

Wheeling  
Park  
District

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*Wheeling Park District*

1000 NORTH MILWAUKEE AVENUE  
WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090-1899

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**To:**

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY**

**(708) 537-2930**



David F. Phillips

## Dave Phillips -- 1-Year Success Story

1-23-73

by LYNN ASINOF

Tomorrow will mark Park Supt. Dave Phillips' first full year of working with the Wheeling Park District. In light of his recent arrival in the village, Phillips was understandably surprised to be named this year's recipient of the Wheeling Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award.

But Phillips interpreted the honor as approval for recent changes in the park district, instead of a personal honor.

"It's an indication that the changes we have been making have reached a favorable community," he said. "In other words, they're ready for the changes we're making."

Phillips, 24, sees himself as a young professional who is working with a young professional staff in a rapidly developing park district.

"It's exciting mainly because of the dynamic development that will be taking place here," he said.

ACCORDING TO Phillips, Wheeling is undergoing a change in its attitude towards its park district. "The people are becoming more aware that they have a park district," he said. "And we are involving more people than we have in the past."

The young superintendent said he was glad to come to Wheeling after the nitty-gritty of getting the park district on its feet was over.

"It's easier to continue and build rather than start from scratch," Phillips said.

He added that the district's present growth is giving him the opportunity to experiment with programs and approaches to recreation that he would not be able to do in a more established park district.

Phillips said this past year has been particularly exciting because each new facet of administering a park district has been a new experience for him.

"It's a learning experience," he said. "It's exciting to go through something and have it succeed the first time you do it."

Phillips first came to Wheeling as director of recreation after working in the Arlington Heights Park District for one year. Early this fall he was promoted to park superintendent after Ferd Arndt retired for health reasons.

Since he has been in Wheeling, Phillips has seen his first park referendum passed, restructured many park pro-

grams and worked to improve the park district's financial situation.

BUT HIS activities have not been restricted to the parks. Although he is a resident of Arlington Heights, Phillips has become active in several village civic organizations and serves on the Wheeling Youth Commission.

Phillips said his Wheeling activities help him to know the needs of the community he is serving.

"It's a way to meet more people and do a better job," he said.

According to him, his biggest surprise in coming to Wheeling was the spirit of cooperation and the continual support of the community.

"Even with our staff, with young people involved, we seem to have a let's-do-it attitude," he said.

Phillips rarely talks about his personal life. He seems to prefer steering conversation to his work with the park district, perhaps because so much of his time is spent there.

He estimated he spends about 50 or 60 hours at the park district each week, but said he doesn't miss having a lot of spare time. "This is recreation for me also," he said of his work.

# Park Board Defers OK On Corps' Land Use

1-23-73

Despite their enthusiasm for the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps' proposed move to Wheeling, park board members decided Thursday night they needed more information before approving the corps' use of park land.

The board established a committee to work out the details of the move, which would include the leasing of park land to the Cavaliers. Park Board members said they wanted to make sure the Wheeling Park District would benefit from these arrangements, thus justifying the use of park land.

The Cavaliers had asked the park district to lease two acres for the construction of their new headquarters. The corps would pay for the construction of the building, which would revert to park district ownership upon completion. The Cavaliers would then lease the building from the park district.

State law, which governs the park district, states that park land can only be leased if the purpose of the lease is to establish some kind of memorial. Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik said this option was possible if the corps' building could be construed as a memorial to the armed

services, where the drum and bugle corps idea originated.

THREE WHEELING residents present at the Thursday meeting objected to the proposed arrangements. They said the park district could not afford to use valuable park land to service only one organization.

"I don't think we have enough park property to give up park land for just one individual group," Alice Wargo told the board. "If you give to one outfit, you're going to have them all in."

Park board members agreed that they had some question whether it was justifiable to use park land for this purpose after recently passing a park referendum to obtain more open space.

Park Board Pres. Lorraine Lark said, however, that the park district also needed interior recreation space, especially for the park's preschool program. She said the corps' building would be available during the daytime and on Saturdays for this type of park use.

"If these agreements would work for the benefit of the Wheeling Park District, that would be justification enough for the people," Mrs Lark said.

The proposed Cavaliers headquarters would be in the western section of Heritage Park next to the Soo Line R.R. tracks. The 60 by 140-foot building would include a main hall and several practice rooms. The Cavaliers estimate the cost of the building at \$80,000.

AS PREVIOUSLY requested, the officials representing the Cavaliers presented the board with letters from various village groups supporting the corps' move to Wheeling. Several interested citizens also attended the meeting to express their support.

Endorsements for the project included letters from School Dist. 21, Wheeling High School principal Tom Shirley, Director of Public Safety Roger Stricker, Trustee Ron Bruhn, Omni-House director Peter Digre, Wheeling Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce and the pastor of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

# Park Board Issues \$125,000 In Tax Warrants

1-25-73  
Although the financial situation of the Wheeling Park District is improving, the park board has once again been forced to issue tax anticipation warrants to cover operating expenses until expected tax money arrives in May.

The park board voted last week to issue \$125,000 in tax anticipation warrants, even though only \$75,000 is needed to cover the four months' operating expenses. The extra \$50,000 will be deposited in the bank to draw interest.

Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik said the interest earned by the additional borrowed funds would almost cover the cost of interest for the warrants. He said the park district would save about \$500 by borrowing the larger amount and investing it as compared to the cost of issuing only \$75,000 in warrants.

PARK BOARD Pres. Lorraine Lark cast the only vote against the project. She said the park district should only borrow the money it needed to operate, instead of the full \$125,000. In the past, Mrs. Lark has objected to similar plans, saying that the public will think the park district is in worse financial shape than it actually is.

"I've been saying it for six years, and I'll save myself the trouble of saying it again," she said. "I don't buy it."

The new tax anticipation warrants bring the park district to a total of \$150,000 borrowed against the tax money that will be received in May. The park board issued \$25,000 in tax anticipation warrants in August to meet operating expenses.

Park board member Bob Ross said this year's tax anticipation warrants show that the park district's financial situation is improving. He said the district needs to borrow less money for a shorter period of time this year than it has in the past.

Park Supt. Dave Phillips agreed that park finances are improving. "The park district is in better shape financially than we were, let's say, a year ago," he said.

Phillips said the park district is now working to maintain a realistic approach towards the tax anticipation warrants. "We're being helped to understand that you can't get rid of these in one year," he said. He said the park district must gradually reduce the size of the warrants each year so that they can finally be eliminated.

ACCORDING TO Phillips, the park district cannot now set a time table for ending the use of tax anticipation warrants.

"It all depends on increased assessed valuation and on the very streamlined and efficient operation in our park district," he said.

## Revenue-sharing funds 'saver' for townships

2-27-73

Revenue sharing is a "shot in the arm" for township governments in fending off charges that the township system is unable to cope with local problems efficiently, Wheeling Township Supervisor Ethel Kolerus said last week.

Substituting for Cook County commissioner Floyd Fulle, Mrs. Kolerus told members of the Regular Republican organization in Palatine that federal revenue sharing is "a very strengthening feature for township government."

She admonished those governments to use the funds wisely, in preparation for the congressional review scheduled five years from now. That review will determine the future of federal revenue funds to local governments.

During the past summer, Palatine township officials were financially unable to solve severe flooding problems occurring in the northwestern edge of the township.

NEARLY \$50,000 has come to Palatine township for its share of the federal funds in 1972. More money will arrive quarterly during 1973. Although no definite use for the windfall has been set by the board of auditors, the funds will have to be budgeted before April for use in the coming year.

Abolishing township government is a particularly sore point among the Palatine Republicans. Palatine Township recently fended off a move brought by the local League of Women Voters to hold a referendum on the question of eliminating that level of government. A Circuit Court decision stalling such a vote is being appealed now, but the first hearing in the Appellate Court isn't scheduled until sometime this spring.

Wheeling Township was not faced with a similar abolition movement this fall, when Palatine joined with three other area townships against LWV drives to get a referendum.

Refuting LWV arguments that township highway assessments were unfair for villagers, who also pay village road taxes, Mrs. Kolerus reasoned, "They (villagers) do have to get in and out of their towns. And what the villagers don't generally tell you is that you're getting almost half of that (township road) revenue back."

