board at its regular monthly meeting Oct. 3.

K & W Electrical Contractors was the bidder, Park Supt. Eugene Sackett said.

THERE WAS no mention made of any other bids being made.

The parking lot is to be used by the park district for ice skating this winter.



# Burke Firm Is Hired

10-10-63

Announcement of the hiring of Ralph H. Burke, Inc., engineering and architectural firm of Park Ridge, "to aid... in the preparation and development of possible major and neighborhood park sites," was made by the Wheeling Park District Board this week.

"Numerous meetings have been and will be scheduled between the board, Burke representatives, and interested citizens of the park district to best determine the needs of the district in selection, methods of acquiring sites, and development of these sites," according to a park board press release.

"ADDITIONAL FUTURE acquisitions have been recommended by village planning consultants and methods of best determining these needs are among issues to be decided," the release continues.

"The present major park site acquisition under consideration falls well within concepts presented by planners and park authorities for a village of our present and future growth, and can be well supplemented by the school-park concept as advanced by School District 21."

The "major park site" referred to is a 76-acre tract between the Soo Line Railroad and Wolf Road between Meadowbrook subdivision and St. Joseph Catholic Church. It includes a portion of Buffalo Creek, which runs along St. Joseph School.

MOST OF THE 76 acres is designated as flood plain by a U. S. Geologic Survey officially adopted by the Wheeling Board of Trustees and included in the Official Plan of the village.

Recommendation of the village planning consultant, Maxwell Rupp, is that areas subject to floods be utilized parks.

The contract with Burke seven specific points:

1) Meet with the park board to determine its wishes.  
2) EXAMINE existing park sites and recommend uses (interpreted to mean that the firm will also recommend new park sites, which it is in the process of doing).

3) "Guidance as to the most effective methods of holding a successful referendum."

4) "Analyses to determine the size of the bond issue most likely to pass."

5) "Make a series of tabulations showing the effect of the bond issue on the homeowners' taxes."

6) "Assist and advise the individual or committee appointed by the board to prepare the referendum leaflets and flyers."

7) "QUALIFIED personnel will attend two public meetings to answer questions concerning the referendum."

Fee of the firm is to be a maximum of one-half of one per cent. Should the park district retain the firm to plan its park improvements, the district will receive a \$500 rebate on this fee for each \$100,000 of improvements.

Cost of the 76-acre park site has been reported at about \$250,000. The bond issue will probably include additional sums for improvements, and also acquisition of some smaller neighborhood park sites.

# WHEELING NEEDS 'JOINT EFFORT'

THURS., NOVEMBER 7, 1963

## Planner Hails Coordination

Coordination of efforts by governmental bodies to provide and carry out a "major park and open space program in the Wheeling Planning area" was called for by Marwood Rupp, village planning consultant, in his eighth "preliminary planning report" delivered to the village last week.

The report, on "Community Facilities," emphasized "joint uses wherever possible, especially integration of school and park facilities, to provide a total (park program) to citizens."

Paramount in his recommendations for action on parks is to "establish and execute a definite land acquisition program."

Acquisition of park sites should be accomplished "even to the extent of delaying development of existing park areas, if necessary," Rupp stated.

Land acquisition policies should be based on a "unified recreational goal serving all citizens," it was further recommended.

REPEATED IN the report is the continued admonishment to villages by the Cook County Forest Preserve District that its preserves are not to be thought of as local park and play areas, or as a substitute for them.

"The forest preserve is not attempting to provide the intense recreational play areas normally considered a local responsibility," Rupp states. "Instead, it is providing major natural areas and major recreational facilities that normally are not provided by smaller districts."

Recreational facilities in Wheeling are now provided

through six "different groups" besides the park district, it is pointed out in the report.

They are the citizens Wheeling Community Pool Inc., the Chamber of Commerce Park made available by that group, the Wheeling Athletic Association, Wheeling-Buffalo Grove School District 21, the Cook County Forest Preserve District, and the Wheeling Amvets baseball field.

About one acre of park land per 100 people should be provided locally, according to generally accepted standards, Rupp notes. Recreation uses are divided into two areas, active and passive.

"Tot lots" for small children should be located in densely populated areas, and primarily as part of a larger park facility. However, "It is not recommended that tot lots outside of a larger park facility be a public responsibility," it is noted in the report.

"Neighborhood playgrounds" of about four acres should be provided for elementary and junior high children, and area "playfields" of 15 to 20 acres for older children and adults.

MAJOR PARKS are the final land category. Such a park, including picnic and nature areas, would be the 76 acres now being contemplated for purchase by the park district along Dunklee Road between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad.

In this major park, Rupp suggests a "civic center development," a village hall, police station and library, as well as recreation facilities.

OTHER POINTS in the report are:

—"Every effort should be made to maintain" the continued park uses of privately owned facilities, such as the Chamber of Commerce Park "through acquisition, if necessary." Golf courses "within the planning area should be considered as additions to the park properties if reversion to other private use is ever anticipated."

—Combination of recreation and school facilities should be combined because of "overlapping of purposes, programs and activities; the ability to combine indoor and outdoor recreational facilities in the same area, and the economics that can result from appropriate design, continual use, and lack of duplication of site area."

—Flood plains should be utilized as recreational areas "whenever possible" for the over-all benefit of development. Parks are "logical uses" for areas in which a flood hazard exists.

(ANOTHER MEANS cited for preserving flood plains are to acquire "development rights" of farm land and classifying it permanently for such "open space" usage.)

Federal funds up to 20 per cent of the cost of open space acquisition are available if it is done "in accordance with an

over-all park plan."

But 30 per cent is available, Rupp continued, if the park development is part of a regional or metropolitan plan, which has been inaugurated by the Northeastern Illinois Metropolitan Area Planning Commission. He recommends that the village enter into the Metropolitan Plan for open space.

ALSO, 50 per cent of the "conversion cost" of transferring farmland to recreational uses is available from the federal government.

A final recommendation is that a procedure be established to insure that land annexed to the village will also be annexed to the park district.

The community facilities report is part of the research work and thinking to go into the first of three sections making up the report.

The park district has recently hired its own planning firm to advise it and help pass a proposed bond issue referendum.

# Aronson Endorses Program for Parks

Arthur Aronson, former member of the Wheeling Park District Board, "heartily" endorsed the park board's program in a written resignation statement submitted Nov. 11 following his verbal resignation Nov. 7.

Aronson cited a lack of time necessary to devote to the increasing responsibilities and duties of the park board as his reason for resigning. His formal letter to the park board is as follows:

"It is with a considerable amount of reluctance that I submit herewith my resignation from the Board of Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District.

"It is gratifying to have



ART ARONSON

been a member of this board since the inception of the Wheeling Park District and to have watched its growth over these past three years. When viewed in comparison with the growth of other new park districts, the growth of our park district has been most encouraging. In these few short years the board has managed to establish a comprehensive recreation program and is now at the threshold of a program for land acquisition and development.

"It appears that at this time the park district needs commissioners who are able to devote considerable time to the development and presentation of this program of land acquisition and development. Because of other civic and business commitments, I find that I do not have the time which I feel is necessary to devote to such an undertaking.

"I heartily endorse the program as it has developed to this time, especially with reference to coordination of the efforts of the various governmental bodies serving the residents of Wheeling. As a member of the board of High School District No. 214, I will certainly work toward this goal of improved cooperation among the governmental bodies in the Wheeling area.

"My best wishes to the board for a creative and rewarding future." (W)



PRACTICING WALKING in the new charm and style course of the Wheeling Park District are the girls above. Instructor is Mrs. Gray.

However, the park district not assumed by responsible for providing permanent and maintenance to

District 21 schools are employed unofficially as "community centers," with numerous meetings and activities of all groups carried on in them. Policy of the school board is to allow any local groups to use the schools free of charge except for definite costs incurred by the school district.

Suggestions of multi-use of public buildings and grounds have been made at village board meetings, with the board street committee assigned to contact other governing bodies on such joint usage.

ONE SUGGESTION is for a civic center, including a village hall, central library and recreational facilities, with the location to be adjacent to a park.

District 21 and Buffalo Grove village officials have been discussing locating schools on park sites, with the school district only owning the school and its immediate site, but with jurisdiction over the park grounds during school hours.

## To Discuss Joint Use Of School-Park Land

Joint use of Wheeling school and park sites and buildings are to be discussed by the school and park boards tonight, Thursday, at the regular meeting of the school board at the administration building adjoining London Junior High.

The Wheeling Athletic Association, which has made use of Sandburg and Mark Twain School grounds for boys baseball activities, is also to take part in the discussion.

Tentative long range planning

of the park district calls for the use of school grounds for park sites, with the park district assuming various degrees of responsibility for equipping and maintaining the sites.

SUMMER PARK activities are already being conducted on school grounds with the permission of the Wheeling - Buffalo Grove School District 21 board.

# NOTE SCHOOL-PARK PROGRESS

THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 1963

Agreement on the principle of cooperative park-school development and uses was indicated Nov. 14 at a joint meeting of the Wheeling Park Board and District 21 Board of Education.

Also taking an official part in the meeting was the Wheeling Athletic Association, represented by its board of directors.

Little in the way of specific actions to further implement cooperation was discussed, nor the acceptability to the school board of the park district's tentative plan for land acquisition and development. A proposed lease agreement is to be prepared by the park district and submitted to the school board.

The plan calls for eight parks to be established under park district supervision, with five of them to be simply the grounds of the former plant. Hanks questioned who would decide what equipment would be put on school grounds, and who would have jurisdiction over it.

Lawrence Donahue of Burke, the firm hired by the park district to help plan its development program, said a "lease arrangement" would be entered into for the use of school grounds by the park district.

He said the park district would decide what equipment would be placed on the grounds with the approval of the school board.

IN ESSENCE, he said, the park board would have jurisdiction "outside" the school buildings, and the school board "inside." However, school officials, of course, would have complete jurisdiction of school grounds during school hours, Donahue said.

A big advantage to the park

district of such an agreement would be that it would be "saved the investment on money in land," enabling it to invest in equipment facilities, Donahue said.

The Village of Wheeling's

planner, Marwood Rupp, has recently advised that acquisition of land at this time should be a paramount objective of the park district, even if it means delaying development of the land and investment in facilities.

Donahue explained his proposition, Donahue said. He said probably after the present proposed park development is completed the district would hire a full-time man.

Citizens want to be able to use schools beyond classroom purposes, he continued, and might possibly turn down a school bond issue referendum if full use were not made of the buildings.

"The school district has already demonstrated by past action a desire to cooperate for the maximum benefit for the largest number of people," School Board Member Harry Tyler said.

But referring to the WAA, he said, "I do not want to cooperate to the exclusion of another group that is already performing this (recreation) function."

TYLER CITED the "excellent report" by the village's planner Rupp, and noted that Rupp recommended that the park and school districts purchase "immediately adjacent sites."

He then suggested that the

park board "consider buying some of the school sites." He said he didn't seek any consideration in the proposed park plan for "getting land on which we can put a school."

Hammond replied that the park district program is now aimed "primarily at catching up" on the present lack of park facilities, and that the idea of joint land acquisition could probably be "embraced" in the future.

Gill commented that two of the proposed park sites, the Chamber of Commerce Park and a five-acre area behind Hol-

## Park Board Seat

Joseph Harrison, 583 S. Wayne, has been appointed by the Wheeling Park Board to fill a vacancy on the board caused by the resignation of Arthur Aronson.

Harrison, a salesman for Midwest Tabulating Card Co., has been a resident of Wheeling for eight years. He and his wife Carol have three children.

HE ATTENDED Michigan State University for two years, taking courses in business and education. He is at present the

12-19-53  
executive vice president of the Wheeling Athletic Association and a former member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Also interviewed by the park board for the position were Betty Smith, Eugene Alsdorf and Douglas Cargill.

Names of persons interested in the position were submitted to the park board as a whole by its four incumbent members. The candidates were interviewed by the board Dec. 12,

## Talks Planned on Park-School Pact

12-26-53  
Harry Tyler is to head a committee of the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove School Board to discuss with the Wheeling Park District its proposed contract for cooperative use of school facilities for recreation purposes.

Other members of the committee are Joseph Fraser and Mrs. Caroline Hanks.

A proposed contractual agreement composed by Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik was submitted to the school board last week.

"Almost every line" of the proposed agreement "poses a problem," Mrs. Hanks commented. Included in the contract should be a provision that all children from the school district will be able to avail themselves of the park programs at the schools, and not just the children in the park district, she said. (The park district essentially includes only the area within the village limits of Wheeling.)

BOARD MEMBER Dwight Hall said jurisdiction over the school grounds after school hours should be more clearly defined, and considerations in the comprehensive planning report on schools (Preliminary planning report No. 7) should be included.

School Supt. Kenneth Gill said the arrangement should be work-

ed out to best serve the entire community.

Tyler was to arrange a meeting between the committee and the park board. (WF)

# Pact on Recreation Weighed by Schools

1-2-64

A proposed contract for the use of District 21 school grounds was submitted to the school board by the Wheeling Park District board three weeks ago.

Provisions of the suggested contract are:

1—The park district will plan the development of the school grounds.

2—The park district will pay for all equipment to be placed on the grounds and the maintenance and operation of the grounds.

—The park district will indem-

nify the school district of all liability for accidents on school grounds.

4—No fence shall be erected without the consent of the school district.

5—EVERY EFFORT will be made by the park district to avoid interference with school classes, and the school district will determine what constitutes interference and have the express right to order the interfering activity to be stopped and the premises vacated.

6—The school district can cancel the agreement at any time

by giving 90 days written notice.

7—The Wheeling Athletic Association will have first preference in scheduling activities on the baseball diamonds it has constructed on school property.

8—The indoor facilities of the school district will be available for use by the park district "subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by the school district."

A COMMITTEE of the school board is to meet with the park board to discuss the arrangement.

Discussions with Buffalo Grove village officials for joint school-park use of school grounds in that village are also to be initiated shortly, School Supt. Kenneth Gill said. He suggested to the board that discussions with both recreational jurisdictions be carried on simultaneously in order to help amplify the over-all thinking on the cooperative concept.

(W)

## School Board Defers Action On Use of Vacant 15-Acres

1-16-64

Decision on whether to allow 15 acres on Wolf Road in Wheeling to continue being privately farmed, or to leave the tract open for general recreation usage, was deferred by the District 21 School Board Jan. 9 until its next meeting Jan. 23.

The Wheeling Park District might want to make some use of the land, it was pointed out. The park board is in the process of negotiating an agreement to use school property.

SUPT. KENNETH Gill said the site might be a possible place where individuals in the community could have gardens. He said there had been talk in the Community Council of sponsoring such a community garden project.

"Frankly, I think it would be a darn nice place for kids to play," Gill added, although such usage would be more involved to the school district than renting out the land.

The tract, located on the east side of Wolf at Highland Street, is to be the site of the district's second junior high, slated for completion in 1966. It is presently a cultivated farm field. Rent offered for its continued farm use is \$15 per acre.

BOARD MEMBER Harry Tyler's motion to so rent the land was tabled. Tyler said he didn't think the park district, "with

its limited financial ability," would want a "corn field" just to use for one year, and rental would absolve the school district from responsibility for maintaining the property.

The motion was tabled, however, until after the meeting with the park district slated for today, 8 p.m., at the school administration building.

# 3 PARK EXPANSION PLANS ARE APPROVED

## All Based on Federal Help

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1964

Three alternate park expansion plans have received the tacit approval of the Wheeling Park District Board for public discussion at a forum-type meeting to be held about the end of February.

The land area involved is to be the same in the three plans, with the only variable to be the size of a building being proposed, according to the discussion at a special meeting of the park board Monday night.

Each of the plans depends upon receiving a \$94,500 grant from the federal government.

IN ADDITION to the \$94,500, the park district taxpayers would be asked to approve a direct assessment of \$496,000 for Plan A, \$425,000 for Plan B, or \$363,000 for plan C.

Plan A includes a \$175,000 building, with each succeeding plan including a smaller building.

Park Board President Roy Hammond said the board has decided it wants at least a "minimal building" for storage, if not a larger building for various recreation activities and office space as well as storage.

Hub of all three plans is a proposal for a 76-acre park on the south side of Dundee Road between Wolf Road and the Soc Line Railroad.

Mrs. Audrey Christiansen asked for an additional evaluation as to how the plans would affect the park district's operating budget as well as its tax rate.

PARK ATTY. Roger Bjorvik said that he thought Mrs. Christiansen was raising an unnecessary "boggyman." Should the operating costs increase as a result of the new responsibilities the park district would be undertaking, the budget could be "supplemented" by raising fees for park activities, Bjorvik explained.

But the park board felt that the impact of the park expansion on the operating budget and current park program should be evaluated. Bjorvik is to prepare a cost analysis.

Eugene Sackett, park superintendent, strongly endorsed the proposed recreation building.

ACQUISITION of about five acres on the north side of the village, and perhaps a similar amount west of Elmhurst Road, is also contemplated.

Hammond indicated the plans hinge somewhat upon discussions with the Chamber of Commerce regarding disposition of its 10-acre park off Wolf Road just north of Dundee Road.

Approximate additional tax rate per home per year in the village would be \$6.15 if Plan A were adopted, and \$4.50 for Plan C, according to Larry Donahue of Burke, Inc., park consulting firm. The bond issue would be retired over a 20-year period.

However, Park Commissioner

HE SAID THAT the school district would be conducting an afterschool intramural basketball program in all of its schools next year, which would curtail park district use of the schools. Therefore, a recreation building will be needed to carry on some park activities, he said. Park Commissioner Joseph Harrison asked the Burke representatives to prepare an illustrative sketch of their proposed building to show the public, and also a brochure that can be passed out at the public meeting.

Hammond said there would be a plan of what the district intends to do with the property it is seeking to acquire. It will be prepared in time for the public meeting, he said.

He also indicated an interest in including a park building in the civic center which has been

mentioned by the village board. PRICE OF THE proposed new park sites has only been negotiated for the proposed 76-acre central park, Hammond said.

Tentative dates for the public meeting are Feb. 24 and March 2.

The board apparently intends to invite the public at-large as well as sending out special invitations to heads of civic organizations and members of other governmental bodies, although its planning consultant proposed a "general" public meeting.

The consultant said there was greater benefit of getting the opinion of a select group including the "leaders of the community." There is always a segment of the community which will vote against anything, he said. Attendance at the forum of such people would "dilute" the proceedings so that "you don't see what the people want at all."

Park Commissioner Richard Ault disagreed with the other commissioners on the matter,

saying the board should take the advice of the planner on the type of meeting to be held. There are about 40 "proven leaders" in the village, he said.

SACKETT NOTED the high school district had held a public advisory type meeting concerning the new Wheeling High School the previous week, and that it had not been "open to everyone."

The park plan or plans decided upon as a result of the advisory meeting are to be submitted to voters in a general election later.

Another special meeting of the park board is slated for Monday, Feb. 3, 8 p. m., at London Junior High School. Commissioner Clayton Weider was absent from Monday's meeting.

# PARK

# DEVELOPMENT

## *Board Plans Joint Parleys*

1-16-67

Planning of a comprehensive park acquisition and development program was stepped up by the Wheeling Park District Board at a special meeting Thursday, Jan. 9, at the village hall.

Representatives of the park district are to meet with two civic organizations this week, and the park board as a whole is to meet with a delegation from the school board on a proposed cooperative agreement for joint use of park and school sites.

A future meeting with a cross section of people from the community to explore possible alternative approaches to park expansion was also tentatively discussed, and another special meeting of the park board was tentatively set for Jan. 27.

LAND ACQUISITION was emphasized at the park board's special meeting last Thursday, according to reports.

Park officials also indicated to their planning consultant, Burke, Inc., of Park Ridge, that a building which had been proposed by the firm would probably be too elaborate for the community's needs at present.

"... feeling among members of the board was that a small administration building would suit the needs of the (park) district at this time," it was stated.

It was further explained that the board had never "seriously contemplated" a building expenditure as large as had been included in the planning firm's initial plan.

Park President Roy Hammond said the planner is in the process of making several revisions in its initial plan.

PARK ATTY. Roger Bjorvik has been delegated to inquire about "several additional pieces of property" other than those already specified as "potential

park sites."

Being discussed also is preparing three somewhat different park expansion plans and sounding out public preference to them.

A definite date for a referendum vote on a proposed park plan is still being discussed, also.

However, Hammond indicated that the meeting to sound out public opinion and hear suggestions may be held as early as February and as late as April.

HAMMOND WAS to meet with the Chamber of Commerce Wednesday regarding use of its park on Wolf Road, and Park Commissioner Joseph Harrison was to meet Tuesday with the Wheeling Athletic Association in regard to its baseball diamonds on the Sandburg School grounds.

# PUSHED

Tonight, Thursday, the park board is to meet with the grounds committee of the District 21 School Board regarding using school facilities for park programs, and also combining park and school facilities. The meeting is at 8 p.m. at the school administration building.



# OK SCHOOL-PARK SITE PLANS

## Total Cost Is \$165,000

Preliminary drawings for a \$165,000 long-range development of the Jack London and Eugene Field School sites, prepared under direction of the Wheeling Park District were approved by the District 21 school board last Friday.

The park district and the school board entered into a pact early this year to work jointly on developing school and park lands for maximum benefit to both school children and Wheeling area residents.

The plans approved Friday & it were drawn by Ralph Burke, Inc., Park Ridge, and included a proposed \$24,500 in expenditures at the Eugene Field site and \$140,000 for the Jack London site. The London site includes school property extending south nearly to Lee Street and a parcel of park district property in a low area at the south end of the school property and east of the Lee Street dead end.

**EXPENDITURES** of \$4,100 for the Field site and \$16,500 for the London site have already been approved by the voters in a park district referendum held last spring. How this money will be spent was carefully discussed as school board members studied the plans Friday night. Meeting with the school board

were Harold Koca of Ralph Burke, Inc., Park Board President Roy Hammond, and Park Commissioner Dick Ault.

Park representatives agreed with school board members that the first requirement in developing the two sites is that they be graded and seeded. Hammond said the park board is faced with the problem that the grading and seeding would take nearly all of the money allocated by the referendum, but voters expect further improvements such as tennis courts and playground equipment.

**DR. KENNETH Gill**, District 21 superintendent, said school building funds may be available to finance part of the grading at Eugene Field School. He pointed out that grading and seeding the areas would make them usable for more activities by more people than would limiting expenditures to small improvements such as tennis courts.

The approved preliminary plans provide for the eventual development of a grass ball diamond and play field approximately 240 by 320 feet at the southeast corner of the Eugene Field site.

Also planned for that site are a blacktop basketball court, a blacktop playground with equipment, an all weather play field south of the school, and a fenced kindergarten play area at the west edge of the building.

**THE \$140,000** planned expenditures at the Jack London site include several major recreational facilities. A 440-yard track 24 feet wide would eventually be installed along the west side of the school property south of the building at an estimated cost of \$14,000.

The track would contain a field usable for football or field hockey during the warm months and could be flooded for an ice skating rink during the winter.

Opposite the track on the east side of the school property a 250 by 650 foot open area is planned for field games and will also contain two softball diamonds.

Four tennis courts complete with fencing and two handball courts would be located at the southeast edge of London School for a total cost of approximately \$30,000.

**THE SOUTH** end of the site which is owned by the park district would contain an \$18,000 combination equipment storage and rest room building. Also in the area would be a tot lot and blacktopped playground which fully equipped will cost \$20,000.

A little league ball diamond is planned for the southwest corner of the property and adjacent to Lee Street.

Graveled walkways would connect the recreational facilities and the picnic areas in the park which will take several years to develop. Hammond said the park board has not set a definite time limit, but hopes to move steadily forward on the projects with the school district.



**A POSSIBLE CIVIC CENTER** layout was presented to the village by its planning consultant Marwood Rupp at a special meeting of the plan commission Feb. 5. It was submitted along with Rupp's suggestions for general capital improvements in the village, and was prepared by Wheeling architect G. L. Duke. Location of the civic center as proposed is on Dundee Road on the west side of Wheeling Road just west of the Soo Line Railroad. Clockwise around the drawing, the first building is a township hall; the second a municipal building including a police station, fire station,

court and governmental administrative offices; the third a library and recreation building; and the fourth a post office. An artificial lake in the rear would perhaps be excavated in a 76-acre tract adjoining the proposed civic center area that the park district board hopes to purchase. At the lake's edge is a band shell, outdoor theatre and boat docks. The lake would be a vast extension of a storm water retention basin already existing near the Soo Line Railroad tracks. There is also some speculation that a YMCA might be located adjacent to the civic center. Rupp said that

the village is behind in obtaining needed capital improvements, and needs to catch up. Duke said the proposed civic center layout is fluid and can be easily revised and adjusted. Trustee Richard Frederick said at a recent committee meeting that he is "going to push for a referendum for a new village hall." He added that now is an ideal time for village department head to "implement" the general suggestions of the planner for capital improvements with definite projections of their future space requirements.

# Boards Discuss Contract

## School-Park

# Accord Reached

General accord was expressed by the Wheeling Park Board and District 21 school officials last week on a proposed contract for joint use and maintenance of some school-park facilities.

The agreement proposed to the school board by the park board was hashed over in a joint session Jan. 16 at the school administration building. Also represented at the meeting was the Wheeling Athletic Association.

Several changes in wording and context are to be made, it was reported. The revised draft of the contract is to be reviewed at another joint meeting, the date to be announced, before formal action is taken.

A MAJOR addition to the agreement as originally proposed is that it would be effective when and if the park district's forthcoming bond issue referendum is passed.

If it fails, the park district would be financially unable to fulfill some of the obligations it is assuming in the agreement as now proposed, and a new arrangement would have to be worked out, according to Roger Bjorvik, attorney and secretary for the park district.

(Main financial obligation the park district would incur in the present form of the agreement would be maintenance of school grounds, particularly the landscaping.)

It was verbally agreed also to include a provision in the park referendum for the purchase of maintenance equipment, including any of the school maintenance equipment that would become superfluous to the school district.

HOWEVER, it was pointed out that the school district would have to keep grounds maintenance equipment and personnel to maintain the school sites which are not included in the park district, Bjorvik said. (Elementary School District 21 encompasses Buffalo Grove, a part of Prospect Heights and other unincorporated areas as well as the Village of Wheeling.)

Further duplication of the Village of Wheeling's maintenance equipment was also discussed, according to Harry Tyler, chairman of the school board's real estate committee. There will probably have to be a joint agreement between the three governing bodies (school, park and village) to "minimize" governmental expenditures on maintenance equipment, he opined.

Tyler said he "hopes" the park plan to be presented to the voters will be more complete the next school-park session.

THE SCHOOL board was informed Jan. 16, he related, that the land acquisition and development plans being formulated by the park board were still too nebulous to be presented at that time. (A park plan which was shown to the school board several weeks ago reportedly has been returned to the park district's planning consultant for revision.)

Another major point to be included in the revised agreement is that park programs using school facilities will be open to all residents of the school district.

"It was a very fruitful and harmonious meeting," Tyler said.

BASIC provisions to be included in the contract are:

—The park and school boards will be jointly responsible for planning the development of cooperatively used grounds, with the park district to carry out the development and maintenance at its expense. (How the planning is to be implemented by the park district is to be "spelled out" to school

officials at the next discussion session, Bjorvik said.)

— Any activities associated with the schools will take precedence on grounds owned by the school district although managed by the park district. However, the school district must give the park district seven days notice of potential conflicts of activities.

— Either governmental body may terminate the contract "without reason" upon giving a 90-day notice.

— Any resident of the school district will be able to take part in park programs involving school facilities on an equal basis with residents of the park district.

—The Wheeling Athletic Association will have first priority on the four baseball diamonds it constructed at the rear of Sandburg School on Schoenbeck Road.

—The agreement will be contingent upon the passage of the park district's future bond issue referendum.

All of the five-member park board except Clayton Wieder were present at the Jan. 16 meeting, and Harry Tyler, Joseph Fraser, and Mrs. Caroline Hanks of the school board.

# PARK FORUM

FEBRUARY 27, 1964

# MONDAY

## Seek Public Views, Help

A sounding-out of public opinion on the purchase and development of parks for Wheeling is the hoped for result of a public forum to be held by the park district board Monday, March 2, 8 p.m. at the school administration building.

A program for land acquisition, and three alternative programs for land development, are to be presented to the assemblage.

The only variable in the three plans to be presented will be the size of a proposed building.

**THE LAND** acquisition program is hinged upon receiving a federal aid grant of \$86,400.

Maximum total additional cost of buying and developing the land as contemplated by the park board at present would be \$496,000. That is the amount the local taxpayers would pay directly.

Proposed for purchase are 87.3 acres at three different locations.

Bulk of this acreage would be 76.3 acres on the south side of Dundee Road between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad. It would become a major central park facility for the village. A flood plain area, construction of an artificial lake on the site has been discussed.

**OTHER TWO** park sites presently proposed are seven acres in the vicinity of Holland subdivision on the north side of the village, and six acres behind London Junior High adjacent to Dunhurst subdivision.

Another part of the proposed

program is for the park district to take over the maintenance and equipping of all school grounds within the village, plus improving Chamber of Commerce Park northeast of the Dundee-Wolf Road intersection.

Cost of the largest of the three proposed building designs would be \$167,000, and the smallest, \$53,000, according to the estimate of Burke, Inc., a firm employed by the park board as a park planning consultant.

**MAXIMUM COST** of the park program would be \$582,400, with \$86,400 of that amount to come from the federal government.

Of the total amount, \$288,000 would be for land acquisition, and \$294,400 for development of the land as parks.

Development of the 76-acre tract would include \$4,000 for grading and seeding, \$3,500 for baseball fields, \$14,000 for tennis and handball courts, \$10,000 for lights for one of the ball fields, \$12,000 for "sewer, water and power," \$1,000 for playground equipment, and \$1,000 for bleachers.

Another \$12,000 is appropriated for tennis courts at London Junior High.

Legal and architectural fees, and other miscellaneous costs, would amount to \$38,550.

**NEXT HIGHEST** expenditure

would be for grading and seeding of the seven school sites and the Chamber of Commerce Park, and following close behind would be the amount spent on equipment for the sites.

Tax rate for the maximum program would be 8.2 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, or \$5.25 per year for 20 years for a home with a tax assessed valuation of \$16,000.

A straw ballot on the proposed park programs will be taken at the meeting, with a space for additional remarks at the bottom of the ballot sheet.

**INVITATIONS** to the meeting have been sent out to the heads of various organizations, government officials and other community leaders.

However, the meeting is open to the general public.

Members of the park board are Roy Hammond, Richard Ault, Clayton Wieder, Mrs. Audrey Christiansen, and Joseph Harrison.

## Lease <sup>2-20-64</sup> Of Park Studied

A proposal to lease the Chamber of Commerce Park in Wheeling is being made to the Chamber of Commerce by the Wheeling Park District Board.

At its Feb. 6 meeting the park board approved the form of a letter to be sent to the Chamber on the subject. The lease arrangement would be similar to that being negotiated by the park board for the use of school property.

Purchase of a six-acre tract at the rear of London Junior High is also being negotiated by the park board. The site would be included in the bond issue referendum being planned by the park board for the end of March.

# Wheeling Park District

## April Referendum Set

Voters of the Wheeling Park District will probably be asked to approve a park acquisition and development plan to be presented to them April 4 by the park board.

This was the tentative referendum date voiced Tuesday by Roy Hammond, park board president, following Monday's public forum on a proposed plan.

On the ballot the bond issue will be for a maximum of \$582,400 to a minimum of \$453,400, according to the plans presented Monday.

However, the park district intends to request a federal grant in aid available to communities

for the purchase of "open space." The grant would be for a maximum of \$86,400, or 30 per cent of the \$288,000 of the bond issue now designated by the park district for land acquisition.

**IN ORDER** to qualify for the grant, the park plan must be part of an over-all comprehensive metropolitan area development plan. In other words, it must be endorsed by the Northeastern Illinois Metropolitan Area Planning Commission.

Without this endorsement, it has been explained, the park district would only be eligible for a 20 per cent grant, providing federal authorities agree that the park plan is in accordance with Wheeling's comprehensive development plan (final adoption of which is now pending before the zoning board of appeals and village board).

If the park district received the 30 per cent grant, Wheeling residents within the park district would be asked to directly shoulder a maximum of \$496,000 in bonds.

**THAT WOULD** mean an increase in their tax rate of 8.2 cents per \$100 property assessed valuation, or in larger terms, 82 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

A home which would sell on today's market for \$16,000 would probably be assessed for tax purposes at 40 per cent of its market worth, or \$6,400.

Additional annual tax on such a house if the bond issue were approved would be \$5.25, the park board states.

Of the \$582,400 the park district might seek, \$288,000 is now designated for land acquisition.

**OF THAT AMOUNT,** \$236,500 is for the purchase of the 76-acre Searle property on Dundee Road, extending east and west behind the St. Joseph Church from the Soo Line Railroad to

Wolf Road.

Almost all of the 76 acres is shown as a flood plain area on the village's flood plain map prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey. (This is one of the primary reasons it was chosen for park development, as the area would be generally unsuitable for any other kind of usage. Also, it is about the most central location for a major park still remaining in the village, the park board has explained.)

**TWO OTHER** park sites would also be purchased according to the present park plan. One would be about nine acres north of Holland subdivision and west of Wolf Road, and the other would be a five-acre parcel at the rear of the London Junior High site in Dunhurst subdivision.

Remainder of the bond issue, \$294,400, would go for park equipment, facilities and a building.

A maximum of \$167,000 of the \$294,400 was designated for the building. But as a result of the straw ballot taken Monday, the park district may elect to go for a smaller building to cost an estimated \$114,000, or maybe an even smaller building.

(Results of the straw ballot are to be discussed at the regular meeting of the park board tonight, March 5, 8 p.m. at the village hall.

Other considerations, mainly of a financial nature, were also raised at the public forum which will probably be discussed by the board tonight.)

**COST OF** the buildings as outlined above does not include the architectural, legal and engineering fees, according to the fact sheet distributed at the forum by the park board.

These miscellaneous costs, including those of handling the bond issue and laying out the various athletic facilities in the parks, would amount to a maximum of \$38,550.

Next highest expenditure would be \$26,000 for tennis and handball courts at the Searle site and at London Junior High.

Under the proposed plan, the park district would take over

the responsibility for equipping and maintaining the grounds of the four schools of Wheeling-Buffalo Grove Elementary District 21, and of the two new schools to be opened by 1966.

Some other expenditures proposed under the park plan would be \$10,000 for lights for a softball field, \$12,000 for "sewer, water, and power." Grading and seeding, playground equipment and ball fields constitute the remaining expenditures.