GENERAL ASSISTANCE can be handled better by the township, too, Mrs. Kolerus said. The township levies about one cent per \$100 equalized assessed valuation to pay for general assistance, a short-term emergency fund for needy township residents.

If Cook County took over in the event the township government was dissolved, the county would have to levy at least 10 cents per \$100 assessed valuation to qualify for state funding as it currently does for general assistance, Mrs. Kolerus told the group.

"We can do it much more economically, and we can do it immediately. Big government is not the cheapest way to do anything by any means," Mrs. Kolerus contended.

Not only should townships keep their current powers, but they should also work to gain control of other powers now in the hands of the county, specifically awarding of liquor licenses and zoning in unincorporated areas.

On granting liquor licenses, Mrs. Kolerus said, "Certainly we know better whether an establishment like that should go in down the street where our neighbors and children go by everyday," than the county officials.

Zoning in unincorporated Palatine Township is in the jurisdiction of the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals and ultimately the Cook County Board of Commissioners. The county has been criticized for easy approval of so-called undesirable housing.

"I would like to see us get zoning control so they don't just put up those 1,000-apartment structures," the Wheeling supervisor said.

# Parks approve \$600,000 bond sale to banks

2-5-73

The Wheeling Park District will soon have \$600,000 in the bank to begin work on improvements promised in last December's park improvements referendum.

The park board Thursday night authorized the sale of \$600,000 in bonds to The Northern Trust Co. of Chicago and its co-bidder, The Wheeling Trust and Savings Bank. The lowest of four bidders in the bond sale, these two firms offered the park district a 5.18234 per cent interest over the 20-year bond period.

This means that over the entire 20 years of the bond issue, the total interest charged the park district will be \$408,109.38.

Although the park referendum authorized the park district to sell \$700,000 worth of bonds, the district's present assessed valuation only allows the sale up to \$600,000. Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik said the park district could sell the remaining \$100,000 of bonds when the new assessed valuation becomes official later this year.

**BJORVIK SAID** he thought the park district did well with the bid it accepted. "I was hoping we would be slightly under five (per cent) and here we are slightly over," he said. "We could have been as high as seven."

According to Bjorvik, the park district's chances for getting lower interest rates decreased when the district's Moody credit rating did not improve. He explained that the district's rating remained the same because the community is mainly residential instead of industrial.

Bjorvik said it will take about one month to complete the legal technicalities of the bond sale. He said the park district should have the money in the bank by the end of March.

The park district will begin working on plans for the promised park improvements Feb. 12, when the board will meet to establish priorities. The board is presently waiting for a progress report from Dr. David Greenberg, the specialist retained to prepare applications for federal grants.

Board members said they would begin working on the park sites as soon as the bond money was available, without waiting for the federal funding.

# Architect hired for park upgrading

2/5/73

The Wheeling Park District board voted last Thursday night to retain McFadzean and Everly Ltd. to oversee the park improvement program authorized by last year's \$700,000 referendum. Three firms were interviewed.

Despite the objections of board member Eugene Sackett, the park board voted to hire the firm, which also prepared the district's referendum work and is presently doing its master plan.

Sackett objected to hiring the firm, saying there was no reason to make the decision that night. "Why are we going so fast on this?" he asked. "Another two weeks couldn't make that much of a difference."

Other board members said they felt the park district could not afford to wait until the next meeting to hire the architect. "I hate to wait that long," said board member Gus Nizzi. "We've got to get moving."

**PARK BOARD** Pres. Lorraine Lark asked that the board delay the decision

so she could listen to the tapes of the three interviews. Mrs. Lark was not present during the interviews.

Other board members defeated her

motion to table the decision.

Both Mrs. Lark and board member Bob Ross abstained from the vote on accepting the firm. Mrs. Lark said she

could not vote because she had not been present for the discussion. Ross abstained because he deals with all three of the firms in his business.

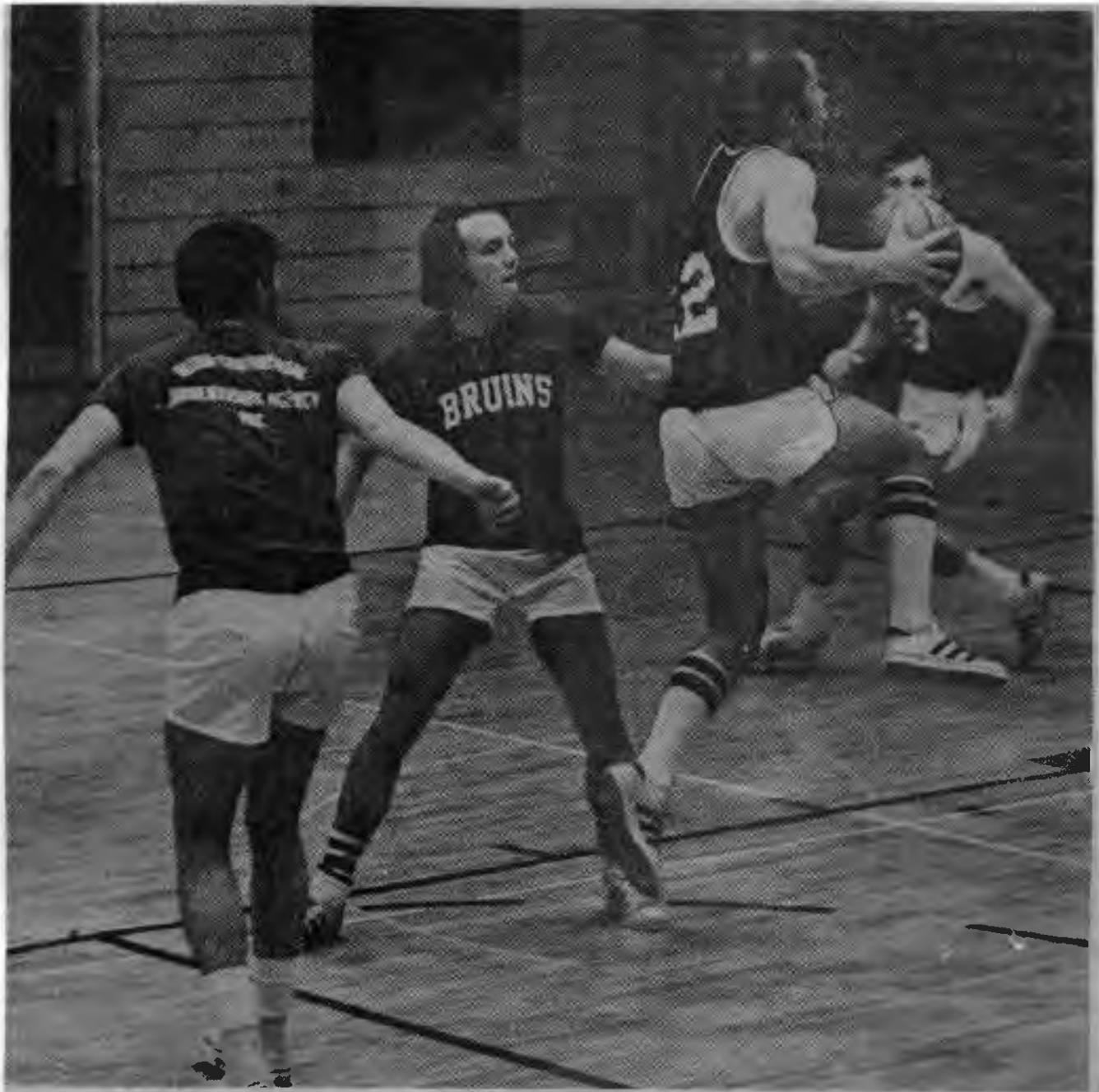
Board members Alf Wilson and Gus Nizzi voted to hire the firm, and Sackett voted against the motion.

**DURING THEIR** presentation, representatives of McFadzean and Everly suggested that the board negotiate five different contracts for varying aspects of the park improvements. They said the contracts could be flexible, depending on the amount of work the park district wanted to do themselves.