**THE PARK DISTRICT** has a maximum bonding power of about \$600,000 at present, although this is growing with the continuing growth in assessed valuation.

The civic center site on Dundee Road being considered by the village board would adjoin the park district's proposed 76-acre major park.

# DISCUSS PARK PLANS

MARCH 5, 1964

## Cost, Taxes Questioned

by TOM EDWARDS  
News Editor

There were a lot of questions but few suggestions at the public forum held by the Wheeling Park District Board Monday on its proposed park acquisition and development plan.

And it was announced that the referendum for a bond issue of about \$500,000 would be at the end of the month.

About 60 people, more than anticipated, crammed into the school board meeting room in the School District 21 Administration Building.

The questions dealt mainly with costs, taxes and how the park plan will fit into the proposed civic center development being considered by the village board.

THERE WAS a large representation present from the village board, plan commission,

school board and Wheeling Athletic Association. Also in attendance were representatives from numerous civic organizations.

Absent from the five-member park board was Clayton Wieder.

The history and current activities of the park district were outlined by park board members Richard Ault and Audrey Christiansen, and park superintendent Eugene Sackett to start the meeting off.

Roy Hammond, park board president, then outlined the three alternative park plans and the reasoning behind them. He was followed by board member Joseph Harrison, who summarized the effect of the proposed bond issue on the local property tax rate.

HAMMOND SAID that the park district does not yet have a firm contract to buy a 76-acre tract for a central park on Dundee Road between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad, but is relatively certain of being able to buy it for \$236,500.

That price, he said, is considerably below the appraised value of the land.

Only variance between its three proposed park plans, Hammond continued, would be the size of the central park building.

THE PARK board has decided that it needs at least a "minimal" building facility for office space and equipment storage, he said. The somewhat larger building being contemplated would also contain meeting rooms and a small all-purpose room, and the largest building would have an all-purpose room large enough to contain a basketball court.

(Difference in price from the smallest to the largest building would be about from \$70,000 to \$200,000, including architectural and engineering fees.)

One of the reasons why a recreation building is needed, the park president continued, is to provide an additional meeting facility in the village. Park activities and others are liable to be canceled out of school facilities on short notice when they conflict with a school activity, he explained.

BESIDES THE 76-acre tract, the park plan calls for the purchase of two other sites totaling about 13 acres, Hammond pointed out. The park district "should be acquiring land now, he said, as it is becoming "less and less available, and more and more expensive."

Village President A. R. McIntyre brought out that the tax now collected from park district property owners is eight cents per \$100 assessed valuation (80 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation).

If the park bond issue were approved, the park district tax would be increased a maximum of another eight cents, he said, putting the total park district tax levy at 16 cents per \$100.

IN ANSWER to a question from Village Trustee Edwin Smith, it was stated that the proposed 20-year bond issue would be geared so that the bulk of it would be paid toward the end of the 20-year period, when the assessed valuation and population of the community should be considerably greater.

Unless the community steadily grows to 17,000 population during the 20-year period (the figure used to calculate the bond retirement payments), F. D. Crowley stated from the audience, the park tax would have to be higher than now estimated.

Warren Sessous questioned the park board as to whether it had adequately supported "sound planning" of village development, referring primarily to the work on a master development plan now being completed by the village board. And he asked if the park plan will be coordinated with the civic center idea.

HAMMOND SAID the park board has consulted and worked with former village planner, Marwood Rupp. He indicated the park plan has been coordinated with the civic center as much as possible, but that the center idea has hardly been discussed by the village board yet.

Showing a tentative layout for

the 76-acre park, Hammond pointed out that the "lake" shown on it would be a cooperative endeavor with the village board.

In evaluating the effect of the park plan on the total tax rate, Lloyd Peterson, president of the school board, said that the school district could levy 20 cents more for its "operating" expenses if it needs the money. But it has reached its maximum bonding capacity (and therefore cannot raise its "building" tax rate more than it is).

SCHOOL SUPT. Kenneth Gill stated that School District 21's assessed valuation increased about \$5,000,000 over the last year, which would also justify the park district's anticipation of an increasing tax base.

Village Trustee Peter Egan indicated that the full appraised value of the 76 acres proposed for a major park perhaps did not take into account that it is almost all flood plain (generally unsuitable for development other than as parks). Hammond said this had been taken into account.

Larry Donaghue, the park district's planning consultant, commented that a park plan should "balance" between land acquisition and development.

Evidently some of the most salient questions of the meeting were raised at that point by Village Board Trustees Richard Frederick, and Ralph Neubauer, and John Corbin, president of the Hollywood Ridge Homeowners Association.

IF THE PROPOSED facilities were built, Frederick asked, what would be the effect on the operating budget of the park district? That is, what will be the expense of operating these facilities?

Maintenance costs as well as operating costs were added into this consideration by Corbin.

Although this over-all question had been raised by Mrs. Christiansen of the park board at a special meeting Jan. 27, the park

board was not prepared to answer how the expansion would affect its operating budget (about \$25,000 annually at present).

(It was earlier brought out that the park district can levy another nine-cent tax per \$100 assessed valuation in addition to the eight cent tax it now has for day to day operation — and in addition to the eight-cent tax needed if the bond issue goes into effect.)

Hammond replied that the park district would either have to cut its activities program or raise activity fees if it ran into financial difficulties in operating and maintaining its facilities in the future.

"How do you reconcile expanded facilities and a reduced (activity) program?" Frederick asked.

**ANY REDUCTIONS** in activities would only be a "stopgap" measure, Hammond said.

Neubauer told the park board that it should be "constantly on the village board" to remind it to ask all landowners annexing tracts to the village to also annex to the park district. Otherwise, he said, the park district won't be getting the increases in assessed valuations it hopes for.

Several village areas which are not now in the park district were pointed out by Neubauer.

William Galow, plan commission chairman, commented that the commission has been making a special effort recently to keep itself appraised of the park district as well as the village boundaries, to help keep them as co-terminous as possible.

**HARRY TYLER** of the school board asked if the funds of the bond issue would be "earmarked" for specific expenditures, with the reply that the appropriation would be loosely delineated.

Crowley asked if the plan presented is the "only idea" the park board has for the purchase of land.

Hammond indicated that it was, but asked for suggestions

along that line. There were none.

In coming up with its proposed building, the park district was asked if it had taken into consideration the junior high to be built on Wolf Road in 1966 and the high school to open at Hintz and Elmhurst Roads next fall?

**MAXIMUM BONDING** capacity of the park district at present is about \$600,000, it was brought out.

A straw ballot taken at the close of the meeting indicated a preference for the medium-sized park building. (WF)

# MEET TO SHAPE REFERENDUM FOR PARKS

## Hold Straw Vote More Barbs Than Bouquets

3/5/64

Over 70 persons packed the Park District meeting Monday night on future land purchases and development and threw more barbs than bouquets.

Park Commissioners outlined three plans, one of which they will submit to voters March 31. Which plan they decide to submit will depend on comments made at the meeting and "straw ballots" cast by persons at the meeting.

The three plans differ only in the size of building to be constructed on the Searle property. All three plans call for purchase of 80 acres of the Searle tract, seven acres in the Holland Subdivision, and five acres near the London Jr. High.

School Superintendent Ken Gill said he did not favor the straw ballot if it would be used to determine which plan would be placed on referendum. Since the meeting was attended largely by invited persons, he felt this would take away the vote of over 99% Park District voters who were not invited. Gill said that had he gone to another meeting, he would have lost his vote.

Park District President Roy Hammond replied that the vote would help the board form an opinion on what to ask voters, but would not be binding.

The most expensive plan calls for a bond issue of \$496,000 and would include a major recreation center building. Another plan calls for a building costing \$114,000 instead of \$167,000. The least costly plan calls for an administration and maintenance building costing \$47,000 and not usable for recreation purposes.

The Park District has no firm offers from any land owners. Searle tract owners are willing to sell 70 to 80 acres at \$3100 an acre (supposedly half the appraised value), leaving 20 to 30 acres for their own industrial use.

The portion the Park District is interested in is in flood plane and construction there is prohibited by a recently enacted Village flood plane ordinance. The park district would have to construct a lagoon on their portion to collect run-off water from the other section and their own area. While the lagoon would add water sports and beauty to the park, it would substantially cut down the usable land area.

The Village of Wheeling may join with other public bodies to purchase part of the site for a proposed civic center, precluding the site for industrial use. Trustee Smith,

said the Searle tract has already been officially declared public land, preventing construction on site for one year after submission of plans to give public bodies opportunity to buy it.

Several members of the audience, including Village Board members, asked how the park district would get the money to maintain and operate the new parks if voters approved their purchase. Hammond responded that "we may have to trim a little bit" from present park district programs, and make more activities self-supporting by charging higher fees to participants.

The park district will ask voters to double the present tax of 8¢ per \$100 assessed valuation. This would mean an increase of \$4 to \$6 per home per year.

The park district will very likely ask the voters for a recreational tax levy of 5¢ per \$100 assessed valuation if voters approve present idea of buying land and developing part of it. Park District Commissioners told this reporter that they hesitate to ask voters to approve increases in the corporate tax fund (which is usually used to buy land, erect buildings and develop parks) and the recreational fund (salaries of superintendent, care-takers, maintenance materials), at the same time. They prefer to take it to the voters in two stages. Also, there is a possibility that the state may authorize this district to levy the recreational tax without submitting it to voters for approval. Newly formed park districts are allowed to levy recreational tax without approval of taxpayers.

The Park District Commissioners said they felt Wheeling needs a large park of 70 acres or more for community wide activities. Smaller parks of perhaps 20 acres or more would supplement it. Mr. Donoghue, a professional planner who advised this course of action, attended the meeting.

Some persons at the meeting held the opinion that a large, centrally located park would be less beneficial than several smaller parks located throughout the town. They felt that acquisition and development of a large park would delay smaller parks. Smaller children would not be able to walk to the large park.

Mayor McIntyre brought out that over 20 acres are available at the place where the park district would like to buy seven acres.

Wheeling Jaycees prepared a preliminary result of their recent survey, including 256 returns out of a total mailing that 2% thought Park System and Program was outstanding, 28% felt it adequate, 45% thought it inadequate, and 25% expressed no opinion.

Results of the straw ballot taken at the meeting will probably be released late this week. We hope to report them in next week's INDEPENDENT.



3-12-64

# \$582,400 Park Plan To Voters April 4

A \$582,400 park acquisition and building plan, the most extensive of three considered by the park board, will be put to Wheeling voters April 4.

This was the decision of the Wheeling Park Board at its regular meeting Thursday, March 5.

The three plans considered by the park district varied only in the size of the building to be included. Maximum building considered, and finally chosen, would cost about \$195,000, while the minimum building would cost about \$65,000.

**MAJOR** expenditure from the proposed bond issue would be \$288,000 to purchase 87.3 acres of land for parks. The remaining amount of about \$100,000 would go for various facilities, according to the plan as outlined by the park board.

The park district intends to seek federal funds available to local communities for the acquisition of land which would be used and preserved as "open space."

Maximum amount of federal aid would be 30 per cent of the cost of the land acquisition, or \$86,400.

With federal aid, the proposed park program would cost local taxpayers \$496,000.

**DECISION** TO seek the largest of the three proposed buildings was made after a public forum March 3 at which the opinions and a straw ballot were

taken.

The straw ballot gave a slight edge to the "medium" sized building, but the maximum proposed building had a decided edge over the minimum proposed building.

It was also decided by the park board not to separate the building from the rest of the plan on the ballot. That is, to present one entire package

into two questions.

The land to be acquired includes a 76-acre tract for a major village park located south of Dundee Road between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad. Other parcels are nine acres north of Holland subdivision on the north side of town, and five acres behind London Junior High.

## Straw Vote Favors Park Plan

3/12/64

Here are the results of the straw ballot for proposed park development held at the Park District meeting March 2:  
20 voted for plan A (\$496,000 program), 20 voted for plan B (\$433,000 program) and 8 voted for plan C (\$367,000 program). Five voted No on any plan, and four ballots

were unmarked. One ballot marked "non-resident" was not counted. Only difference between 3 plans was the size and cost of building for Searle site.

On the question of whether a voter would be in favor of a proposal different than the one chosen above, here is vote:

	Yes	No
Proposal A	3	14
Proposal B	32	7
Proposal C	28	10
Unmarked	4	6

Park President Roy Hammond stated that based on the above totals, it would be reasonable to assume that 34 voters would vote yes, and 23 would vote no out of a total of 57 voters.

Hammond further explained that the straw ballots were not 100% representative of entire community, and that Park Planner Donoghue said that such a group should poll four-to-one to ensure success at the polls. Statistically, Plan B would have the best chance of success. Over a dozen ballots contained comments such as these:

- "The Best of Luck. We need this step forward."
- "Land most important."
- "Question should be split into land and improvements."
- "I'm in favor."
- "School facilities could be utilized."
- "Don't detail building plan."
- "Hope we get going on stepped up park program. Will hold coffees to help."
- "My conscience won't let me vote for any of these. All this will do is lower my standard of living and depreciate the value of my property."
- "Look for other sites."
- ".....Business and industry carry the tax load."
- "Pursue vigorously. Wheeling needs parks."
- "Larger than needed."
- "Wonder if the largest tract necessary and best available?"
- "How will surface water be carried away? It would require hundreds of thousands of yards of fill to bring up to grade."
- "Offer different suggestions on land."

# SET PARK VOTE FOR APRIL 4

## View Site as Windfall

Wheeling Park District voters will be asked to approve a \$496,000 bond issue for land acquisition and improvement in a referendum Saturday, April 4.

Park Commissioners voted four-to-one approval of a motion by Commission Audrey Christiansen to ask voters to approve the purchase of the Searle tract, five acres near the Holland Subdivision, and seven acres in back of London Jr. High School at a net cost of \$201,600 (total cost is \$288,000, but Federal Government is expected to pay 30%, or 86,400 of cost, under a federal aid for parks program); and a Park Development program at a cost of \$294,400 that would include:

Searle Tract: Grading and seeding, playground equipment, Softball and Baseball Fields, Bleachers, Lighting, Tennis Courts, Pavement, Walks and utilities, \$47,000.

Recreation Building on Searle Site: This would be a major recreational building, costing \$167,000 and built on high ground outside of flood prone area.

Holland Subdivision: Grading and Seeding, Playground Equipment, Softball Field, \$4,500.

Chamber of Commerce Park: Grading and Seeding and playground Equipment \$2,250.

Walt Whitman School: Rehabilitate Softball Fields, Miscellaneous Improvements, \$1,000.

Mark Twain School: Softball Field, Baseball field, Playground Equipment, \$4,500.

Carl Sandburg School: Handball Court, Playground Equipment, \$2,500.

Jack London Jr. High: Grading and Seeding, Playground Equipment, Softball Field, Tennis Court, \$16,500.

Jr. High Site at Highland Ave. and Wolf Road: Grading and Seeding, softball field, Playground Equipment, \$6,500.

Eugene Field School (Now under construction in Hollywood Ridge): grading and seeding, playground equipment, softball field, \$4,100.

Costs of contingencies, legal and bond counsel, Architect and engineering fees, topographical, borings and inspection fees, \$38,550.

Park District President Roy Hammond said he feels that most of the cost of excavating the lagoon on the Searle site would probably be by the village. The lagoon would act as a water retention basis for the park and areas outside of the park. Commissioner Richard Alt said that it would prevent flooded basements in Meadowbrook and other areas, even though the baseball diamonds might be under water for a week every few years.

Dirt taken from the lagoon would be used to raise part

of the flood prone area to high ground.

Hammond said that buying the Searle site for \$3,100 an acre is a "windfall" that may not be available later. The figure he used was arrived at by an appraiser who has worked with the local board in the past, and is based on: 1) recently passed village ordinance prohibiting construction on flood plains and 2) use of land as a park. Previous appraisal of land for industrial use, without flood plain restrictions was over \$500,000.

Searle is willing to sell at a "loss" for tax purposes, Hammond said. The loss must be justified by an appraisal, or interval revenue might disallow it. Thus, the tract could be considered a \$300,000 donation from Searle," according to Hammond.

The Park Commission is following the advise of professional park planner Donoghue in attempting to establish a large community type park with smaller neighborhood parks scattered throughout the town. The large park will be a drive-to type, while the neighborhood parks will be the type children and adults can walk to (most of these will be on school grounds, under an agreement now being worked out between the school board and park district).

Commissioner Clayton Weider voted against the proposition, stating that he favored neighborhood parks, "I wouldn't send my children down Wolf Road and along Dundee Road to that park," he said. "People in Dunhurst would have to cross two ready-mix plants, railroad tracks, and a commercial road (Wheeling Road), a total of five obstacles.

Commissioner Christiansen stated that in ten years there will be many more teenagers in town, especially as youngsters mature, who could ride to a central park. Hammond pointed to the larger parks in Chicago, such as Lincoln and Garfield Parks.

Weider said he was not in favor of taking land away from industrial use, especially since Wheeling favors and needs more industry. Hammond replied that there is enough land available for industry, but that industry will not continue to come here if we don't improve Wheeling. He went on to add that regardless where a large park is located, someone will have to cross railroad tracks to get to it.

Hammond went on to tell Weider that "your origins are in this town. There is a cleavage between the newcomers and the old timers. The old timers wish that Herzog had never come here. They react negatively to everything."

Park Superintendent Gene Sackett remarked that varsity sports come first in high school and that the park district should take the kids that don't participate in school sports. He repeated what Village Trustee Peter Egan said at the public meeting last week: "If we don't do something to occupy the kids and keep them off the streets we will have to spend more to have a larger police force."

3-12-64

# NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION WHEELING PARK DISTRICT COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that on the 4th day of April, 1964, a special election will be held in and for the Wheeling Park District, Cook County, Illinois, for the purpose of submitting to the legal voters of said Park District the following proposition:

Shall bonds of the Wheeling Park District, Cook County, Illinois, to the amount of Five Hundred Eighty-three Thousand Dollars (\$583,000) be issued for the purpose of paying for land to be condemned or purchased for parks, such lands to be so acquired being situated in the central portion, the north central portion and the westerly portion of the District, and for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the lands to be so acquired for park purposes by necessary grading, draining, landscaping and seeding, constructing on such lands a recreation area with necessary equipment, constructing a softball diamond and purchasing and installing playground equipment and improving the lands to be acquired which are in the central portion of the District by also constructing thereon necessary roads, parking areas, walks, tennis and handball courts, softball and baseball diamonds, bleachers, lighting, making of water and sewer connections, constructing thereon a recreation building and all appurtenances incident thereto, and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto?

That for the purpose of said election the Park District has been divided into two election precincts, the boundaries of each election precinct and the polling places designated within each election precinct being as follows:

#### ELECTION PRECINCT NUMBER 1

Shall consist of all that part of the Park District lying east of the center line of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad (Soo Line) right of way.

POLLING PLACE: St. Joseph the Worker School,  
171 W. Dundee Avenue  
Wheeling, Illinois.

#### ELECTION PRECINCT NUMBER 2

Shall consist of all that part of the Park District lying west of the center line of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad (Soo Line) right of way.

POLLING PLACE: Jack London Junior High School,  
1001 West Dundee Avenue,  
Wheeling, Illinois.

The polls at said election will be opened at six o'clock A.M. and will be closed at six o'clock P.M. on the day of said election. Voters must vote at the polling place designated for the election precinct within which they reside.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District, Cook County, Illinois.  
Dated this 17th day of March, 1964.

Roy J. Hammond  
President  
Roger A. Bjorvik  
Secretary

3-19-64  
Published in the Wheeling Independent March 19, 1964.

**\$583,000 Asked**

4-2-64

# Voters Decide Park Bond Issue April 4

Voters of the Wheeling Park District will go to the polls Saturday, April 4, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. to approve or disapprove the park board's \$583,000 land acquisition and development plan.

Included is the purchase of 76 acres between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad behind St. Joseph Church on Dundee Road for a major village park area.

Other purchases for park land would be seven acres at the northwest corner of the intersection of Wolf Road and Strong Street, and five acres at the rear of the London Junior High School site, according to the park board.

Land acquisition costs are listed at \$288,000 for which the park board states it will get an \$80,000 grant from the federal government.

Without the federal grant, the park board proposes to issue \$496,000 in bonds to finance the remainder of the park plan. The bonds would be retired over a 20-year period.

Average annual property tax increase for individual homeowners would be \$5.25, the park board has calculated.

OF THE TOTAL \$583,000 to be expended, \$295,000 would be for equipment, a building and land development.

Of the \$295,000, the proposed recreation building to be constructed on the 76 acres would cost an estimated \$167,000, and another \$38,550 for engineering and architectural fees. (Fee of the park planner would be six per cent of the improvements to the land.)

Next highest expenditure would be \$26,000 for tennis and handball courts at the 76-acre park and at London Junior High.

SOME OTHER planned expenditures are \$10,000 for lights for a softball field, and \$12,000 for "sewer, water and power." Grading, seeding, playground equipment and ball fields constitute the remaining expenditures.

Contingent upon the passage of the bond issue is a proposed school-park agreement under which the park district would take over the responsibility of maintaining and equipping the grounds of District 21 schools in Wheeling in return for use of the grounds and school buildings for park activities.

School grounds and buildings are practically the sole areas in which park activities are presently being conducted. Policy of the school district is to allow use of its facilities to any civic group after school hours.

PRESENT maximum bonding power of the park district is about \$600,000.

The park district limits encompass practically all of the residential areas of the village.

The polling places will be St. Joseph School and London Junior High School, both on Dundee Road. All residents east of the Soo Line Railroad are to vote at St. Joseph, and west of the railroad, at London.

To cast a ballot one must be a registered voter.

THURS., APR. 9, 1964

acres behind the London Junior High site and another seven acres in the vicinity of Strong Street west of Wolf Road; construction of a recreation building for about \$190,000; and construction of other facilities such as tennis courts and baseball fields.

## Voters Approve Park Referendum

Authority to issue up to \$583,000 in bonds for park acquisition and development was granted to the Wheeling Park District board by voters last Saturday.

With a total of about 3,945 registered voters in the village, the turnout Saturday was about 16.4 per cent of the voters.

The park board was to meet Tuesday, at the village hall to set a "timetable" for carrying out its park plans, board president Roy Hammond said.

INCLUDED IN the plan is the purchase of a 76-acre tract south of Dundee Road between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad for a major village park; purchase of about five

The referendum issue was approved by about a 3-2 margin, 384 to 254. Total vote was 638, plus a few defective ballots.

RESIDENTS FROM east of the Soo Line Railroad voted at St. Joseph School on Dundee Road, 228 for and 176 against. At London Junior High, the polling place for all residents west of the railroad, the vote

### Wheeling OK's \$583,000 Park Bond Issue

Wheeling voters approved a \$583,000 bond issue for their park district 384 to 254 Saturday. Gene Sackett, Wheeling park superintendent, said the fund will be used for the purchase of a 76-acre tract of land in the village and the construction of a park field house.

# Vote to Condemn 5 Acres for Parks

Condemnation proceedings to acquire five acres at the rear of the London Junior High School site were voted by the Wheeling Park Board April 9, it was reported.

The five-acre tract, plus a lot leading from the tract to Anthony Road, was one of three park sites included in the plans for the park district bond issue approved by village voters April 4.

Other two parks are 76 acres between Wolf Road and the

4-16-64  
Soo Line Railroad south of Dundee, and seven acres near Strong Street on the north side of the village. (W)

# Elect Hammond Park Chairman

Roy Hammond was re-elected chairman of the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners by the board at its meeting last week.

The five-member board also named Richard Ault as vice president, Eugene Sackett was retained as park superintendent, and Roger Bjorvik as the board's legal counsel, secretary and treasurer.

Besides Hammond and Ault, other elected members of the board are Clayton Wieder, Mrs. Audrey Christiansen, and Joseph Harrison. 5-14-64

# Edison Land Leased for Park Use

About 13 acres of right-of-way owned by the Commonwealth Edison Co. south of Dundee Road was leased by the Wheeling Park District.

The lease is for the next five years, and the rental is to be \$25 per year.

Power lines of the Edison Co. run through the right-of-way, which extends from Dundee Road on a diagonal to Wheeling Road.

The area may be used for park district activities, and the park district has the responsibility of maintaining the ground cover on the right-of-way.

# Try to Mesh Park Plans With Civic Center Effort

The Wheeling Park District board asked the village board May 18 to consider leaving at least 20 acres for industrial development just east of the Soo Line Railroad on Dundee Road if the village goes ahead with its plan to build a civic center there.

Park President Roy Hammond and Atty. Roger Bjorvik said that the matter might affect the sale to the

park district of 76 acres to the rear of the proposed civic center and industrial site. The owner of all the area involved, 111 acres, is G. D. Searle & Co.

Trustee Ira Bird said that the board had merely talked of a civic center in general terms and had not yet decided on a location or the number of acres needed.

The board had designated its finance committee to approach Searle about a possible site for the civic center. It would be up to Searle as to how much of its 35 acres fronting on Dundee it might offer to sell.

(THE COMMITTEE was authorized to negotiate for a site on Dundee Road over two months ago, but there has been no report of any negotiations.)

Bulk of the 111 acres between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad, although zoned for industrial development, has been officially designated as a

flood plain area by the U. S. Geologic Survey. According to present village ordinances, compensatory water storage areas would have to be constructed if the land is developed.

However, flood plains may be used for parks, and it is the recommendation of former village planning consultant Marwood Rupp that there be a park on the Searle property.

A sale price of \$236,000 has been negotiated for the proposed 76-acre park, Hammond said.

The park was part of the \$583,000 park bond issue referendum proposal approved at the polls April 4.

HAMMOND and Bjorvik said they were making a "progress report" to the board on the purchase of the park.

About a year ago the park district joined with the representatives of Searle to request that the adoption of the vil-

lage's new official map be postponed because it would designate the Searle property as a flood plain. However, the board declined to postpone its approval.

Monday, Village President A.

R. McIntyre, who has a lumber yard on Wheeling Road fronting on the 111-acre tract, said he has opposed locating a major park and civic center there because it is on the "east side of town." (W)

# Park District Calendar of Events

Thur., May 28

3:30 p.m.—Children's dance class, Whitman School

7:00 p.m.—Advanced adult beginners guitar class, London JHS.

Fri., May 29

3:30 p.m.—Children's dance class, Whitman School

3:30 p.m.—Baton twirling class, Whitman School

Sat., May 30

9:00 a.m.—Memorial Day parade, Baton Twirlers.

Mon., June 1

7:00 p.m.—Umpires school, final session, London JHS

Tues., June 2

7:30 p.m.—Beginners guitar class, London JHS. (W)

# 107 Students To Present Dance Recital

The second annual recital of the Wheeling Park District's dance program will be presented by 107 students under the direction of Rae Swanson and Beth Vandenberg at the Jack London Junior High School Friday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m.

There will be no admission fee and the public is invited to attend.

The park district's baton twirlers, under the direction of Connie Gillespie, will also be featured on the program.

# PARK LAKE TO BE DISCUSSED

JULY 23, 1955

## Board Meeting Set Tonight

Construction of a lake in the 76-acre park to be purchased by the Wheeling Park Board is one of the topics for a special park board meeting tonight (Thursday) at 8 p.m. in the village hall.

Scheduled to be present is John Shaeffer, chief hydrologist of the Northeastern Illinois Metropolitan Area Plan Commission.

The NIMAPC last week gave its approval of the Wheeling Park District's request for \$86,400 grant in aid from the federal government for the purchase of the 76 acres and two other tracts totaling another 12 acres. The amount is one-third the anticipated cost of the three park areas.

The approval of the Wheeling park acquisition program by the NIMAPC virtually assures final approval of it by the federal government. Under the federal program, local governments are eligible for up to one-third the cost of acquiring land to be maintained as "open space."

**PARK BOARD** Atty. Roger Bjorvik met Friday with NIMAPC officials concerning the Wheel-

ing park acquisition program, and the construction of a multi-purpose water retention basin in the 76-acre park.

Scheduled to be present at tonight's meeting is John Shaeffer, chief hydrologist of the Northeastern Illinois Metropolitan Area Plan Commission.

Besides its recreational assets, the artificial lake would assist the village in handling its storm water runoff, and it would supplement the village's water supply.

Bjorvik said the lake could help to recharge the underground water reservoirs from which the village wells are now drawing.

Shaeffer spoke here on the potential development of water resources in the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove area about a year ago at the invitation of the Wheeling village board. He has also been assisting Glen Ellyn in the planning

of a series of lagoons and a lagoon to be constructed in a 200-acre park area that village is acquiring in a flood plain area.

**LOCATION OF** Wheeling's proposed 76 acre park is on the south side of Dundee Road between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad. Another five acres at the rear of the London Junior High site, and seven acres north of Strong Street on the north side of the village, are also to be purchased.

Wheeling voters approved a \$500,000 bond issue last April for the purchase and development of the three parks, and for the development by the park district of Wheeling school sites for park use.

A contract with Burke, Inc., of Park Ridge was entered into by the park board July 2 for planning and architectural services.

**BURKE WILL** receive about 7 1/2 per cent of the cost of construction of park facilities for its architectural services, and a \$5,000 fee for its planning services, according to Park Board President Roy Hammond.

Plans for developing the grounds of the new Field Elementary School on Dundee are to be discussed with a representative of the Burke firm tonight.

# Wheeling to Buy Land for Parks <sup>7/23/64</sup>

The village of Wheeling soon will purchase its first park lands, including 76 acres in the approximate center of the community.

The purchase comes on the heels of an announcement in Washington that the urban renewal administration has awarded \$86,400 to the Wheeling park district to aid in the purchase of three parcels of land.

\$288,000 Total

Total cost of purchasing the parcels, which have 88 acres, is \$288,000. The village will finance the remainder of the cost thru bonds approved by referendum last April.

Land sought includes 76 acres west of the Dunhurst subdivision, five acres adjoining London Junior High school, and seven acres north of the village.

### Building to Go Up

Roy J. Hammond, president of the Wheeling park district, said ground breaking for a recreational building will take place in spring.

The largest parcel is primarily farm land with trees along Buffalo creek. It has been zoned industrial but never developed.

The bond issue, approved by 60 per cent of the voters, amounts to \$500,000 for acquisition and improvement to the land.



CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
**Park Plans to Continue in Wheeling**  
 7-21-64

The Wheeling Park district will continue with plans for a recreation area whether or not the village of Wheeling decides to buy land for a civic center in the same area, said Roger Bjorvik, Park district official.

The area under consideration is bounded by Dundee road, Wolf road, and the Soo line.

Bjorvik said the park district is concluding plans to buy the 76.3 acre park area from G. B. Searle and Company. "We have an application pending for the federal government to pay 30 per cent of the purchase price," he said.

### Tells Arrangement

Bjorvik said the city planner conceived the idea for a horseshoe type arrangement including a 20 acre center just north of the park area.

A. R. McIntyre, Wheeling president, said the village's possible plan was "just in the very earliest stages of trying to find out how much Searle wants for the property." He said that if the land was available at a reasonable price and the plan looks feasible the question might be given to the people for a referendum vote.

### Too Early, He Says

The plan for a possible civic center is in too early a planning stage for comments, McIntyre said. Bjorvik is interested in seeing the community center plan realized and expressed a "willingness on our [park district] part to cooperate with them if their plan goes thru."

Bjorvik said the village presently is using school grounds for recreation groups and needs a recreation site.

Possible plans for the recreation area include a retention basin, baseball parks, tennis courts, playing fields, and "everything else a park area usually has," Bjorvik said.



**ACTION IN THE** Wheeling Park District's woman's volley ball sessions at 7:30



p.m. Mondays at Whitman School gymnasium gets rather turbid at times. Con-



tests are planned with volleyball teams from other park districts. 2-6-64





SATURDAY MORNING youth recreation sessions at London Junior High are busy and varied. They are sponsored by the Wheeling Park District. 2-20-64 (W)



**GUITAR** and folk singing classes for children in the sixth through eighth grades are being sponsored Saturday mornings at London Junior High School. The first session begins

at 9 a.m., and the second at 10:30 a.m. Instructor is Mrs. Roger Laughlin, right, assisted by Mrs. Dan Coleman. (W



**WHEELING'S PARK DISTRICT** is co-sponsoring band practice sessions for high school students and adults on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Wheeling High School. High School District

214 is furnishing the facilities, and the park district is paying WHS band director Dean DePoy to conduct the sessions, it is reported.

7-30-64



**FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES** at London Junior High Friday featured competition between children from the three playgrounds run by the Wheeling Park District. Competition di-

visions were for children six and under, seven and eight, nine and 10, 11 and 12, and 13 and up. Awards were given for first, second and third place in each division.

## Park Site Plans Tentatively OKd

7-30-64

The board of commissioners of the Wheeling Park District gave its tentative approval to a preliminary set of plans for the development of the sites of Eugene Field and Jack London Schools last Thursday at a special meeting, it is reported.

Representatives of the Ralph Burke Co. presented the layout, and members of the school board were present during the discussion. The tentative plans, awaiting approval by the school board, include ball fields and playground equipment at both schools, and tennis courts, handball courts and an ice rink at the London site.

This would be the first action under the proposed school-park agreement for use of school grounds.

(W)

## Okay Development Of School Sites

8-6-64

Plans for the development of two school sites were approved by the Wheeling Park Board at its July 23 meeting.

The sites are those of London Junior High and the new Field Elementary School, both on Dundee Road.

An immediate expenditure of \$20,600 was approved by the park board.

The proposed plans, prepared by Burke, Ind., of Park Ridge, have been submitted to Wheel-

ing-Buffalo Grove District. School officials for their approval.

Development of the school sites by the park district would be under a joint agreement between the two governing boards. A proposed form of the agreement has been submitted to the school board by the park board.

At Field School, \$1,600 is allotted for "grading and seeding," \$1,000 for playground equipment, and \$1,500 for the construction of a softball field.

At London JHS, \$2,000 is allotted for grading and seeding, \$12,000 for "double" tennis courts which are to serve as an ice skating rink in the winter, \$1,000 for playground equipment, and \$1,500 for a softball field.

A warming shelter for the tennis court-ice rink is also shown on the plan.

## Sanitary District Favors Park Lake

8-6-64

Support for the construction of a lake in Wheeling's proposed 76-acre park has been given by the Wheeling Park Board by the Chicago Metropolitan Sanitary District.

The sanitary district would like to expand its existing storm water retention basin at the south side of the 76 acres, it was reported.

The sanitary district is interested in the lake from the standpoint of flood control and storm water storage, it was reported.

Plans for a lake which would suit the needs of the sanitary district are being drawn by the district for the park board.