Representatives of the firm said they would charge the highest percentage of funds for the remodeling work on the Heritage Park community building and outdoor pool. They said because of the extensive work required the fee would be about 15 per cent of the cost of the project.

They also estimated the cost of work with plant materials at 12 per cent, and the cost of design facilities at 8.5 per cent.

The park board said they would consider the firm's suggestions in drawing up plans to begin those projects that do not require federal funding. The board is delaying work on projects which qualify for federal funding until they learn the status of federal fund applications.



**THE BRUINS WON** the over-all championship in the Wheeling Park District men's competitive basketball league last week with a 92-83 victory over Arlington Free Church. The two teams qualified for the champion-

ship game by winning the most games in their division. The league teams were divided into two groups, one playing Tuesday nights and the other playing Thursday nights.

# McCabe Calls For Citizens In Govt.

James McCabe, an attorney and Demo Committeeman, Wheeling Township called for more citizen concern in government and politics, at the Jaycee's annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, last Sun. at Manda's Union Hotel.

"What we need in this area are people sincerely interested in government and politics," he said, to 48 guests at the annual breakfast.

He said that individuals should join a political organization and then work for the organization. The government regulates every minute of the individual's life, yet "too many people have joined the party of apathy," he said.

McCabe said that too many individuals permitted the newspapers to select their candidates for them. He said the newspapers were an aid, but voters should be more informed about a candidate than to rely on a newspaper article, and he said the way to find out about a candidate was to become actively involved in a political organization.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dave Phillips, Supt. Wheeling Park Dist. since Jan. 24, 1972. Phillips, also a member of the Youth Commission, said that he was very surprised because he had been in the community a very short time.



Service awards were presented at the Jaycee's annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, last Sunday. Frank Dobler, winner OYE award, Chuck Herion, Breakfast Chair., Ted C. Scanlon, Wheeling's Pres.; James McCabe, Atty.; Tony Altieri, Jaycee's Pres., and Dave Phillips, winner DSA Award.

2-4-73

Winner of the Outstanding Young Educator's Award went to Frank Dobler, Choral Dir. Wheeling High School. Dobler said that it was "a totally unexpected honor."

Dobler has been with Wheeling High School for five years and began several choral programs at the school.

According to Tony Altieri, Jaycee Pres., both Dave Phillips and Frank Dobler gave of themselves in their work "above and beyond the normal requirements of the job."

He said that both Dobler and Phillips had worked extra hard in drawing young people into their respective programs.

Wheeling's Mayor, Ted C. Scanlon commended the Jaycee's for their outstanding community service, especially the Community Blood program.

Hugh Wilson made the DSA presentation and Frank Schnaitmann made the OYE presentation. The Rev. Stanley Dill, from the First Baptist Church of Wheeling officiated during the invocation.



Wheeling's Mayor Ted C. Scanlon extended birthday wishes to Alice Wargo, after breakfast. Mrs. Wargo, a crossing guard and mother of seven boys, was nominated for the DSA. Sunday was Mrs. Wargo's birthday.



Hugh Wilson looks on as Jaycee Pres. Tony Altieri extends his hand to congratulate Dave Phillips after the DSA presentation at Sunday's Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.



# Park district to present preliminary master plan

3-15-73

A preliminary draft of the proposed Wheeling Park District master plan will be presented tonight to the park board at its regularly scheduled meeting.

The public session will begin at 8 p.m. at the Heritage Park Building, 222 S. Wolf Rd.

The commissioners are not expected to take any official action on the land use guide that will be presented by Roy Layman of McFadzean and Everly, Ltd., park and recreation planners.

The firm has also been hired by the park district to oversee the development of park projects approved in last December's referendum.

ANOTHER spokesman for the Winnetka firm, Carl Fuerst, said the referendum was actually a vote of approval for the master plan.

"Essentially, the main ingredients of the plan were approved by the passage of the referendum," Fuerst said. "About

all we're doing now is tying up supporting evidence for our recommendations," he added.

Work on the plan that Fuerst described as "very neighborhood-oriented" began about eight months ago. He said a lack of time prevented the firm from completing the master plan before the referendum.

Exceptionally good cooperation between local school and park officials prompted the planners to emphasize neighborhood parks in the plan, Fuerst said.

"WHEN SCHOOLS and parks cooperate well as they do here in Wheeling, the taxpayer is the winner," he said. "The

plan is designed to provide recreational facilities in all areas that kids can walk to. We feel that's important in a family community like this."

The proposed plan examines current and anticipated local park and recreation needs and appraises existing park and recreation areas and facilities. It also includes a guide for future expansion of the park district.

McFadzean and Everly developed a similar master plan for the Buffalo Grove Park District in 1971.

In other business, prior to the regular board meeting, the finance committee is scheduled to discuss the proposed 1973-74 budget in a meeting set for 7 p.m.

# Husky Park improvements on the way

4-8-73

If all goes according to schedule, Wheeling residents in the Husky Park area should have a more attractive park area to play in this summer.

Village Mgr. George Passolt said village officials are reviewing plans for improving the Husky Park retention basin and landscaping the surrounding area.

The plans are the first drawn up by the new engineering firm hired to oversee the village's flood control programs. The preliminary design call for two structural changes which will keep the bottom of the retention basin dry so that it can be used for recreation.

The storm sewer pipes currently drain into the retention basin. Water from these pipes then goes into the sewer lines beneath the basin floor. This causes a continual ponding of water on the bottom of the basin.

To correct this situation, the engineers have proposed connecting the storm sewers directly into the pipes beneath the basin. They also plan to install a small pump in these underpipes to get rid of the small amount of water that usually sits on the basin floor.

The engineering firm also proposes changing the shape of the retention basin

to make it more attractive. Plans call for reducing the present slope of the basin sides, and scalloping the edges of the basin.

THE BASIN IS rectangular and has steep sides. The area, which is not landscaped, has often been compared to a mudhole.

Passolt said the village has been aware of the problems with the park's appearance. "There has been criticism of the appearance of the park," he said. "I know the citizens are unhappy about it."

He said he thought the work now being planned by the village would do a great deal to improve the way the park looks. He said the area would be landscaped with flowering plants, trees and shrubs.

Passolt also said the change in the basin's shape would make it more interesting to view.

Passolt also noted that preliminary plans call for changing the present steps to the bottom of the basin and providing a little park look-out at the edge of the basin. He said the village is considering changing the roadway into the park by adding a turn-about circle at the end of Lee Street.

The manager said he could not make any estimate on a time-schedule for work on the basin. He said the timetable was dependent on the weather. "I would hope that by fairly early in June we would be able to have it under way," he said. "I would like to see it completed this summer."

# Freeze on federal funds delays park improvements

by LYNN ASINOF

An 18-month freeze on the spending of certain federal funds is making it impossible for the Wheeling Park District to begin work on park improvements promised in last December's \$700,000 referendum.

The park board recently learned that they cannot apply for matching federal funds for their projects until the freeze on funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is lifted. The freeze went into effect Jan. 5 when local HUD offices were instructed not to accept applications for certain types of projects until further notice from Washington D.C.

At first, the park board wanted to proceed with the improvements by using money raised by their \$600,000 bond sale

which was authorized earlier this month.

The park attorney, however, told the board that if this money is spent before their application for federal funds is approved, that money could not be used as matching funds.

"Now we find ourselves in a position where we want to get moving, but if we spend too much money, our federal funds will be nil," said Park Board Pres. Lorraine Lark.

**THE PARK BOARD** had promised that work on the park improvements would begin as soon as money from the referendum was available. After much discussion, the board members agreed that they could not in good conscience spend the referendum money without applying for federal aid.

"To do us right in the community, we should have the federal money," Mrs. Lark said. "I would say from a logical economic aspect, and it's not going to be a popular one, we should go with the items that would not take federal funds."

However, in reviewing the list of improvements promised in the referendum, the park board found most of the items did require federal aid. Only the new maintenance garage, improvements to the Heritage Park community building, and work on both the indoor and outdoor swimming pools did not qualify for federal funds.

The major programs in the referendum, site development and land acquisition, rely heavily on federal aid to increase the scope of improvements for the park district.