ROBERT McCARTHY, sanitary district flood control engineer, discussed the lake with the park board at its last meeting two weeks ago.

The proposed park area is on Dundee between the Soo Line Railroad and Wolf Road. The village board is contemplating

a civic center on an adjoining site, although the board has recently expressed more favor toward a site farther west.

The sanitary district has a small storm water retention basin presently located in a swampy area on the south side of the 76 acres.

## Park Board Buys Land For \$24,000

THURS., AUG. 6, 1964

The end of Lee Street abuts the west side of the property.

The land, a flood plain, is designated for public use on the comprehensive village development plan.

A lot on Anthony is also being purchased by the park district to provide additional access to the five acres. A price of \$7,000 for the lot, on which a house was being constructed, was agreed to by the owner after the park board started condemnation proceedings. (W)

An agreement has been reached by the Wheeling Park District to purchase five acres at the rear of London Junior High School.

According to the minutes of the June 18 park board meeting, the price is to be \$17,000.

The tract is between Anthony Drive and the junior high site.

8-17-64

## Discuss Purchase Of C. of C. Park

A meeting between the Wheeling Park Board and the Chamber of Commerce is being sought by the park board to discuss purchasing the Chamber of Commerce park on Wolf Road.

Park Commissioners Clayton Wieder and Richard Ault were to contact the Chamber following a discussion of the subject at a special meeting of the park board Aug. 27.

ALSO INTERESTED in the Chamber park are the owners of Cameo Terrace Apartments adjacent to the pond.

At its Aug. 27 meeting, the park board also discussed cost

estimates for fitting the Field and London School sites on Dundee Road for park use.

## Planners, Park Board to Meet

The Wheeling Park Board will meet with its planning consultants tonight, Sept. 17, to review progress on the park acquisition and development program being formulated by the board.

The meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the village hall.

8-17-64

## 2 Park Annexations Are Hanging Fire

Annexation to the Wheeling Park District of two industrial areas is still pending, it was reported at the regular meeting of the Wheeling Park Board Sept. 3.

They are the 400 acres between Hintz and Camp McDonald Roads recently annexed to the village, and the 70-acre Amerline industrial subdivision on Hintz Road.

Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik told the board he is waiting for a subdivision plat of the 400 acres to act on the petition of the owners for annexation.

BJORVIK WAS directed by the board to complete the annexation proceedings for the Amerline tract.

Both petitions for annexation to the park district were requested by the Wheeling village board when representa-

the properties appeared before that body for annexation and approval of development plans.

# Negotiate for Chamber Acres

The Wheeling Park Board last Thursday directed its president, Roy Hammond, to negotiate further with the Chamber of Commerce for the purchase of the seven acres it owns off Wolf Road.

Members of the park board indicated at their regular meeting last week that they would consider paying as much as \$5,000 an acre for the full seven-acre parcel known as the Chamber of Commerce Park.

But board members were cool to an offer of 4½ acres of the park area for the price of \$18,000, it was reported.

Hammond reported that in an appearance at the last regular meeting of the Chamber, he had voiced the park board's desire to preserve the seven-acre area as a park, and possibly as a school-park site.

He said he informed the Chamber then that he thought the land might be worth about \$5,000 per acre.

SINCE THE meeting with the Chamber as a whole, Hammond

informed the other members of the park board, he had been given a price of \$18,000 for 4½ acres of the chamber land. The offer was communicated to him by Lloyd Kelm, one of the members of the Chamber's building and grounds committee.

The 4½ acres offered would be at the rear of the proposed park area, in the vicinity of the Wheeling Community Pool. It would include the area known as the Chamber of Commerce pond, a former gravel pit which the park board and several village officials want preserved.

Hammond is to seek further discussions with the Chamber building and grounds committee on the land purchase.

# PARK SITE PURCHASE NEAR

## New High School Annexed

Wheeling High School will be annexed to the Wheeling Park District.

High school board members Monday voted to annex the school to the park district. The annexation is to be a joint annexation with the Orchard Lake Homes subdivision, located immediately south of the school at intersection of Hintz and Elmhurst Roads.

Actual signing of the petition must be done by the Wheeling Township School Trustees, elected independently of the various school boards. The trustees hold title to all school property and funds. The high school board requested that the trustees take action on the annexation petition as soon as possible.

THE PETITION has already been signed by William Paschke, president of Orchard Lake Homes.

The annexation of the high school site is necessary before the new subdivision could be added to the park district.

In addition to permitting annexation of the subdivision, School Supt. H. L. Slichenmyer noted the inclusion of the school in the park district would facilitate future cooperation between the two districts for recreation programs and possible joint swimming facilities.

## 76 Acres to Cost \$236,000

by TOM EDWARDS  
News Editor

The purchase of the 76-acre park site authorized by Wheeling voters last April should be completed by Christmas, Wheeling Park District officials said this week.

Long awaited approval of the bond issue to finance the park purchase and other recreational facilities was received by the park board last week from Chapman Cutler, legal firm specializing in bond issues.

Bids for the sale of the bonds are to be considered at the Dec. 3 meeting of the park board. Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik said the money from the bond issue should be available to the park district about two weeks after the successful bidder is designated.

Park Board President Roy Hammond said he expects the 76-acre land transaction to be completed shortly after the money is available, "by the end of the year."

The acreage, owned by G. D. Searle Inc., pharmaceutical firm, lies between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad south of Dundee Road. It will adjoin the rear of the St. Joseph Catholic school site.

Price reported agreed upon by Seare and the park district is \$236,000.

PURCHASE of one of the other two park sites authorized in the \$586,400 April bond issue referendum should also be consummated shortly after the bond money is available, it was reported.

The second site is five acres at the rear of the London Junior High site on Dundee Road. It also abuts the end of Lee Street off Schoenbeck Road. The park district has a contract to buy the five acres for \$17,000.

The third site included in the bond issue referendum was seven acres north of Strong Street west of Wolf Road. Negotiations for its purchase have not been completed, it was reported.

Instead of this site, however, the park board is considering purchase of the seven-acre Chamber of Commerce Park owned by the chamber on the east side of Wolf Road just south of Strong. Evidently voter approval would have to be obtained for the site switch.

PRESENT PLANS for the 76-acre park, to be the village's major park, are to locate a \$190,000 recreation building on Wolf Road and an ice skating rink and baseball field in the area along Wolf Road east of Buffalo Creek.

No definite plans for the creek have been announced. But help from the Chicago Metropolitan Sanitary District is being sought by the park board for the proposed development of a lake of about 25 acres in the park. (The entire 76 acres is a flood plain.)

Although the Sanitary District submitted plans showing where it would like the lake to be located in the park, it has not indicated that it would take any financial responsibility for the project. Plans of the Sanitary District are to locate the lake

nearer the creek than was formerly planned.

Complete plans of the park district depend somewhat on receiving an \$86,400 grant from the U. S. government for "open space" acquisition. The amount represents one-third of what the park district intends to spend for land acquisition.

BUT THE PARK board fully expects to receive the grant, and will therefore only issue \$500,000 in bonds in December, to be retired over a 20-year period.

Other expenditures delineated by the park board during its campaign to pass the bond issue were:

For the 76-acre park--\$14,000 for tennis and handball courts; \$10,000 for lights for one of the ballfields; \$12,000 for various utilities; \$1,000 for playground equipment; \$1,000 for bleachers; \$3,500 for baseball fields and \$4,000 for grading and seeding.

Another \$12,000 was appropriated for installation of tennis courts at London Junior High, plus about \$6,000 for the development of each of the school sites in Wheeling for park use.

Legal and architectural fees would total about \$38,550.

Bjorvik said it "isn't unusual" for legal approval of a bond issue to take so long when it is the first bond issue of a newly created taxing body.

## Bid Let for Graveling Play Area

A bid of 13½ cents per square foot for the installation of a gravel play area at Field School on Dundee Road was awarded by the Wheeling Park Board last Thursday to Wallace Johnson of Palatine.

Johnson's bid was the only one submitted.

Total cost of the work is expected to be about \$2,100, it was reported.

The work is being done by the park district under its agreement with the school district to maintain school grounds in return for their use as playground.

## Discuss Property And Other Problems

The full complement of Park Commissioners attended the Board Meeting in the Village Hall September 3rd. Also in attendance were Superintendent Eugene Sackett and Park District Attorney Roger Bjorvik.

A letter from the Community Council asking for a delegate and alternate from the Park District, brought forth the opinion from Commissioner Roy Hammond, who was presiding, that, since the Park District is a public-supported group, a delegate would not be able to take an official position, but could attend as an observer and a channel of communication. A letter to this effect, but no formal application to the Community Council, was authorized with Mr. Hammond as delegate.

All of Wheeling's Park Commissioners are being certified as delegates to the Illinois Association of Park Districts meeting September 23rd. No decision was reached as to who will actually attend from this district.

Tabled for further discussion at a special meeting Sept. 10th, were the purchase of a tape recorder necessitated by the fact that Winter dancing classes are scheduled simultaneously at two locations, the procurement of storage space for park equipment, a request to the Wheeling Community Pool, Inc. and the Chamber of Commerce for the use of their properties for an ice rink, and the purchase of trees for Meadowbrook Park.

Also discussed: meeting with the excavator regarding the estimate for grading at Eugene Field School; the need for a special meeting with School District 21 to discuss the estimated \$7,000-\$8,000 cost of grading and seeding the five-acre site behind Jack London School, which the School District proposes to lease to the Park District; and the possibility of bringing a condemnation suit against a house on Anthony Road needed for access to the leased property. Price of the house was mentioned as \$20,000; the house, along with two others, was said to have been declared unfit for occupancy by Village officials.

A tax levy ordinance for \$42,750 passed unanimously by roll call vote. This is forwarded to the County for use in determining tax needs for the coming year.

Motions carried: to call a meeting of Park District Superintendents from surrounding communities including Buffalo Grove, Northbrook, and Deerfield with a view to establishing leagues for inter-district baseball and other sports. This would be for the children as well as the adults according to Superintendent Sackett. To authorize Superintendent Sackett to schedule a series of speaking engagements with various civic organizations to present the recreational program and the established policies of the Park District to them.

It was indicated that there is an inordinate amount of vandalism in the local parks. As a partial remedy, the establishment of a 9 p.m. closing time corresponding with the Village curfew was suggested.

## Hydrant for Flooding Rink on Board Agenda

Installation of a special fire hydrant for flooding the skating rink in the Chamber of Commerce Park is to be discussed by the Wheeling village board at its next meeting Monday, Oct. 4.

The hydrant was requested by Supt. Eugene Sackett.

Trustee Ira Bird said he didn't understand why water couldn't be supplied from the adjacent swimming pool, unless it is possible that the water pipes might

freeze.

TRUSTEE Peter Egan pointed out that the regular tap-on fee would have to be charged the park district, as the board policy permits no waivers of this fee. He also asked if the village would be setting a precedent it would have to follow in regard to all taxing bodies.

Trustee Edwin Smith, who in-

troduced the matter, said the park district would pay for the materials involved but not the labor.

Since the matter wasn't on the agenda and wasn't an emergency, the decision was postponed, as also should have been the discussion according to the board's policy procedure.

(W)

## Park Board Committees Appointed

New committee appointments for the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners were made at last week's regular monthly meeting by President Roy Hammond.

With chairmen listed first, committees are: Land acquisition and park development—Mrs. Paul Christianse, Joseph Harrison and Clayton Wieder; Finance—Harrison, Richard Ault, and Christiansen; Recreation—Ault, Harrison and Wieder; Public Relations—Christianse, Wieder and Ault.

The president serves as ex-officio member of each committee.

## Park Board to Discuss Building Plans Tonight

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District will be held today, (Thursday) at 8 p.m. in the village hall.

Major item of business is to be discussion of the location of the recreation building on the Searle site.

Progress of the ice skating rink, to be located again this year at the site of the Wheeling Community Pool, will be reported on by Park Supt. Eugene Sackett.

10-15-64

(W)

# Seek Referendum On School Pools By Next January

Swimming pools for Arlington, Prospect, Forest View, Wheeling and the new Elk Grove High Schools may be "up to the voters" next January.

Tentative plans call for the pools to be presented as a separate referendum issue, with the total cost set at about \$350,000 each or an estimated \$1.75 million for all five.

Approval of the pools by voters in January would enable the school swimming teams to begin use of the pools at the opening of the 1965 swimming season.

THE SCHOOL board Monday indicated general agreement with the request of the Lay Citizen Advisory Committee for the Study of Swimming Pools to hold the pool referendum as soon as practical.

Wilbur Inman, chairman of the pool committee, had told the school Monday the committee would like to hold the referendum early in December. He gave his approval to the postponement until January when board members brought up sev-

eral prerequisites to the pool vote.

Board members stressed there was an obligation to meet with park district board members in the areas served by the high schools to determine what joint operating or construction agreements might be possible.

"WE OWE IT to other public bodies to meet with them, but if necessary we can tell them that there are too many problems and we must proceed on our own," was the opinion of John Haas, board president. Other members echoed this view.

Sept. H. T. Slichenmyer was instructed to set up a joint meeting with the area park boards, to be attended by board members and supervisors of the various park districts, representatives of the pool committee and members of the high school board. The result of this meeting would determine the course to be followed by the high schools.

## School-Park Agreement Formalized

The long pending agreement between the Wheeling Park District and Grade School District 21 for park use of school grounds and building was formally entered into by the school board at its Sept. 24 meeting.

Both the school and park districts are to plan the development of the school grounds, and the park district is to bear the cost of construction and maintenance.

MAINTENANCE is to include the mowing of lawns and tending of shrubbery.

A question has been who would bear the cost of grading the London Junior High site and of the sites of the district's new schools.

## Wolf Road Site Gets Park Building

A quorum of Wheeling Park District Commissioners voted unanimously Thursday, October 15th, to locate the proposed Recreational Building on that part of their property known as the Searle Tract, in the eight-acre area between Wolf Road and the Drainage District Creek. The site was recommended from the standpoints of aesthetics, availability of utilities, access, and removal from possible industrial or business establishments. Topography of the chosen site was recommended by Architect Harry A. Koca as being as acceptable as any and better than some parts of the tract. He stated that piles should not be necessary, merely an elevated foundation.

Mr. Koca also presented preliminary drawings of suggested building plans to the Board for consideration. At this stage the plans show a one-story structure housing office and administrative storage space, a two-vehicle garage, a large all-purpose room suitable for gymnasium use, crafts room, two smaller meeting rooms, kitchen, washroom and warming house facilities. There were a number of suggested revisions. Mr. Koca is expected to present preliminary drawings for final approval at the Nov. 5th Park Board meeting. If all goes well, it is hoped that advertising for bids and letting of contracts could be done during Jan. and Feb., with ground-breaking scheduled for March and completion within six to eight months.

## Park Board Pays \$4,910 Bills On Referendum

Bills totaling \$4,910 connected with its \$583,000 bond issue referendum last April have been approved by the Wheeling Park Board.

To Ralph H. Burke, Inc., of Park Ridge went \$2,480 for planning, to Raymond S. Wright went \$1,100 for appraisals, and \$1,000 was paid to park board attorney Roger Bjorvik for legal work. Other expenses were \$330 for land surveys.

10-29-64 (W)



# RECREATION SITE SELECTED

## Civic Center Plans Cloudy

by TOM EDWARDS  
News Editor

Location of the \$190,000 recreation building being proposed by the Wheeling Park Board was tentatively set last week for a site between Buffalo Creek and Wolf Road just south of Dundee Road.

The eight-acre tract between the creek and Wolf is part of the 76 acres between Wheeling and Wolf Roads that the park board is to buy from the G. D. Searle Co.

Present plans are to install an ice rink on the north side of the proposed recreation building site on Wolf Road and a parking lot on the south side.

Previous tentative plans were to locate the park building in conjunction with a civic center. The village board was discussing at Dundee and Wheeling Roads adjacent to the proposed 76-acre park.

However, the village board still has not definite plans regarding a civic center, and is also considering another site, the triangular tract between the juncture of McHenry and Elmhurst Roads.

**THE VILLAGE** board Monday directed a letter to the park board formally stating that no decision has been reached on the proposed civic center.

Several months ago the park board had asked for a formal notification on the civic center by Oct. 15.

Last April 4 Wheeling voters approved the \$583,000 bond issue requested by the park board to purchase the 76-acre park. Two other park sites totaling about 10 acres, construction of a recreation building, and installation of tennis courts and some play equipment on public school sites in the park district.

None of the bonds has been issued to date. But Roger Borvix, park board attorney, indicated purchase of the park site awaiting only sale of the bonds which should take place soon.

A FEW WEEKS ago the park and school boards formally entered into a 20-year agreement for park use of school grounds and buildings. The park district is to maintain and equip the grounds.

In seeking approval of the

bond issue, a proposed civic center layout including a park building was used to illustrate the possible location of the park building. The layout was prepared by former village planning consultant Marwood Rupp.

Reported factors in last week's park board informal decision to go ahead with the Wolf Road site apart from the civic center were:

- 1) It would be closer to sewer and water utilities.
- 2) It would save the park district the expense of constructing a road into the building.
- 3) The Wolf Road site would be safer for people to walk to.
- 4) If the civic center is not built near the Dundee Road location proposed in the village master plan, it is otherwise zoned for industrial development. It would be better to locate the recreation building away from industrial development.