"I WANT TO make it clear that it's not just a couple of thousand dollars we'd be losing," said Park Supt. Dave Phillips. "You're talking about \$175,000 just for land acquisition."

The board members decided to delay deciding on a list of priority items on the park improvements until more information on the HUD freeze was available. In the meantime, they decided to interview three prospective architectural consulting firms to oversee all of the park improvements.

"Maybe the time that an architect would be doing his work and submitting his plans to us would be the time the freeze would be lifted," Mrs. Lark said.

She further proposed that the park board make its position clear to state and federal representatives in hopes that they might be able to lift the freeze. "I don't think we should sit back and wait for the freeze to be lifted," she said.

Phillips recommended that the board pass a resolution opposing the freeze which could then be sent to these representatives.

## Bond sale finances plans approved last year

# Park district board receives \$600,000

The Wheeling Park District has received \$600,000 to begin work on projects approved in last December's referendum.

The projects are part of a master plan for park development being considered by the board. The first half of the plan was presented to the commissioners last Thursday. They are to receive the preliminary draft of the entire plan by the end of this week and may take action on it at a special meeting set for April 5.

Early in February, the park board authorized the sale of \$600,000 in bonds to the Northern Trust Co. of Chicago and its co-bidder, The Wheeling Trust and Savings Bank. The bonds were sold at a 5.1 per cent interest over the 20-year bond period.

According to Park Supt. Dave Phillips, the \$600,000 will be used to proceed with those projects included in the master plan that are not eligible for state or federal matching funds.

**THERE IS** currently a freeze on federal funds, but with the bond money in the bank, the park district can now apply for monies from the Illinois Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR). The funds would be used to aid in land acquisition and the development of present sites in the district.

Work will start as soon as possible, Phillips said, on improvements at the Heritage Park building. They are to include the addition of shower and locker rooms, the possibility of a handball court, installation of ceramic tile at Neptune's Pool and the construction of a maintenance garage.

The present garage, attached to the Heritage Park building, is no longer sufficient to house necessary park maintenance equipment.

Although the referendum authorized the park district to sell \$700,000 worth of bonds, the district's current assessed valuation only allowed the sale of \$600,000 in bonds. Park District Atty. Roger Bjorvik has said the park district will be able to sell the remaining \$100,000 in bonds when the new assessed valuation of the district becomes official later this year.

**IN OTHER BUSINESS** Thursday, Phillips recommended that the board consider cooperating with the Central Lake Family YMCA to provide an eight-week "competitive swimming stroke clinic" beginning in April.

Phillips suggested the park district discuss hiring John Elliot, who organized the YMCA team presently using Neptune's Pool, to teach the daily class. The YMCA has agreed to share the cost of the program with the park district.

# Parks hoping for tax-rate release

Wheeling and Buffalo Grove park officials are hopeful that figures on the current assessed valuation of property within their districts will be released this week. The information is needed to make plans for upcoming bond sale.

In both park districts, residents have authorized the sale of more bonds than the current assessed valuations can cover.

According to state law, a park district can only issue bonds for an amount equal to 2½ per cent of the assessed valuation of all property in the district.

Wheeling residents approved the sale of \$700,000 in bonds in last December's referendum. So far, the park district has been able to issue only \$600,000 worth of the bonds.

**WHEELING PARK** Board Pres. Lorraine Lark said yesterday if information on the 1972 assessed valuation becomes available soon, the park district will schedule the bond sale for the remaining \$100,000 as soon as possible.

The first \$600,000 in Wheeling Park District bonds were sold to the Northern Trust Co. of Chicago and its co-bidder, The Wheeling Trust and Savings Bank. The bonds were sold at a 5.1 per cent interest rate over the 20-year bond period.

The park board is presently devising a list of priorities for the \$600,000, to be used for the construction of projects approved in the referendum. Work will begin first on improvements at Heritage Park.

A 1971 referendum gave the Buffalo Grove Park District the authority to issue \$1,250,000 in bonds. However, because the assessed valuation was not high enough at the time to cover the sale of all the bonds, park officials were able to sell only \$1 million worth.

**BUFFALO GROVE** Park Director Stan Crosland said yesterday figures on the assessed valuation of the Lake County section of the village are not expected to be released for about two months. However, he said he is hopeful the assessed valuation of the Cook County section will be sufficient to cover the remaining \$250,000 in bonds.

"It's going to be awfully close," Crosland said, "but there's an outside chance we'll make it."

Crosland said the park district's financial consultants, Benjamin & Lang of Chicago, have indicated they expect the Cook County assessed valuation to be

available by tomorrow night's regular park board meeting.

If the figure is released by then, the park board will continue working on plans for the \$250,000 bond sale sometime this summer.

**CROSLAND HAS** said it is crucial that the park district complete the bond sale by June 30. After that date, the general obligation bond interest rate will drop from 7 per cent to 5 per cent unless the state legislature acts to freeze the interest rate.

The Buffalo Grove park director feels it would be very difficult to find buyers for the bonds if the interest rate is lowered to 5 per cent.

Revenue from the bond sale is necessary to complete the land purchase for a park in the Cambridge subdivision and to construct recreation facilities there.

4-25-73

# intern program for parks proves to be successful

3-2-73

by LYNN ASINOF

Bill Maher is the first student to earn college credit while working for the Wheeling Park District. But if Park Supt. Dave Phillips has his way, Maher won't be the last.

"It really shouldn't be looked at as a source of free labor," Phillips said of the intern program. "Even though that's what it is."

For while the intern is learning the "ins and outs" of park district manage-

ment, he is also undertaking special projects that the normal park staff has not had time to do. In Maher's case, the special project was a study of operating costs for the indoor Neptune's Pool.

But Phillips said the extra manpower is not the only advantage in having college interns in the park district. "The advantage is in their enthusiasm, in their new ideas," he said.

Phillips first experiment in using a college student for park district manage-

ment came when Rich Haddock was hired last September as a recreation director on a part-time basis.

The experiment obviously worked since Haddock has been given an increasing amount of responsibility in running various park district programs. Haddock, 24, is a student at Triton College in River Grove.

MAHER, 22 was the next experiment, and of a substantially different kind. While Haddock is paid for his work on an

hourly basis, Maher receives only college credit for his efforts. Moreover, while Haddock is not working for a limited time period, the intern from the University of Iowa will spend only 15 weeks with the park district.

During his stay with the Wheeling Park District, Maher will study all aspects of the district's operations. He attends park board meetings, conducts some programs, reviews administrative functions and fills in where extra manpower is needed.

Maher reports back to the university every few weeks, but Phillips grades his reports. "He grades about 60 per cent of what I do here," Maher said.

Phillips said that while the intern and the part-timer have varying duties and responsibilities, their input into the district has several similarities.

According to Phillips, both are trying to find how a park district operates. He said both are used to looking at recreation as a field of study instead of a day-to-day operation.

"They ask a lot of questions that I haven't asked in a long time," he said. Phillips added that he thought this questioning was good for him because he has gotten out of the habit of looking at recreation from a long-range view.

"I think its really helped me because it brings me back to the philosophy of why we're doing the things we're doing," he said.

PHILLIPS SAID, however, training the college students often takes up a lot of his time. He said the first week or so is needed for orientation. After that he said the interns' efficiency improves considerably.

"But 15 weeks of their time is worth my time to spend with them," he said.

Both Maher and Haddock agreed that Phillips is a good person to work for and to learn from. "That's one of Dave's best qualities, if you ask me," said Haddock. "You work with him, not for him."

Maher concurred, saying "It's a very informal atmosphere around here. I enjoy the people in the park district."

PHILLIPS SAID he first got the idea of having interns in the Wheeling Park District from his own college experience. "It's basically because of my contacts back at the University of Iowa and realizing that it is a potential resource to us," he said.

The park superintendent said he is now hoping to have a landscaping intern from Kishwaukee College in Malta do his field

work with the park district. If all goes well, the landscaping intern will work from April through August with the development and care of park district grounds.

Phillips said he has been in contact with several other universities and colleges about getting other interns for the park district. "We're looking forward to being able to give other students the opportunity to do their field work here," he said.

He explained, however, that many college students like to do their field work at larger and more prestigious park districts.