Final plans for the building location are to be presented at the next regular park board meeting Nov. 5.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1964

# Plans Ordered for Recreation Building

11-26-64

Preparation of detailed plans for a \$190,000 recreation building was authorized by the Wheeling Park Board last Thursday.

With realization of the purchase of the proposed building site near the board Thursday again reviewed the architect's sketch of the proposed building and gave permission for detailed specifications to be drawn.

THE PROPOSED building is to include an 80-by-48-foot all-purpose room, three utility rooms, a garage and a kitchen.

Total area will be 8,568 square feet, almost exactly one-third more than the 5,860 square foot area of the \$42,000 recreation building recently erected by the Village of Buffalo Grove.

Location of the Wheeling recreation building will be between Buffalo Creek and Wolf Road and between Dundee Road and Jeffery Lane in Meadowbrook subdivision.

The site is at the east edge of the 76-acre park the Wheeling Park District hopes to have title to before the end of December. The park will extend west from Wolf Road to the Soo Line Railroad.

ON THE south side of the

park building will be a parking lot. To the north Burke is proposing an ice skating rink and lighted baseball field.

Immediately across Wolf Road from the proposed park building will be the new junior high school to be built by School District 21 in 1966.

Soil borings of the recreation building site were authorized by the park board Thursday. The cost was estimated by the architect at about \$225. The borings are to test the ability of

the ground to bear weight.)

MONEY FOR the building, the 76-acre park, other park facilities, and two other park sites totaling about 12 acres, is to come from a \$586,400 bond issue approved by park district voters last April.

Bids for the sale of \$500,000 in bonds are to be taken by the park board at its Dec. 3 meeting. The remainder of the authorized issue, \$86,400, will be a grant from the Federal government for "open space" acquisition.

## Parks Planning New Series of Guitar Lessons

A second series of guitar lessons will begin following the New Year, the Wheeling Park District has announced.

Classes for beginning adults will be held on Wednesdays, advanced adults on Thursdays, and for junior high students, Saturday mornings.

The fall series of eight lessons ended last week.

## Parks Satisfied With Bond Bids

An interest rate of a fraction below 3.35 per cent was received by the Wheeling Park District Monday in the bidding for the purchase of its \$500,000 bond issue.

"We did very well," Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik said. The low and successful bid was submitted by Barcus, Kin-

dred and Co. It was one of six bids submitted, with the other interest rates ranging from 3.35 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

BIDS WERE opened at the Dec. 3 park board meeting. Bjorvik said bid forms were sent out to about 150 companies, and a notice of the bond sale was published in the Wall Street Journal.

The bonded indebtedness is to be retired over the next 18 years, with the final retirement payment to be made in 1965.

According to the financial information issued to the bidders by the park district, the total bonded indebtedness of park district taxpayers from all sources will be \$254 with this bond issue. Present per capita assessed valuation is listed as \$2,355.

THE PRESENT total debt on the district's taxpayers from all local governmental sources is 10.7 per cent of the \$27,689,376 assessed valuation of the park district.

Funds from the bond issue are to be used to purchase about 90 acres of park land, to construct a recreation building on Wolf Road, and to install park facilities on park and school district land.

12-10-64

\$86,400 Worth

12-24-64

# Federal Aid for Park Land Set

The Wheeling Park District will receive an \$86,400 Federal grant to aid in the purchase of about 88 acres of land for park purposes, it was announced by the Urban Renewal Administration of the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency.

Final approval of the application of the park district for the grant came Friday.

The grant is to "cover 30 per cent of the total estimated land acquisition cost" for the three park sites proposed by the park district, Urban Renewal Commissioner William L. Slayton said.

THEIR TOTAL estimated cost is \$288,000. The three sites are the 76-acre Searle property between Wolf Road and the Soo Line Railroad south of Dundee Road, the seven-acre Woelfle property west of Wolf Road near Strong Avenue, and the five-acre Miller property at the rear of the London Junior High site at the end of Lee Street.

The sites were part of the \$586,400 bond issue referendum package approved by the voters last April for park acquisition and development.

Contract for the sale of the bond issue was awarded Dec. 3, and the funds from the issue will be available to the park district in January.

A formal agreement has been entered into by the park district for the purchase of the five acres, and a price has been verbally agreed to for the 76-acre tract. Negotiations are pending on the proposed seven-acre park.

Federal grants under the Open Space Land Program, administered by URA, are authorized by the Housing Act of 1961. "Purpose of the program is to help prevent urban blight through sound and balanced community growth and development by providing for permanent open land uses in urbanizing areas," it is explained.

LAND ACQUIRED under this program may not be used for any building purposes, but may be developed with non-Federal funds for recreational, conservation, historic or scenic purposes.

Grants are available to public regional or local agencies, and to states, for "acquisition of open land important in a comprehensive plan for urban growth." Wheeling's park ac-

quisition program is part of a comprehensive future development plan adopted by the village board in September following two years of work on it.

The village's master development plan relates the development of the village to the "overall metropolitan area," as re-

quired by the URA for a 30 per cent grant in aid as received by the Wheeling Park District.

Approval of Wheeling's grant had been previously recommended to the URA by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

## Explain Reasons For Interest Rate

12-24-64

The longer retirement period was suggested by Wheeling-Buffalo Grove School Board member Harry Tyler as perhaps one reason why Wheeling Park District received a slightly lower interest rate than the school district on their recent bond issues.

Tyler noted at the Dec. 19 board meeting that the park district received an interest rate of a fraction below 3.35 per cent, while the school district's was a fraction above 3.37 per cent.

But the greater amount of the park district's bond issue, \$500,000 as compared to \$200,000 for the school district, was also a probable reason for the lower interest rate, Tyler said.

IN ADDITION to the size of the bond issue, School Supt. Kenneth Gill said, the park district had no prior bonded indebtedness, and the school district is bonded to its maximum limit.

The park district's bond issue is to be retired in annual installments through 1985, and the school district's through 1980.

Tyler had favored a longer retirement period for the school bond issue.

Wheeling - Buffalo Grove School District 21, with an assessed valuation of \$47,128,000, has a bonded indebtedness of \$2,354,000.

TOTAL DIRECT and "overlapping" debt of the school district is \$3,912,000. Besides the District 21 debt of \$2,354,000, the High School District 214 has an overlapping debt of \$1,358,000, the Village of Wheeling, \$20,000, Chicago Metropolitan Sanitary District, \$38,000, Cook County, \$97,000, and the County Forest Preserve District, \$45,000, according to the statistics compil-

ed by school attorney Eveett Lewy.

The total public debt of School District 21 property owners from all sources is 8.32 per cent of the district's assessed valuation.

Total interest cost of the \$200,000 bond issue will be \$89,000.

Whose Pocketbook?

12/24/64

# Cost of Play Area Plagues Two Boards

"Let us do the job and you help us pay for it, rather than the other way around," the Wheeling - Buffalo Grove school board is asking the Wheeling Park board.

The park board has asked the schools for \$1,300 to help installing a gravel play area on the grounds of Field School in Wheeling. Under the park-school contract for joint use of facilities, the park district was to pay for this.

In a letter to the school board, the park board said that it had allocated \$2,600 for the "grading and seeding" of Field School but the cost of the gravel alone, will be \$3,900. It asked the school district to make up the difference.

GILL EXPLAINED that the school district did the grading and seeding, and the \$2,600 is actually for the gravel.

When the grading was done, Gill continued, at the request of the park district the school dis-

trict had the excavation for the gravel play area done.

But the excavation is nearly twice as deep as it should have been in some places, the park board reports, and more gravel than anticipated will be necessary.

Since the school had planned to eventually blacktop the gravel area, Gill suggested the school have the whole job including the blacktopping done now.

Assistant Supt. John Barger said the blacktopping would cost about \$2,700, and would probably obviate the need for the extra \$1,300 worth of gravel.

SCHOOL board member Harry Tyler asked if the park board had taken bids on the job, with board member Mike Donzella adding that he thought the park board had two bids for the job.

Gill said the school district would have requested bids on

the installation of the play area as a unit, with one firm responsible for the excavation and graveling.

He suggested that in the future that the school and park boards agree in advance which board should act as the agent for handling a joint project, and that board see the project all the way through.

The school board agreed to suggest this to the park board.

## Hours Set for Ice Skating

The Wheeling ice skating rink at the Wheeling Community Pool off Wolf Road will be open daily from 1-6 p.m. during the Christmas holidays, it is announced by the park district.

Except for Christmas Eve and Christmas day, and New Year's Eve, the rink will also be open from 7-9:30 p.m.

# Park District Has Ambitious Plans, High Hopes for 1965

by E. W. SACKETT  
Wheeling Park Superintendent

The year of 1965 holds bright hopes and great plans for the Wheeling Park District's recreational and park plans.

The past year saw the first major move in land acquisition and a major overall parks planning concept. For a district that has been in existence only four short years the programming and facilities use of the local school district are utilized to a maximum and show progressive, forward thinking on the part of the administration.

There is no doubt that the major item of accomplishment for the coming year will be the actual acquisition of the three park sites, namely the 76-acre major facility, and the 5 and 7 acre sites in the western and northern part of the village, respectively.

The construction of the recreational building at the large site will greatly increase the capacity of the district to have an enlarged and more comprehensive programming for the entire populace of the district.

THE 20-ODD programs that are already being offered to the people will be kept in force, and additional ones to be offered will include tennis instruction at

Wheeling High School, tackle football on the sixth, seventh and eighth grade levels, roller-skating in the new recreational building, hockey leagues and instruction for the younger boys, teenage clubs and activities, a senior citizens club, day time ice skating lessons, consolidation of the oil painting classes in the new arts and crafts room, and adult drama group, and other similar advanced and progressive recreational ideas.

Already plans have been initiated for the securing of permission to erect a small dam on Buffalo Creek, in the park area, to raise the level of the creek. The thought behind this is to create a reservoir to aid in creating a better and less expensive ice skating rink sup-

ply of water. Also this will create a better nature area for wildlife in the sanctuary.

THE POSSIBILITY of creating a better place for birds and animals to live can be developed by the park district within its own confines and fulfill the obligation that we should have towards those who prefer a sedentary type of activity.

Thought has been given to the development, through cooperation with the Wheeling Community Pool, of making swimming lessons and swimming meets more available to local residents. Plans for this are being developed by the two groups.

With the development of basketball hard surface courts at the numerous school-park sites, the beginning of a summer time basketball league is quite possible. This would be open to various age groups and would provide an outlet for those who are not attracted to other types of athletic activities.

THE ERECTION of lights at the ball field would permit boys up to the Colt League age to play evening ball along with the adult softball league. Double headers could be scheduled, and more opportunity for parents and youngsters to engage in family activities would be present.

Residents of the Wheeling Park District are most fortunate that they have a progressive, forward looking board and administration that are constantly striving to stay ahead of anticipated demands in the fields of recreation and parks.

Citizens are reminded to request of the authorities certain types of programs that they are interested in, and should the demand and time and monies be available, every effort will be made to include the activity in the program.

Therefore, 1965 holds great promise and hope for enlargement and growth of an already fine program for park district residents.

# Park Board Complains About Storm Drainage

A letter asking that the village board do something about the storm water flowing onto a five-acre tract behind London Junior High was authorized by the Wheeling Park Board at its Jan. 7 meeting.

It was the newest statement on an old problem.

Harold Koca of Burke, Inc., of Park Ridge, park development consultants, told the park board that the village is "putting its water on your land."

Water from all the streets along Anthony Drive "empty onto your property," he continued.

IN REGARD TO a storm sewer coming from Anthony at Roberts Avenue, "I think you should request that the village block it off," the park board was advised by Koca.

"I think," park board attorney Roger Bjorvik chimed in, "we ought to send a letter to the village asking that they do something about that." The board gave its verbal consent.

The park board has an agreement to buy the five acres at the end of Lee Street adjoining the rear of London Junior High.

Two plans to construct houses on the tract have been turned down by the village board over the last two years. Reason was that the area is a flood plain, and the flooding situation has been aggravated by the storm water flowing from surrounding developments.

The land was finally designated for "public use" by the village on its recently adopted comprehensive future development plan.

THE SECOND OF the two proposals to build houses on the site included the construction of

a storm water retention pond at the back of the junior high property.

Besides the storm sewer which empties the water directly from Anthony into the five acres, there is a swale along the rear property lines of the Anthony and Lee Street houses which also carries storm water into the same area. Koca didn't mention the swale.

Adding to the area which already drains into the five acres, Koca unveiled a grading plan last Thursday calling for pitching about seven acres of the Junior High site toward the east end of the five adjoining acres the park district intends to buy. (Under the park-school cooperative agreement, the park district is to maintain and improve school lands.)

Reportedly there is a storm water outlet at the east end of the five acres, but it is about

1½ feet higher than the ground level of the five acres.

ALSO, THIS outlet goes into the storm sewer on Fletcher Drive just to the east of the five acres, and the Fletcher sewer is already overloaded, according to engineering reports.

Currently the water coming into the five acres drains into the southeast corner of the tract, and percolates into the ground. During periods of peak runoff a shallow temporary pond often forms in this corner, but evidently when it rises to about a foot in depth it begins draining into the storm sewer on Fletcher Drive.

From Fletcher the storm water flows through Dunhurst subdivision, coming out on Wheeling Road, where it runs into a retention basin, and finally into Buffalo Creek just above Meadowbrook subdivision.

## Park Annexation Resolution OK'd Park Board See Plans for Tennis Courts

1-14-65

Wheeling park board Thursday adopted a resolution opposing repeal of any part of a state law allowing village park district to annex lands incorporated within the village limits without the permission of any other park district they happened to be in previously.

It is to be forwarded to state officials.

Annexation of any land by a park district would, however, still be contingent upon the consent of a majority of the property owners whether the land is inside or outside the village limits.

Plans for tennis courts with four-foot fences on the sides as well as higher fences at the ends of the courts were shown the Wheeling Park Board last Thursday, by its consulting firm, Burke, Inc.

The plans were only momentarily shown the park board by Harold Koca of the firm and only the fences were discussed. Park Supt. Eugene Sackett questioned the need for side fences, and suggested using heavy gauge chicken wire rather than heavy duty fending. (W

# Higher Cost for New Park Building Blamed on Site

1-4-65

A report that the site for a proposed \$190,000 park building is in a flood plain did not deter Wheeling Park Board members from giving tacit approval last Thursday for proceeding with the project.

The board had previously decided upon the site located on the west side of Wolf Road, one-

Harold Koca of Burke, Inc., building architect, said that the higher foundation required for flood plain buildings would cost an additional \$6,000.

fifth mile south of Dundee Road.

He said the village ordinance requires the top of the foundation to be 3½ feet above the flood plain. (Another provision is that a compensatory volume equal to that displaced by the building and the grading around it be provided elsewhere in the flood plain.)

PARK BOARD member Mrs. Paul Christiansen questioned if such an elevated building "will fit into the surrounding" character of the village. Koca said it would fit in all right, and that fill would be placed around the foundation and graded down to the existing ground elevation.

The architect was also given permission by the park board to ask Wheeling Public Works Supt. James Bennett if some leeway couldn't be made in the building regulations. (Bennett was next door in the village hall at the time of the discussion, but Koca said he would rather talk to him later.)

In regard to the higher foundation, Koca said, "If the water is going to go that high, it will go over the sidewalk (on Wolf Road). "I don't think we are going to have another flood

like we had in 1957," he added.

PRESENT PLANS are to construct the building toward the south end of the eight-acre area between Wolf Road and Buffalo Creek. A 230-car parking lot would be put on the south side of the building, and a lighted baseball field on the north side, according to the present plans. The baseball field would be used for an ice skating area in the winter.

A talked about but yet unplanned nature area would also be along the creek, although the development plans show facilities being placed immediately on either side of the creek.

There was also a question re-

garding contingency funds. Koca said that there may be a "pocket" of peat in the flood plain which the soil borings would not show, and extra funds would be required for the building.

BUT HE HAD earlier said that soil borings would immediately show whether or not the site would support the building.

A nature area with or without "brush" was another question.

Park Board President Roy Hammond said it had been pointed out to him that the building site was in a flood plain, and he had informed the park planner of this.

## Joint Efforts Shelved Until After Election

Inter-governmental cooperation was discussed again by the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove District 21 School Board at its meeting last Thursday, with recommendations made to immediately explore areas where money could be saved through cooperative buying of materials.

But on board member Joseph Fraser's suggestion that the school board "take the initiative" in calling a joint meeting of the various governing bodies in the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove community the entire matter was instead shelved until after the April elections.

The matter is to be on the agenda for the April 27 board meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS Michael Donzella and Dwight Hall suggested that other governing bodies be informed that the school board is beginning to prepare its budget, and seek suggestions where the schools and other agencies could perhaps save money by combining some items.

Member Charles Ryder added that the school board has other "areas of great common interest" with the village government, citing "industry, zoning, and legislation."

Ryder also commented that in some communities donations of money and land from developers are being received "with consistency," and perhaps their methods could be explored.

School Supt. Kenneth Gill said he is to meet with Park Supt. Eugene Sackett to discuss joint purchase of paper.

Assistant School Supt. John Barger added that street salt

might better be purchased by the schools through the village,

which buys larger quantities of it.

SOME SCHOOL REPAIR and maintenance work perhaps could also be handled by the Wheeling public works department, Barger continued. It was noted that the village now has a full-time mechanic.

"Future planning" as well as "cooperative purchasing" is of prime importance, Gill said.

Areas for cooperation will increase "as we build more schools," Hall said.

A lack of storage space is a problem of all local governing agencies at present, the superintendent continued, and it might be possible for one governmental agency to build storage space which could be leased by others.

BEFORE BUYING its equipment, perhaps the school should see first what equipment the Wheeling Park District is planning to buy, Donzella suggested in reference to the school-park joints use agreement now in effect.

A "coordinating committee" of governing bodies was another suggestion of Gill's, and he also noted that a similar committee had been proposed a few years ago but never got off the ground.

Maybe a revision is in order of the school board's policy of not having its members serve on village advisory bodies appointed by the village board, Gill said.

Member Harry Tyler said

that "in the light of" the upcoming elections and the possibility of "considerable change," it might be better to table the matter until after the elections.

# Flood Plain Remains Site for Park Center

## Architect Says He'll Go Ahead

2-4-63  
by TOM EDWARDS  
News Editor

The discovery that the site where it is planning to put its \$190,000 recreation building is in a flood plain evidently dampened the enthusiasm of the Wheeling Park Board for the location.

But with none of the five members of the board taking a stand to the contrary, its planning consultant and architect, Burke, Inc., of Park Ridge, is going ahead with plans to put the park building on the site between Wolf Road and Buffalo Creek just north of Jeffery Lane.

It was pointed out in December to the Park Ridge firm and park officials that the proposed building site is in a flood plain area, and that village building regulations requires extensive precautionary steps for any such building.

The matter was discussed at the January meeting of the park board without any formal action being taken on it, although tacit permission was given the architect to proceed planning the building for the same site.

The architect, Harold Koca, of Burke, told the park board that the special foundation required for buildings in flood plains would cost an additional \$6,000. (The top of the foundation, or ground floor, must be 3½ feet above the "highest recorded flood level," according to the Wheeling code.)

NOT REPORTED to the board by Koca was that a compensatory water retention area equal in volume to the flood plain displacement of the building, must also be provided.

Koca said he would attempt to get the village to lower the regulations. "Personally, I think 3½ feet is kind of high," he said. "If the water is going to get that high, it will go over the sidewalk (on Wolf Road)."

The creek has flooded across Wolf Road, and land on the opposite side of the road is also in the village's officially designated flood plain.

"I don't think we're going to have another like we had in 1957," Koca also said, referring to Wheeling's infamous flood of that year.

HOWEVER, there was nearly a repeat flood in 1960, and also a whopper in the 1930's. The village has also been repeatedly warned of increased future flood hazards due to development upstream from Wheeling in the Buffalo Grove area. Any development increases the immediate runoff of water that must be dealt with, it is explained.

Park Board Member Mrs. Audrey Christiansen questioned if, with the additional height of the proposed park building, it would be "out of character" with the area.

Koca replied that earth would be graded up around the building. He said his firm would also have to check the site for peat deposits before it finally proceeds.

The village's flood plains were designated by the U. S. Geographic Survey in 1962, and are clearly marked on the village

zoning map, which is available in the village hall for 35 cents.

THE PARK acquisition plan was taken from the village's future comprehensive development plan, which was prepared with the cooperation of the park board prior to hiring Burke.

Open space uses, such as parks, are given the highest priority for flood plain areas in the comprehensive village development plan. About 80 of the 88 acres the park district is planning to buy is in the flood plain.

The park building would be the first to be constructed in a local flood plain since the special regulations governing it went into effect about a year ago.

MEMBERS of the village board have expressed some concern about the precedent it would set.

The park board had first thought of including its building in a village civic center complex suggested in the master plan.

But with the village board and plan commission dawdling over selection of a definite civic center site, the park board chose the Wolf Road location adjacent to Buffalo Creek.



# A Colossal Park Mistake

How the fact that the proposed site for its \$190,000 recreation building is in a flood plain ever escaped the attention of the Wheeling Park District's planning consultant, Burke, Inc., of Park Ridge, is unfathomable.

If anyone should be cognizant of flood plain considerations, it should be a planner, and particularly a park planner.

Of the elected representatives of the public, it would seem that none of them should be more concerned with making allowances for flood plains than park boards. Areas subject to flooding are the prime areas for public open space uses, and Wheeling probably wouldn't be in a position now to begin acquiring some land for permanent open space use if it wasn't for the village's prohibition on building in flood plains.

ALTERNATIVE to keeping flood plains open is spending millions on storm sewer installations. (\$800,000 was spent for the Hintz Road storm sewer from Elmhurst to Buffalo Creek, and nearly \$15,000,000 has already been spent on Weller Creek through Des Plaines and Mount Prospect.)

Besides the flood plain consideration, the present park building site is directly across Wolf Road from where the village's second junior high school (Holmes JHS) is to be opened in 1966.

Purportedly the park board is trying to avoid duplication. But to build a recreation building across the street from a complete school facility appears to be flagrantly violating the very principle the park district's development plan is based on.

BURKE'S PLANS for Wheeling's park development, though, rarely take into account existing community facilities, particularly those at Wheeling High School. And the proposed parks are considered with little reference to contiguous land, as if they were islands unto themselves.

Compounding Burke's planning difficulties is the manner in which the Wheeling Park Board, on the advice of its attorney, has retained the firm.

Ostensibly the firm's job is planning. But Burke is not getting paid for planning, but for building—baseball diamonds, tennis courts, the recreation building, etc. It gets a flat six per cent commission on the construction cost of the facility, or an architect's fee. (If grading that is to be done is included in the six per cent commission, what is the destiny of Wheeling's natural land contours?)

This is an obvious built-in conflict of interest, however legal. The Burke firm is certainly going to do what provides income.

THE TWO FACILITIES on which the firm stands to make the most are, logically, the two which it is currently pushing the most, the recreation building and tennis courts.

For a planner, the flood plain oversight was a colossal blunder, and certainly raises questions as to the firm's planning abilities, as does the duplication issue.

The park board is right in that Wheeling's residents very much want parks and recreational facilities. But they also want good ones, which requires wise planning.

To obtain this, it seems that a hard re-evaluation of its planner is overdue, and also of its present method of pay for the planning work.

# Wheeling HERALD

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Wheeling, Illinois 60090

THURSDAY, NOV. 3, 1966

10 Sections, 102 P.

## Dedication of Park Building Set Sunday

Dedication of the new \$190,000 Wheeling Park District building in Heritage Park on South Wolf Road has been set for Sunday, Nov. 13.

Tentative plans call for a flag-raising ceremony, and installation of a time capsule under a plaque at the foot of the flagpole.

The flagpole, which will be

placed in front of the park building soon, is one Wheeling has donated to the district. Park commissioners have asked veterans organizations in Wheeling to participate in getting the pole to the park site.

Bernard Erlin, public relations committee chairman, for the park district, is slated to master of ceremonies. Board Pres. Richard Ault will deliver the introduction speech.

**AN OPEN HOUSE** at the building is planned immediately following the ceremony, said Erlin. The park board hopes to get the award-winning Wheeling High School band to perform at the ceremony. This has not been confirmed, however, officials said.

Officials of School Districts 21 and 214 and the Village of Wheeling will be invited to the ceremony, park board spokesmen said.

Veterans organizations have agreed to take the lead in raising funds to build a memorial to those who have served in United States wars.

Representatives of the Veter-

ans of Foreign Wars and Amvets met with the park board recently to discuss the proposed memorial.

**THE IDEA FOR** such a memorial came from Wheeling's public relations commission. The commission has made sketches of possible memorials which could be erected near the new park facility.

Ralph Hunter, representing Amvets, said the groups agreed to help raise funds for the memorial, but would not take its own funds for it.

All three groups hope that the memorial will be erected by Memorial Day, next May 30. Tentative location for the memorial would be at the northeast corner of the park building.

Designs prepared by the public relations commission set the height of the memorial at eight to ten feet.

At the Oct. 20 meeting Mrs. Audrey Christiansen, park board member, said she would like to see it higher, perhaps as high or higher than the park building."

Hunter said costs might prohibit that proposal, however.



**RICHARD AULT**, president of the Wheeling Park Board, speaks to about 150 persons at dedication ceremonies of the district's \$190,000 Heritage Park Recreation Center. The Jack London Junior High School Band performed just prior to Ault's speech. Others

(left to right) Supt. Ferdinand Arndt, Commissioners Clayton Wieder, Bernard Erlin and Mrs. Audrey Christiansen. Also a park board member, but not pictured is Harry Thill.

(Staff Photo)

# Propose Husky Park

## Lake to Halt Floods

A two- to 3½-acre retention lake has been proposed to halt flooding at Husky Park behind Jack London Junior High School.

The proposal resulted last week from a meeting of Wheeling Park District officials, their engineering consulting firm, Ralph Burke, Inc., and Wheeling officials.

Also in the meeting were residents of Anthony Road area whose back yards often have been flooded.

Glen Intermill, representing Burke, presented several solutions, but the one which gained the most interest of park and Wheeling officials was the retention lake plan. He suggested dredging a two acre lake, with a pipe and an automatic pump to take off the excess water before a heavy rain or immediately after.

ACCORDING to Intermill, even with the pump occasionally overflow from the retention basin will occur.

Intermill said the lake could be stocked with fish and the area around it could be landscaped for other park activities. He also suggested that a retaining wall of earth be built up behind the homes on Anthony Drive to protect yards from flooding.

Parks Supt. Ferdinand Arndt says the lake could be used for fly-casting by youngsters in the park district. It also could be used for ice skating in the winter.

Village Pres. Ted C. Scanlon and Trustee John Koeppen Jr. represented the village. Scanlon warned that contractors to the south of Husky Park would have to build their own retention basins and not drain into this one. If they don't, he contended, the problem will start all over again.

KOEPPEN, who has been working on the flooding problem in Husky for some time, presented the proposal to the village board Monday night. Koeppen said Village Engr. Thomas Moody and Supt. Arndt had reviewed the plans. Moody said the plan would alleviate flooding of Husky.

The plan on the retention

basin is this:

First Koeppen and Public Works Supt. Angelo D. Ventrella will take soil borings to determine the depth of the water table in the area.

Then the village and park district would meet to work out financing. It is hoped that soon after bids on the project could be let by the parks.

Koeppen also said Monday that a portable manual pump might be used instead of the automatic one proposed by Burke, the park's engineering firm. It would be much cheaper, Koeppen told village trustees.

Not total costs estimates have been made according to Koeppen. "We want to get the problems over there taken care of," said Koeppen. This plan will help the situation, but won't solve it, he added. Koeppen said Moody told him that a 3½ acre retention basin would solve the present problem.

Trustee Ira A. Bird said he thought residents of Anthony Road had opposed such a retention basin in the past.

BUT ALF Wilson, 1025 Anthony, a leader in the fight to get the flooding problems

corrected, told the Herald that he didn't think residents would oppose the plan. What residents opposed before was an ugly retention basin not kept up or without recreation facilities, said Wilson.

Koeppen said he would ask all residents of the park area to express their opinion when the two boards got together after the soil borings were completed.

Koeppen told the Herald that there were four choices village trustees could make in the Husky Park situation.

- 1) Do nothing.
- 2) Help clean up the park, grade and seed it.
- 3) Cooperate in building the retention basin.
- 4) Spend \$300,000 to build a storm drainage ditch around to the south of the park to the Des Plaines River.

## Husky Park Soil Tests

Soil borings will be made in Husky park as soon as the standing water is gone by Superintendent of Public Works Agnello Ventrella.

After the tests are complete and the condition of the soil is determined, the Park Board will let bids for construction of a retention basin in the park.

The village will then install a pump to bring storm water up two feet so that it can trickle slowly into Dunhurst sewers.

It is hoped the basin will hold enough storm water back to alleviate flooding. The retention basin will be used for fly casting and other forms of recreation.

# Park Accomplishments Are Listed by Arndt

A run-down of Wheeling Park District's accomplishments during 1966 has been compiled by Park Supt. Ferdinand Arndt.

The ice skating season at the beginning of the year at Chamber of Commerce Park was quite successful, he said. The winter, spring and summer recreation programs were well attended, and the Wheeling community swimming pool, operated this year by the Park District, functioned at full capacity and was financially successful.

The development of part of Heritage Park and the construction of the recreation center and administration building were a great addition to the district, Arndt continued. To staff the office at 222 S. Wolf Road, the board of commissioners hired a full-time superintendent of parks and recreation and also a part-time secretary.

THE NEW building is being utilized to its fullest. Arndt said, and groups and individuals using it have been very civic-minded in making donations. Some contributors were the VFW Auxiliary, which gave an announcement board; the VFW Post, which provided letters for the board; and Community Presbyterian Church, which made a cash donation.

Other donors and their gifts were Wheeling Junior Woman's Club, outside signs; Meadowbrook Property Owners, outside benches and other equipment; Wheeling-Buffalo Grove Nurses

Club, first aid equipment; the Over-50 Club, tables; Meadowbrook Women's Club, a piano; and McIntyre Lumber & Supply, a podium.

Formal dedication of the new recreation center was held Sunday, Nov. 13. Present and former commissioners, the former superintendent and present village officials took part in the ceremonies, together with an honor guard from Wheeling High School and the Jack London Junior High School band. Father Warren presented the invocation and benediction.

The Park District has developed an excellent relationship with the School District regarding use of their facilities, Arndt declared, and Holmes Junior High School has used the facilities at Heritage Park. "This type of cooperation means savings to Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer," he added.

FORTY-TWO trees have been purchased to help beautify Heritage Park, and the Park District hopes to have them planted by the first of the year.

Husky Park and the problems involved at that site are currently occupying most of the Park District's time and effort. The superintendent said he hopes he can report some time in 1967 the accomplishment of a nice park, with some landscaping to help beautify the area.

"For the short time we have been here, we feel that there

has been wonderful cooperation from the different heads of the city," Arndt concluded. "We feel that whatever is accomplished, either by park or city, shall be for the good of all Wheeling residents, and hope that as the years go by, all taxing bodies in Wheeling will consolidate their efforts for the good of the community."



PARKS SUPT. FERDINAND E. Arndt holds the bronze plaque which will be installed over a "time capsule" in front of Wheeling Park District \$190,000 Heritage Park building. The facility was dedicated Sunday with

park, school, village and others participating in the ceremonies. The building was dedicated to the future of Wheeling, "Where Progress is by the People." (Staff Photo)

1966 Dec 12

# Park District Reviews Past Year

By Ferd Arndt And Ann Egan.

We would like to give the residents of Wheeling a run-down of your Park District's accomplishments during 1966.

Our Ice Skating season at the beginning of the year at Chamber of Commerce Park was quite successful. The Winter, Spring and Summer Recreation Programs were well attended, with the exception of a few activities. The Wheeling Community Swimming Pool, which was operated by the Wheeling Park District this year, functioned at full capacity and was financially successful.

The development of part of Heritage Park and the construction of our Recreation Center and Administration Building has been a great addition to the Wheeling Park District. By having an office at 222 South Wolf Rd., your Park District Board of Commissioners hired a full time Superintendent of Parks and Recreation and also a part time secretary, which means that all business can be transacted directly at the Park District office. A lot of credit is due the former Superintendent, for all the time and effort he has put forth during the past years as a part-time employee. The new building is being utilized to its fullest. The different groups and individuals using the building have also been very civic-minded in their donations to the Park District. Listed are some of the contributors:

V.F.W. Auxiliary	Announcement Board
V.F.W.	Announcement Brd.
Community Presbyterian Church	Cash Dona. (Letters
Wheeling Jr. Womens Club	Outside Signs
Meadowbrook Property Owners	Outside Benches and
Wheeling-B.G. Nurses Club	First Aid Equip.(equipt
Over-50 Club	Tables
Meadowbrook Womens Club	Piano
McIntyre Lumber & Supply	Podium

We had formal dedication of the new Recreation Center on Sunday, Nov. 13, 1966. Present and former commissioners, former superintendent and present village officials took part in the ceremonies. The Honor Guard was from Wheeling High School and the Jack London Junior High School Band played at the ceremony. Father Warren presented the Invocation and Benediction. Open House was held immediately after the ceremony.

We have developed an excellent relationship with the School District as to the use of their facilities. We in turn have had Holmes Junior High School use the facilities at Heritage Park. It is this type of cooperation that is a savings to you, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer.

We have purchased 42 trees, which we hope to have planted by the first of the year. This should help beautify the surrounding area at Heritage Park.

Husky Park and the problems involved at this site, are occupying most of our time and effort and we hope that we can report sometime in 1967 that we have accomplished a nice park, with some landscaping to help beautify the area.

For the short time we have been here, we feel that there has been wonderful cooperation from the different department heads of the city. We feel that whatever is accomplished, either by park or city, shall be for the good of all Wheeling residents. We hope and pray that as

## 90 Youngsters Run In the Turkey Trot

Ninety youngsters participated in the second annual Turkey Trot cross-country races sponsored by the Wheeling Park District Thanksgiving morning.

There were three contests for girls. In the first, a 440-yard race for those age 10 and under, Penny Thill was first, Bonny Buenzow second and

Maureen Banks third. The distance for 11- and 12-year-olds was increased to 600 yards, and Jill Terreberry, Nancy Olson and Vicki Lowing placed in that order. The oldest group, ages 13 and 14, ran 880 yards, with Chris Erickson, Carol VanHeltebrake and Debbie Carlson emerging victors.