"Naturally, most of the students would rather go to a bigger district," Phillips said. "But what we lack in staff and facilities we make up for in our attitudes."

# Freeze on federal funds delays park improvements

by LYNN ASINOF

An 18-month freeze on the spending of certain federal funds is making it impossible for the Wheeling Park District to begin work on park improvements promised in last December's \$700,000 referendum.

The park board recently learned that they cannot apply for matching federal funds for their projects until the freeze on funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is lifted. The freeze went into effect Jan. 5 when local HUD offices were instructed not to accept applications for certain types of projects until further notice from Washington D.C.

At first, the park board wanted to proceed with the improvements by using money raised by their \$600,000 bond sale

which was authorized earlier this month.

The park attorney, however, told the board that if this money is spent before their application for federal funds is approved, that money could not be used as matching funds.

"Now we find ourselves in a position where we want to get moving, but if we spend too much money, our federal funds will be nil," said Park Board Pres. Lorraine Lark.

THE PARK BOARD had promised that work on the park improvements would begin as soon as money from the referendum was available. After much discussion, the board members agreed that they could not in good conscience spend the referendum money without applying for federal aid.

"To do us right in the community, we should have the federal money," Mrs. Lark said. "I would say from a logical economic aspect, and it's not going to be a popular one, we should go with the items that would not take federal funds."

However, in reviewing the list of improvements promised in the referendum, the park board found most of the items did require federal aid. Only the new maintenance garage, improvements to the Heritage Park community building, and work on both the indoor and outdoor swimming pools did not qualify for federal funds.

The major programs in the referendum, site development and land acquisition, rely heavily on federal aid to increase the scope of improvements for the park district.

"I WANT TO make it clear that it's not just a couple of thousand dollars we'd be losing," said Park Supt. Dave Phillips. "You're talking about \$175,000 just for land acquisition."

The board members decided to delay deciding on a list of priority items on the park improvements until more information on the HUD freeze was available. In the meantime, they decided to interview three prospective architectural consulting firms to oversee all of the park improvements.

"Maybe the time that an architect would be doing his work and submitting his plans to us would be the time the freeze would be lifted," Mrs. Lark said.

She further proposed that the park board make its position clear to state and federal representatives in hopes that they might be able to lift the freeze. "I don't think we should sit back and wait for the freeze to be lifted," she said.

Phillips recommended that the board pass a resolution opposing the freeze which could then be sent to these representatives.

## Write-in wins park election

4-4-73

A last minute write-in challenger, Hugh Wilson, defeated incumbent Wheeling Park Board Commissioner Alf Wilson in yesterday's election.

Incumbent Pres. Lorraine Lark received the majority (590) of the 766 votes cast at the two precincts. Hugh Wilson received 420 votes and Alf Wilson 269.

Alf Wilson said his defeat was probably a result of his independent campaign, "because Hugh Wilson had the backing of an organized group (Wheeling Jaycees)."

"I'D RATHER have seen him come out, get petitions and debate. In theory, there really wasn't a choice because he didn't campaign." Alf Wilson added he was proud of the recent park improvement referendum that passed during his tenure on the board.

Hugh Wilson was unavailable for comment last night.

Hugh Wilson announced just last week that he intended to wage a last minute write-in campaign. He and a group of about 40 supporters canvassed the village last weekend instructing people how to correctly complete a write-in ballot.

"It looks as though he (Hugh Wilson) did his schoolwork," Mrs. Lark said. "It was a matter of educating the peo-

ple and he managed to do it."

OF HER OWN victory, Mrs. Lark said, "I feel it's a vote of confidence and the vote was just overwhelming."

Mrs. Lark added that she was reelected by a larger margin of votes yesterday than she was the first time she was elected to the board in 1967.

Alf Wilson was also first elected to the board in 1967. Mrs. Lark said she hoped he would continue to take an active interest in the operations of the park district.

"I would hate to see Alf leave the board completely," she said. "I would hope that he would continue to serve in some sort of advisory capacity such as a member of a citizen's committee. Based on his experience, Alf could continue to be very useful to us."



5-11-73

**FLAGS AT THE** Wheeling Park District are flying at half staff in honor of former Park Comr. Alf Wilson. Wilson died Wednesday at Chicago's Northwest Hospital after suffering an apparent cerebral hemorrhage last

Sunday. Visitation will be from 3 to 5 p.m. today at the Wheeling Funeral Home. Funeral services will be in the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd tomorrow, with burial at the Memory Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights.

# Park board to sell \$100,000 in bonds

6-21-73

The Wheeling Park Board tonight is expected to sell \$100,000 in bonds, completing the \$700,000 bond issue authorized by park district residents in last December's referendum.

The park district has been able to sell

only \$600,000 in bonds because the assessed valuation of property within the district was not high enough to cover the entire bond issue.

By state law, a park district can issue bonds for an amount equal to 2½ per

cent of the assessed valuation of all property in the district.

THE REVENUE from the bonds will be used for park improvements, land acquisition and new recreational facilities.

Other items on the agenda of tonight's meeting include:

- Bid opening for the installation of ceramic tile at Neptune's Pool.
- Discussion of a land survey at Heritage Park to determine the suitability of part of the property for a garage.
- Consideration of a request by directors of the local Head Start program for pool passes.
- Publication of the district's appropriation ordinance for the 1973-74 fiscal year.
- Annexation of several areas into the district including Foxboro and Harmony Village.
- Executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

## Preschool openings still exist

6-19-73

There are still several openings in summer preschool classes being offered by Wheeling Park District.

Registration for the four-week courses is taken in person only from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Rd.

THE PROGRAM, open to all children ages four through six, began yesterday and will continue through July 9. A second session will run from July 16 through Aug. 6.

Children may attend classes that meet two or three days a week from 9 a.m. to noon at Heritage Park.

The fee for the class that meets twice a week is \$15 and the three day class costs \$23.

Both courses will be limited to 15 students. J. Heintz is the instructor for the classes.

EDUCATIONAL as well as recreational activities are also still available to children in the general playground, arts and crafts programs.

Playground sites are Twain, Field and Sandburg schools and Heritage Park. Each program is operated from 9 a.m. to noon through July 23. The fee is \$6.

SUMMER SPORTS offered at the playground sites are softball and whiffle ball, archery, soccer, tether ball, field hockey and kick ball.

General activities and special events that are scheduled include a pet show, bike hike, swim meet, penny carnival, talent show, arts and crafts show, "Dive for Dough" and puppet show.

## Get your feet wet in Park District programs

6-21-73

The Wheeling Park District is offering some summer programs that may make those out-of-school months more enjoyable for parents and children alike.

Swimming instruction for grade school children began June 18.

There will be four sessions, each session lasting two weeks. Classes will be held Monday through Friday, at four different periods: 9 to 9:45, 10 to 10:45, 11 to 11:45 and 12 to 12:45.

To enroll for Beginners Lessons a youngster should be able to stand in the shallow end of the pool, water below the chin line (about 3½ feet of water).

There will also be lessons for advanced beginners, intermediate swimmers and advanced swimmers.

Pre-school classes will be offered, but parents must accompany children in the water.

Junior and Senior Life Saving will be offered at the end of the summer.

The cost for a ten lesson session is \$5.

The Park District also has a Wrestling Workshop scheduled.

Three top area coaches will help with the program--Art Kraft, Triton College Coach; Bob Schulze, Wheeling High Coach and Dennis Riccio, Buffalo Grove Coach.

The wrestling program will run from June 25 to July 13 at the Wheeling High School Wrestling Room. The workshop starts at 6:30 p.m. and lasts until 8 p.m.

The minimum age is 12 years old and the fee is \$2.

Registration for these and other Park District programs is held at Heritage Park from 9 to 5.

The Bob Love Basketball Clinic scheduled for July has been cancelled.



# Township park districts unite to seek flood funds

by JILL BETNER

The six park districts in Wheeling Township are organizing a drive to obtain a portion of the township's federal revenue sharing funds for flood control projects along McDonald Creek.

The creek winds through five of the township's park districts, often overflowing and rendering park sites completely unusable. Although the creek does not flow directly through the Mount Prospect district, it has an indirect effect on park flooding there.

Wheeling Park Supt. Dave Phillips is spearheading the cooperative effort to acquire some of the township's \$94,000 federal monies. He feels the districts have a chance of getting the funds because ecology and flood control are priority items.

Wheeling Township Supervisor Ethel Kolerus agreed ecology and flood control have been identified by the township board as important, but she indicated the park districts were not likely to get federal revenue sharing funds for the McDonald Creek projects.

"I explained to the two park districts who have been in touch with our office that it seemed to me we wouldn't distribute the federal revenue sharing funds to a taxing body," Mrs. Kolerus said. She said she has not yet obtained a legal opinion on whether or not the park districts are eligible for money under the federal guidelines.

MRS. KOLERUS said the township board plans to sit on the funds until the first revenue sharing check for 1973 is received, probably sometime in April. Although the final allocations decision rests with the board, she said plans are to organize citizen committees and advise the trustees of the needs of various groups.

Buffalo Grove could use the federal funds to drain a local park site currently useless because a tributary of McDonald Creek courses through the land. The park is located in the Mill Creek subdivision.

In Wheeling, too, park officials said the

money could be used to minimize flooding at present sites and possibly to deepen an existing retention basin at Heritage Park. By deepening the lake, its flood control capacity would be increased and the lake could double as a recreation facility.

In other communities, such as Prospect Heights, park officials would like to have the federal funds to acquire new sites. They would serve the dual purposes of providing flood control and recreation.

Phillips feels the park districts' plan to check flooding along McDonald Creek could be effective.

"Being nonpolitical, we're able to accomplish more than if we were under village control," Phillips said.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS Park Director Ronald Greenberg and Stan Crosland, director of parks and recreation for Buffalo Grove, agree that the project is a good idea.

"What we're trying to do here is to show the township that we can work together on this thing," Crosland said. "If we can get together and find the funds and work with the MSD and the municipalities, it just might work."

Other park directors, like Tom Cooper in Mount Prospect have some reservations about getting the necessary funds.

"I never spend anything until I get it," Cooper said. "I don't really give it too much hope."

Marvin Weiss, River Trails park director said, "If it happens to be available to us and it's a worthwhile sum, God only knows we have a lot of projects we could use it on. But I don't visualize that it could be very much if the money is divided up among all the priorities."

Arlington Heights director of parks and recreation, Thomas Thornton, said he agreed the idea to get the funds was good and may work. He said his park district will be represented when public hearings are held on the request. It is not known when those hearings will be scheduled.

## 7-19-73 Heritage Park plans on agenda

The Wheeling Park Board will meet tonight to discuss improvements to Heritage Park and to set priorities for the referendum funds approved last year.

A comprehensive program of park improvements has been delayed because of the current freeze on federal funds. The park board cannot spend the bulk of its referendum money until matching federal funds are available. If the money is spent before the freeze is lifted, the park will lose its chance to obtain matching funds.

The board is also scheduled to consider annexing certain properties into the park district. These parcels were recently annexed by the Village of Wheeling.

The committee meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the park building at Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Rd. The regular board meeting will begin at 8 p.m.

## 7-29-73 Carson-Barnes circus comes to town Sunday

The Carson-Barnes Circus is coming to town Sunday for two performances sponsored by the Wheeling Township Kiwanis Club.

The performances, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., will include clowns, aerial acts, jugglers, acrobats and a circus band. More than 100 wild animals, including lions, elephants, giraffes, bears and tigers, also will perform.

The entire circus will be housed in a five-ring circus tent which seats more than 3,000 people. Residents are invited to watch the circus people put up their big-top tent in Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Rd., Wheeling.

Tickets are available at the gate for \$3.15 for adults and \$1.60 for children. A 15 per cent discount is available for persons purchasing tickets in advance at the Wheeling Trust and Savings Bank, Mount Prospect Savings Bank, First National of Mount Prospect or Barton Stull Realty in Prospect Heights.

Proceeds will be used to purchase playground equipment and to develop a Kiwanis Kids Park. For further information, call 398-1308.

# Parks ready completion of bond sale

by JILL BETTNER

Wheeling park officials are ready to sell \$100,000 in bonds, completing the \$700,000 bond issue authorized by park district residents in last December's referendum.

The park district has been able to sell only \$600,000 in bonds up to now because the assessed valuation of property within the district was not high enough to cover the entire bond issue.

By state law, a park district can issue bonds only for an amount equal to 2½

per cent of the assessed valuation of all property in the district.

Cook County assessed valuation figures, released last week, revealed that the assessed valuation of park district land has increased sufficiently in the past year to cover the remaining \$100,000 bond sale. The 1972 figure, at \$98 million, is up \$29 million over the previous assessment.

ROGER BJORVIK, park district attorney, said since the park district was organized in 1963, the assessed valuation

has increased about \$5½ to \$8 million each year. This year's increase in assessed valuation then, equals the growth over the past six years.

"This is really a blessing to the district," Bjorvik said of the jump in value of park land. "It will give us a chance to do a little planning and better our financial situation."

Bjorvik was authorized by the park board at a meeting last Thursday night to begin negotiating for the sale of the (continued on page 3)

## Parks to sell \$100,000 to complete bond issue

(Continued from page 1)

bonds.

Bjorvik said he will contact the Wheeling Trust and Savings Bank first. The bank and its co-bidder, the Northern Trust Co. of Chicago purchased the first \$600,000 in bonds early last February. The bonds were sold at a 5.1 per cent interest rate over the 20-year-bond period.

If the interest rate offered by the Wheeling bank on the remaining bonds is competitive with the rate that could be obtained from the larger Chicago banks, Bjorvik will recommend that the park board sell the bonds locally.

BJORVIK ADDED that if it is impossible for the park district to get a favorable interest rate by negotiating, they will solicit bids on the bonds.

Money from the sale of the bonds will be used to finance improvements at present park sites, construct new facilities and purchase additional park land.

In other business at last week's meeting, the park board voted to hire Richard Haddock as recreation director at a salary of \$7,500 per year. Haddock has been working for the park district on a part-time basis supervising activities and programs since last fall.

The board also passed a resolution commending Bill Maher "for service to the community" in his position as an intern for the park district. Maher, a senior at the University of Iowa, has been working for the park district for the past five months as part of his requirements for a degree in municipal recreation. The resolution will be sent to the university.

The commissioners voted to donate \$50 to the First Illinois Drum and Bugle Corps in memory of former park board member Alf Wilson, who died recently.

The board also passed a resolution posthumously commending Wilson for his service to the park district. He was elected to the park board in 1967.

# Parks schedule has something for all

5-7-73

by JILL BETTNER

The Wheeling Park District proposed summer schedule includes activities to entertain and challenge residents of all ages. In addition to athletic events, several activities to stimulate the mind are also planned.

The park board has not yet approved the schedule, but most activities are tentatively planned. Registration for all events will definitely begin June 1, but the tentative time, dates and fees of activities is still subject to change.

The playground program is scheduled

to run from June 1 to Aug. 4. Tentatively, sports to be offered will include softball, archery classes, soccer, tetherball, field hockey and kickball.

General activities planned as part of the playground program are a pet show, "Green and Yellow Week," "Crazy Hat Days," bike hike, outdoor pool trips and "Games Galore."

THE PLAYGROUND program is also set to include several special events such as a penny carnival, swim meet, puppet show, arts and crafts, a hobo hike, talent show, parents day and a dive for dough.

The proposed fee for the playground program is \$6.

Community pool is tentatively scheduled to open June 16 with hours in the afternoon from 1 to 5 and in the evening from 7 to 9.

The park board has not yet finalized the cost of pool passes, which are to go on sale June 1.

A nominal fee will be charged to belong to the Wheeling Park District swim team. Several age groups will compete in the Northern Illinois Conference against other park district teams. Practice at

Neptune's Pool is set to begin in June.

SWIMMING LESSONS for pre-schoolers through adults and senior life-saving will be offered at Neptune's Pool beginning June 18. Classes are scheduled for 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday. Four two-week sessions are planned.

Registration for high school girls' softball will be June 1 for girls 14 through 18. Groups may register as teams or individually. The fee is \$2 per person.