IN THE BOYS' races, Steve Ciolino, Matt McGowan and John Carlberg were first, second and third, respectively, in the 600-yard run for boys 10 and under; William Stinger, Bert Newman and Joe McGowan won the 880-yard race for 11- and 12-year-olds; Bill McGowan, Dan Munoz and Joe Keene led the 13- and 14-year-olds in the mile, and Smith, Bruce Stephens and Whitman Bailly were victors in the 1½-mile run for boys over 15.

Trophies and ribbons were awarded the winners by park superintendent Ferdinand Arndt. The program was arranged by Keith Vernon and Jack Cole; Leonard Swanson was time-keeper and commissioner Harry Thill served as recorder. (W

the years go by, all taxing bodies in Wheeling will consolidate all their efforts for the good of the Community. As you folks pay your taxes, you help defray expenses to develop the Community as a nicer place to live.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the members of the Wheeling Park District, Board of Commissioners and its staff.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 1967

# SEEK HUSKY

# PARK LAKE BIDS

## *Park Board Decision To Be Voted Mar. 13*

Wheeling's Park District took another step this week in the long process of getting flood-ridden Husky Park made into a 3½-acre lake suitable for recreation.

Park officials predict the lake will also hold about three million gallons of water which would help alleviate some of the flooding problems in west Wheeling.

After a meeting with the Wheeling Village Board, the park district said Tuesday night it would seek bids on the proposed project at its next meeting March 13. About one month later the bids would be opened.

THEN AFTER it was determined exactly how much it would cost to transform the swamp into a lake retention basin, the parks would seek out other governmental bodies and developers in the area to help get the money to complete the project. Park commissioners estimated its cost at \$20,000.

The park board and Wheeling trustees met Tuesday night. Village board members said at the meeting that "Yes, they were interested in seeing the retention basin built."

The trustees also agreed that they were interested in assisting financially, but trustee William B. McRae, finance committee chairman, said the board would not know how much could be spent until its budget for next year is finalized.

PART OF THE reason the village of Wheeling is somewhat hesitant about spending money on the project is that it may not solve the over-all flooding problem in the area.

Presently the village is locked in a lawsuit with the Wheeling Drainage District about the drainage of most of the huge Cambridge Countryside subdivision in Buffalo Grove. If the village loses the case, the subdivision will also drain to Husky Park, Village Atty. Paul Hamer told the parks and village officials, and residents of the park area.

Last year the village considered building a tile storm drain from the west to the park in conjunction with the retention basin. But the problem here is that part of the area where the tile would be installed is in both the county and the village. Therefore the village would like to receive township aid on the problem.

NO DECISION has been reached as to if and how much the township can assist the village in that phase of the project.

Another way to solve the flooding problems would be for developer Richard Brown to build a retention basin in his Cambridge subdivision. This would halt some of the drain-off that rushes to already flooded Husky Park.

In a legal maneuver last summer Brown deeded some of the drains to the Wheeling Drainage District and the district then ordered the lines connected to Wheeling's. This is being fought in court now.

In a study made nearly a year ago by the village engineer the lake would have to be nine feet deep to take all the water which drains to Husky. Presently the park district plans the

lake to be five feet deep.

SEVERAL citizens from the Husky Park area attended the meeting and were visibly upset because other developments might be built to the west and south thus adding to the problems.

Some said they were willing to pay special assessments so that the flooding problem could be taken care of. But village officials are hesitant to ask just the residents of that area to pay for special assessment when the problem is so large it should involve a bigger portion of the village.

# PARKS WON'T HAVE 2ND POLLING PLACE

## *'Simply Too Much Money' Is Commissioners' Opinion*

by Richard Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Heritage Park Building, on Wolf Road, will be the sole polling place for the April 4 election of Wheeling park commissioners.

So decided the park board this week despite the plea of three board candidates to establish a second polling place in the populated western part of the village.

In a letter distributed to the board, candidates Mrs. Lorraine Lark, Alf Wilson and Andrew Bjornson, all residents of west Wheeling, pointed to the "increase of population in the western section of the district" as a voting spot.

And while most astute observers of the village's political scene expect a record turn out in an election where six candidates are vying for two board spots, the board seemed to feel the cost too prohibitive.

"There were only 349 votes

cast in the last election," argued Comr. Mrs. Audrey Christiansen. "At a cost of \$25 for each of five election judges for each of two polling places, comes to about 50 cents a vote. That's simply too much money."

MRS. LARK, at the meeting, countered that the trio had realized the request would mean an additional \$125 expenditure, "but we feel that the service offered the voters will be well worth the expense."

During the recent fire depart-

ment election, four polling places were established and only 220 votes were cast, Mrs. Lark added.

Comr. Bernie Erlin answered that it was natural to assume that more voters would turn out in a village election. "The number of votes in our past elections don't warrant taking such a step."

Alf Wilson also in attendance offered that a second polling place would be a convenience to voters in the western section and "should be offered to allow the voter to better exercise his right to cast a vote."

BOARD PRES. Richard Ault observed that since most of the voters would be traveling by car, the difference between driving to Jack London High School, a suggested site for the second polling spot, and to Heritage Park was "merely a few minutes. Those who really

want to vote will make the added effort."

Commented Mrs. Lark after the vote, "I really didn't think they would allow the second voting place. But we had to try. I feel the action is an injustice to not only these residents but to the park board itself. And it means that we are just going to work harder to get our people, those without cars, down to Heritage." The trio expects to draw heavily from the newer western section of the village.

IN PAST ELECTIONS only one polling site had been established. However for the most part these elections were a matter-of-fact affairs with no contests.

This year incumbents Harry Thill and Clayton Wieder appear to have a real scrap on their hands. In addition to the trio of opponents, outspoken Eugene Sackett, former park superintendent, is seeking a board spot.

# Parks Wade Deeper Into 'Lakes'

Wheeling's Park District waded in a little deeper this week in its efforts to create two park-site lakes.

Bids on carving a 3½-acre lake out of the now flood-ridden Husky Park swamp were opened and will be reviewed with the village board.

The park board also directed its Atty. Roger Bjorvik to write directly to the Metropolitan Sanitary District board of trustees requesting a 20-acre lagoon in Heritage Park.

**OFFICIALS HOPE** that both proposed retention basins will not only serve for recreation but will more importantly help alleviate some of the flooding problems now threatening to turn the western section of the village into one soggy quagmire.

Lowest of three bids received on the Husky Park project was \$11,542.50 by Milburn Bros., of Mount Prospect. The bid stipulated that \$10,540 must be spent to excavate the lake and \$1,002.50 for tiles. Other bidders are Greco Construction Co., of Rosemont, \$13,745 and Doetscher Bros., of Wheeling, \$16,155. The board had estimated the cost at \$20,000.

Though a long standing problem, the mess at Husky Park baffled village officials for years. Efforts by the park district to annex the land into Wheeling has been blocked several times on advice of its engineer Thomas Moody who has termed the site "a headache."

However, village officials came running last fall when the board considered filling in the site. Such action would cause havoc to proposed building developments that naturally drain into the park.

The proposed lake which will hold about 3 million gallons of water would be sufficient to continue to drain the area and also hold waters that now back up and flood yards and streets surrounding it, the park district says.

**THE HERITAGE** Park project has already been reviewed by Sanitary District Supt. Vinton Bacon last summer, who advised that he was receptive to the plan but the decision was up to the Sanitary District Board.

He said the board also was considering a much larger basin northwest of Buffalo Grove if that is approved "there would be no reason why a second one couldn't be built in Wheeling." However, officials fear that in such a case the Heritage Park project would surely be shelved.

Efforts by the park district to get Buffalo Grove support of the basin have fallen on deaf ears. That village's engineer, John Hooper, has suggested the board direct its efforts toward the larger pond that would more directly serve Buffalo Grove.

Undeterred, Atty. Bjorvik said he would send a copy of his request of the district to Buffalo Grove again asking that they support the project. And while a cooperative effort by the two would certainly be a positive factor, the park district will go it alone if Buffalo Grove refuses its support.

Park Supt. Ferdinand Arndt reported that an official of the district had recently reviewed the plans for Heritage Park and counseled that the project should have no trouble getting approval.

However, he also said that the district already had earmarked all of this year's budget but would be receptive to a project for next year. Arndt



# Meet on Husky Park

It is hoped the flooding problem in the Husky Park area of Wheeling will be solved after a meeting next Monday night.

Officials of the village board will meet with Wheeling Park District representatives and builders to discuss financial cooperation on a Husky Park retention basin-lake.

Acting Pres. Ira A. Bird said this week the board wanted to

be sure the proposed 3½-acre retention basin lake, planned by the park district in Husky Park, was adequate. He added that he wanted the village engineer to determine this.

HE INDICATED that the village wanted to cooperate with the park district on the cost of the project, but wanted to be sure that it was satisfactory.

Park Board Pres. Richard Ault was at the village board

meeting Monday to invite the cooperation of the village board. Several representatives of the village and park board members met to discuss possible cooperation on the project.

Representatives of two builders, Richard Brown of Buffalo Grove and Roy Lichter, owner of Howard Highlands, also are expected to be at the meeting.

BOTH developments drain into flooded Husky Park. Wheeling has told Lichter that his 10-acre project, south of Husky, would not be considered for rezoning until the flooding in the area was solved.

Bird told the group that the cooperation between the parks and the village would be discussed first, then Lichter's project, then Brown's project.

# Vote Is Delayed On Husky Basin

A decision on whether Wheeling will financially assist the Wheeling Park District in building a 3½ - 4 acre retention basin-lake in Husky Park was put off another week Monday night.

Village Engr. Thomas Moody said at a joint real estate-finance committee meeting he would need another week to take soil borings in the park to determine where the water table is. When this is determined Moody will better be able to tell how much water the proposed lake will hold.

MOODY ALSO will determine if the proposed lake will be beneficial enough to the village to rate their financial participation in the project.

Trustee Ira A. Bird said he wanted this decided before the

village board votes on participating on the project.

Trustee William B. McRae, finance committee chairman, said he believes the township should be contacted to see if it will help finance the project. Husky Park is in an unincorporated area.

He said he talked to Albert Peters, township supervisor, several months ago, but had not heard from him if the township would participate. McRae said he would call Peters this week.

Trustee John Koeppen Jr. said he had been told by Peters that the township could not participate.

McRAE SAID, "I believe the board (village) will participate in the project. We are quite

encouraged by the plan."

McRae added, "I think the decision will be a favorable one."

Harry Thill, park commissioner, told village officials that if necessary the retention lake could be stretched from the proposed 3½ acres to four acres, leaving only one acre bordering the lake.

The real estate-finance committees will meet again next Monday with the park officials and a "decision will definitely be made then," said McRae.

THE MEETING is slated at 7:30 p.m. at the village hall.

The parks have agreed to pay \$7,000 of the \$11,542 it will cost to get the swamp transformed into a lake-retention basin. It is hoped that the village will pick up the tab for all or part of the remaining \$5,542.

# Park Unit Asks Bids On Husky Park Lake

Wheeling Park Commissioners have sought bids to build a 3½ acre lake in flood-ridden Husky Park.

In a special session Tuesday night the Park Board agreed to advertise for bids in this issue of the Herald.

Bids will be open at 8 p.m. March 13, the next meeting of the board.

THE LAKE would serve as a retention basin for water which drains into the park and also serve for recreational purposes, park officials say.

The retention basin and lake would hold about three million gallons of water which would

help alleviate some of the flooding problems in the west part of Wheeling. It would be five feet deep.

Park board members hope to make the Husky Park swamp into a lake suitable for fishing and some boating. The estimated cost of the project would be \$20,000, according to park commissioners.

After the bids are opened and the exact cost is known the park board would seek out other governmental bodies and developers to help pay for the lake construction and landscaping.

The park district is willing to pay \$5,000 of the costs.

WHEELING TRUSTEES have said they are interested in seeing the retention basin built. They also hint that they might be willing to bear some of the expense. But this will not be known until next year's budget can be analyzed.

Wheeling Township also has been approached to help finance the project. Part of the land which drains to Husky is in the unincorporated part of the township.

However no decision has been made as to whether the township auditors would vote to spend any money on the lake project.

## Parks Donate \$300 For Band Concerts

Wheeling's Park District will donate \$300 toward the costs of holding three open-air High School band concerts this summer.

Supt. Ferdinand Arndt told commissioners that he had been in touch with the high school concerning the project. "I'm still very much a country boy at heart and get a kick out of band concerts. So I thought why not have three, one at each of the shopping centers and one at the park."

Arndt explained that the school could not pay the assistant conductor for rehearsing and holding the concerts, and so the park agreed to pick up \$300 worth of the tab.

However, commissioners seemed sour at the idea of having the concerts at the shopping centers. "I think the park is the natural place," said Bernie Erlin. "The band could march through the village and end up at the park."

"Why, you would have to be

a long distance runner to hear that kind of a concert," answered Arndt. (W)

## Ault Resigns; Will Leave Parks August

Park Board Pres. Richard F. Ault has announced he will be leaving Wheeling in August.

A resident of the village since 1956, Ault is expected to resign from the park board shortly before that time.

Ault will be coaching track and swimming and teaching physical education at Westminster College, Fulton, Mo. A graduate of the University of Missouri, the parks superintendent is originally from that area of the "Show Me" state.

For the last 12 years, Ault has been director of athletics and physical education at Highland Park High School.

HE IS serving his second year as president of the Wheeling Park District.

Ault said he would like to see the Husky Park project finished before he leaves the district. Presently the board is seeking bids to make the flood-ridden park into a 3½-acre lake. It would be used as a retention basin and as a recreation area for the park district.

One goal of Ault's has already been realized, the completion of the Heritage Park Recreation building. It was completed last year.



AULT

# Meet Tonight At Heritage

by NANCY BENCO  
News Editor

Wheeling Trustee William McRae Monday called for a last-ditch "summit parley" to settle problems of the Husky Park flood plain.

The meeting will be held in conjunction with the park board meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Park.

McRae, head of a committee investigating the recent flooding at Husky Park, called for the meeting after trustees worked an hour on the problem Monday without any results.

ASKED TO attend are village trustees, the Park District, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove attorneys and village engineers, Wheeling township representatives, and individual landowners.

"We've all been meeting on this issue separately," McRae pointed out. "Now it's time we got together."

The financing of improvements for the water-soaked park will be the main issue tonight.

Park board members are hoping for a fast solution so they can begin approving bids for the work to be done.

IN AN engineering study, village engineer Thomas Moody suggested a two-phase project which should eliminate any future flooding of Husky Park.

In Phase I, he suggested that the village do the following:

—Excavate four acres of the park site to a 2.5 foot level. In effect, this would utilize all the land the park district maintains at Husky Park.

—Restrict water flow through the village sewers by having a retention basin constructed on

property north of Wheeling on a 76-acre tract called the Brown-Buffalo Grove property. Such a basin would catch water before it flowed to Husky Park.

—Construct a storm sewer north along Schoenbeck Road to Lee Street and then east to Husky Park

PHASE I, done at an estimated cost of \$51,000 to Wheeling, would have top priority in the program. Phase II is aimed at future construction. It involves:

—Acquiring land from School District 21 to excavate an additional two acres for the retention basin.

—Or construct a sewer to Dundee Road to lower the normal water level in the pond.

Both alternatives would provide an additional six acres for storage at Husky Park.

Moody's report was made at a committee meeting prior to the regular board meeting.

During that meeting, a letter from Anthony Road residents was read. Signed by about 25 homeowners, the letter urged the village board to return "Husky Lake" back to Husky Park.

Moody explained, however, that the area was a natural flood plain and could not be filled in.

April 19, 1967

# Hark! A Lark Sweeps In!

Hark! Hark! We have a Lark in the park.

Yes, Mrs. Lorraine Lark, 583 Merle Lane won a commanding victory to a Wheeling Park District Board seat in Tuesday's election.

A record 741 ballots were cast.

Mrs. Lark, a popular west side resident, was swept into office with 429 votes, or by a near 2-to-1 ratio. The closest runner-up, was Alf Wilson, 1024 Anthony Road, with 236 ballots. He also was elected to the park board.

AT ISSUE in the campaign, one of the hottest in the seven year history of the park district, was that there weren't enough recreation facilities in the western part of the village.

Mrs. Lark had urged that the district implement parts of a 1964 referendum which called for building tennis courts at London Junior High School and building other facilities near schools in west Wheeling.

However Mrs. Lark did not only draw a big vote from heavily populated west Wheeling,

but apparently had a majority in the east section of the district.

Wilson won in a real cliff-hanger. He finished only seven votes ahead of Andrew Bjornson, 321 E. Norman, another west sider, who is a Democratic precinct captain in the 50th precinct.

BJORNSON appeared at no public forum, but he apparently had the solid backing of his precinct. He had a total of 229 votes.

Former Parks Supl. Gene Sackett, who waged a real battle, gained the next most votes with 218 ballots. Sackett broke with the present board and denounced the members after resigning last summer.

Sackett delivered a spirited campaign. He got it off to a lively start by charging that the park board attorney did not handle the filing of the candidate petitions "ethically."

LATER HE charged that the park board violated an administrative ordinance which said the meeting date should be held the first Thursday of each

month. The board by motion, had changed the meeting date to the second Monday.

Park Board Atty. Roger Bjornvik refuted this charge and claimed that the motion in the minutes in effect changed the ordinance.

The two incumbents seeking

re-election to their posts were soundly trounced. Harry Thill, finishing a two-year appointment, received only 108 votes and Clayton Wieder, finishing a four-year term, got 100 ballots. The vote is still unofficial. The park board was to meet last night to canvass the vote.



MRS. LARK



WILSON