A wrestling workshop from June 25 to July 13 is scheduled for boys age 12 and older at the Wheeling High School wrestling room. One college coach and two high school coaches will help supervise the workshop.

Bob Love and other members of the Chicago Bulls team will teach an Olympic Basketball Clinic from July 9 through 13. The fee is \$35 for three hours daily.

TENNIS LESSONS for grade school children, beginning and intermediate students and adults will be offered in two four-week sessions beginning June 18 and July 9. The fee is \$8 and the sessions will be conducted at Wheeling High School.

Golf lessons for children age 9 through 15 will be available June 18 through July 16 from 6 to 7 p.m. The fee for the lessons is \$8 and they will be given by Bob Symonds, Triton College coach. Golf clubs will be provided.

Camping skills will be taught starting June 16 to July 21 on Saturdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The fee is set at \$4.

Two six-week sessions of horseback riding lessons are scheduled to begin July 21 and Aug. 4 on Saturdays from 11 to noon. The fee is \$18 per session for children age 9 to 12 at Countryboy Stables.

CHILDREN AGE 9 through 13 may learn to bowl at Striker Lanes in Buffalo Grove at sessions set to begin June 19 through July 24 on Tuesdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The fee (including shoes) is \$6.50.

Judo lessons for children age 9 and up are scheduled to begin June 28 through Aug. 2. The classes will be conducted from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Heritage Park for a fee of \$8.

Guitar lessons for ages 9 through 17 will be conducted from 7 to 8 p.m. each Tuesday from June 19 through Aug. 5 at Heritage Park. The fee is set at \$15.

A four-week session of preschool classes will be offered from June 18 to July 27 for 4-year-olds. The fee for three days a week from 9 a.m. to noon is \$23 and two days a week from 9 a.m. to noon, \$15.

Besides the regular schedule of activities, several special events are planned, such as dances, contests and outings.



**PROUD WINNERS.** Elk Grove's Ron Lansdown, in the white T-shirt, shows Palatine's John Doherty the plaque Elk Grove received for winning the 1972 Paddock Olympics. Doherty and the Palatine Park District will receive

an identical model for winning this year in the Seventh Olympiad held at Forest View. Those happy kids, of course, are from Palatine.

7-27-73

## Seat on Wheeling Park Board open

A seat on the Wheeling park board is available, following the resignation of Gus Nizzi, president of the board.

Nizzi is leaving the village to assume a position in the Neenau, Wis. school system this fall.

Residents interested in serving as a park commissioner may apply by contacting Park Supt. Dave Phillips at the park district office, 222 S. Wolf Rd.

The park board will interview all applicants and vote to appoint the new commissioner.

The board will still decide whether to name the commissioner to serve until the next park board election in 1975 or to complete Nizzi's term that expires in 1977.

# Scuba-diving students learn about the underwater world from a modern-day Neptune

by JEANNETTE DE WYZE

One night every week, at Neptune's Pool in Wheeling, a group of shadowy figures move about beneath the water.

The underwater beings aren't Neptune and his mermaids, come to haunt the high school pool, but scuba diving students, participants in a summer park district course.

Nine students are taking the seven-week course, which meets every Tuesday evening. In order to qualify for the course a student must be over 14 years old and must be able to pass rigid swimming requirements.

**THE PREREQUISITES** include swimming 10 lengths of the pool using any stroke, two lengths wearing a 10 pound weight, and approximately 45 yards under water. Students must be able to tread water for five minutes, 30 seconds of which must be without hands. They must also be able to recover a 10-pound weight from the bottom of the pool.

Mike Donovan, the course instructor, outlined the course objectives.

"The object of the course is to give students good working knowledge of water skills. To get them to where they're able to relax in the water and also teach them the technical aspects of scuba diving," he said.

**IN ORDER TO** achieve this, students attend a weekly lecture and a pool work session. They also study a variety of reading assignments.

Lecture subjects cover a range of material from the physics and math of scuba diving to marine life the students

are likely to encounter in their diving careers. It looks at the mechanical and medical aspects of diving as well.

In the pool, students begin by working with mask, fins, and snorkel and learn such skills as surface dives and entries. They then begin to work with the scuba gear. They are taught how to handle the gear, how to "buddy-breathe," (one air hose passed between two divers), how to ditch their gear if necessary, and a variety of other underwater skills.

Donovan also has added one innovation to the course this summer. Formerly it was taught in ten weekly sessions, with a final check-out dive at the end. This summer, however, the class will have only seven sessions in the pool.

They will then combine learning the rest of the material with their checkout dive during a scuba diving weekend which Donovan has scheduled for the first week in August.

**THE CLASS WILL** probably spend the weekend at Green Lake and Devil's Lake up in Wisconsin.

He said this format has been used in other scuba courses, and it has been found to be a more effective way of teaching and checking students because of the extra time it allows.

Another advantage of the weekend is it should allow for a much more pleasurable introduction to outdoor diving than just going to a murky nearby quarry, Donovan said.

"I'm trying to get them into an area where it's really nice and clear. If they go into water where all they see are old

TVs and other junk, then they'll think, 'What have all of these 10 weeks been for?'" They also won't last long in the sport. We're trying to get them into an area where they'll really be able to appreciate the diving."

**THE COST FOR THE** course is \$50 and it includes use of the tanks and air, two textbooks, a variety of handouts and the course instruction.

Students must buy their own fins, mask and snorkel and must rent a wet suit for the checkout dive, making the total cost to the student almost \$75, Donovan said.

Donovan learned to scuba dive in 1966 and was certified as an instructor in 1969. He will work as a physical education instructor at Adlai Stevenson High School beginning this fall, although he will offer the scuba diving course through the Wheeling park district again in the fall.

He has taught the scuba diving course for the park district four times in the past three years. With his experience as a scuba diving teacher, Donovan has developed certain distinctive approaches to the class.

**ONE OF THESE** is his attitude towards the girls' in his class. He said that one of his "gripes" is that in some sports girls are pampered when it comes to handling certain tasks.

"It's one of my standing rules that the guys do not help the girls in my class

with their equipment. Otherwise, if the girls get used to that you can have a bad situation later on out in the open water, because the girls aren't used to lugging that heavy stuff around when they may have to."

Under the buddy system, the two girls in Donovan's class now help each other, but at least they get used to handling the equipment, he said.

**DONOVAN IS ALSO** a strict taskmaster to all the students in his class when it comes to the area of developing physical fitness in the water. Every week, the students must do rigorous water treading and kicking exercises to build up their leg muscles and kicks. Beyond just developing their strength, the students also

become more relaxed in the water.

"If they don't learn to be relaxed in the water then they'll have a bad time of it later on. I've had former students come to me and say, 'We really hated you when you made us tread water all those times, but it really paid off eventually,'" he said.

**STUDENT'S REASONS** for taking the course range from those who just like water sports and wished to learn another one, to one girl who is a free-lance writer and wants to have another area to write about.

Several students have dived before but decided to take the course in order to be certified.

Certification is necessary in order to rent scuba gear almost everywhere in the country. As a member of the National Association of Underwater Instructors, Donovan can certify students who pass his course.

At the end of the course, Donovan will recommend that all his students join a scuba diving club, so they will be able to keep up their interest in diving. He also recommends looking into other areas of diving, such as underwater photography and spear fishing.

However, even if the students never go beyond the basic instruction, Donovan said by the end of his course, "they'll all know how to scuba dive not just fairly well, but well."



**LOIS WHITMAN** helps classmate Susan Brown into her diving gear in preparation for a diving exercise at Neptune's Pool in Wheeling High School. The girls are students in a scuba diving class being offered by the Wheeling Park District.

Children ready 'fore' play 7-17-73

## *New golf classes a swinging scene*

by JEANNETE DE WYZE

Twice a week a group of Wheeling children have been gathering next to the park district building to play — not baseball or tag — but golf.

The children are participants in a new summer park district program designed to teach children the fundamentals and techniques of golf. Fourteen students are now enrolled in the class and according to "they're doing great."

Symonds said the course is designed to stress the fundamentals of the golf swing, concentrating on the proper stance and method of bringing the club back.

HE SAID the children are probably better learners than adults because the children usually haven't been exposed to the game before, and haven't picked up any bad habits. "If you can just get their

attention they're really good students," he said.

To get that attention "you just have to keep on them and keep asking them to do things." The format of the course is thus designed to provide a varied pace for the children.

Two days a week the class meets on the lawn next to the park building and on Fridays they practice at a nearby driving range. Mondays and Wednesdays

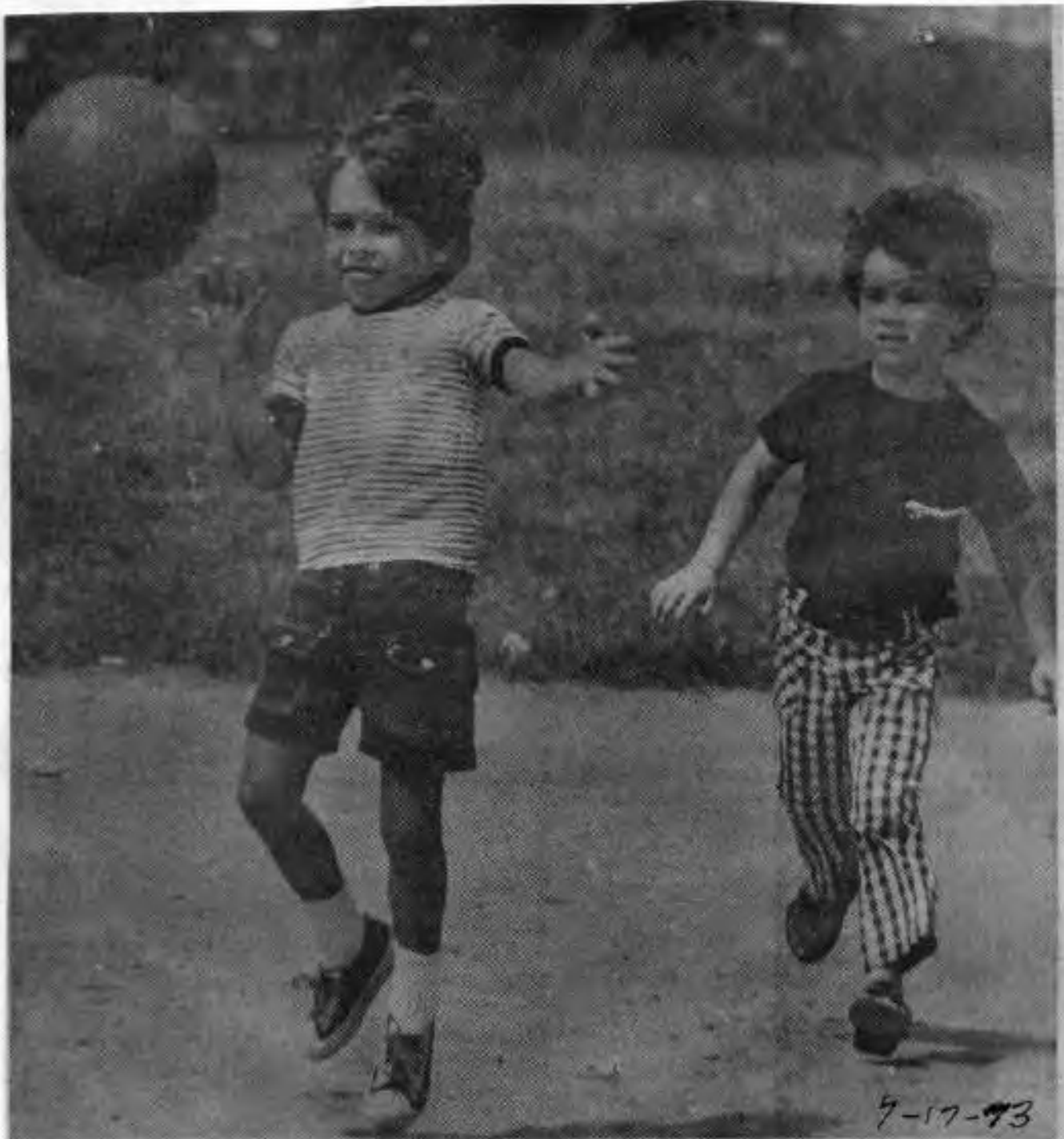
Symonds intersperses some lecturing with practice, focusing upon various components of the golf swing.



**HAIR FLYING,** Carol Crittendon takes a swing at one of the practice golf balls during her golf class. She is one of 14 children taking a new course offered by the Wheeling Park District this summer. The course is designed to teach youngsters the fundamentals of the golf swing and stance.



ark to offer  
new activities



HOLDING HIS TONGUE just right, this little boy is beautiful weather, these kids need only a ball and a few poised and ready for summertime action. With the pals for an afternoon of happy fun.

The Wheeling Park District is planning to add several new activities to its list of fall re-creation and instructional programs.

Registration for all fall programs will

be conducted in September at the park district office, 222 S. Wolf Rd.

Flag football for high school boys is one of the activities that will be offered for the first time this year. Games will be played locally on Sundays.

Girls will be able to sign up for baton classes designed for twirlers in the first grade through junior high school.

A gymnastics class that will include instruction in the use of the trampoline is also planned. The class, which will be open to boys and girls age six and older will be conducted on Sundays at Wheeling High School.

Also open to both boys and girls will be an archery class to be taught at Heritage Park.

ANOTHER CLASS that will be offered for the first time this year is chess. A local chess master will be the instructor.

For those interested in the martial arts, karate will be available this year in addition to judo. Children age eight and up are eligible to participate in the introductory class.

Volleyball competition for men, women and junior high school students will be offered, with participants playing intraleague games and teams from other surrounding park districts.

A variety of arts and crafts programs will again be available including stained glass artistry and a special class for those interested in creating holiday gifts and decorations.

Included among the exercise activities to be offered is the women's Swim and Trim class that was popular this year. Participants will exercise and have the opportunity to swim and use the sauna at Neptune's Pool at Wheeling High School.

Dance classes including ballet and modern dance will again be offered. Courses are planned for beginning, intermediate and advanced students.

Three boys' instructional basketball leagues are planned. Classes will be offered to acquaint young players with the skills of the game.

Floor hockey leagues are to be available for junior, intermediate and senior players. Participants in the program will compete against others in their own league.

FOR YOUNG football enthusiasts in the third to fifth grades, there will be flag football. Older boys, ages 11 through 14 will be eligible to compete in junior tackle football leagues.

Registration for the junior tackle football program will be conducted Sat., Aug. 11 at Heritage Park and London Junior High School.

The fee is \$15 and boys must supply

# Palatine captures 3rd Paddock Olympics championship



It's down the home stretch in gigantic strides Wednesday at Forest View during Paddock Olympics VII. (Photo by DomNajolia)



by MIKE KLEIN

The Paddock Olympics traveling team trophy, nearly the size of some eight-year-olds, has journeyed "home."

For the third time in seven years, Palatine Park District won team honors Wednesday by outpointing Wheeling, 303-249.

No other park district has won even two Paddock Olympics. Palatine won in the Games' inaugural year, 1967, and followed with a successful title defense.

Then a dry spell hit. River Trails, Roselle, Arlington Heights and Elk Grove won titles but none could repeat. Now, Palatine has become a three-time winner.

The winners were never seriously threatened after leading Wheeling, 167-150, following the opening round on Tuesday at Forest View High School in Arlington Heights.

In fact, standings did not change through the top four teams after Tuesday. Schaumburg placed third with 190 points and defending champion Elk Grove had 176.

The only park district to greatly improve its position after Tuesday was Mount Prospect, going from seventh to fifth. It switched places with Arlington Heights, official host district.

Mount Prospect's second-day surge came about largely by winning three of

four softball game categories and placing second in the other. That gave Mount Prospect 38 of a possible 40 first place points. They totalled 172.

Remaining team standings, which also didn't fluctuate after Tuesday, were Hoffman Estates sixth, Salt Creek eighth and Buffalo Grove ninth. Complete team totals accompany this article.

Palatine won 12 individual plus two team titles on Tuesday and didn't let up after that. Ten more individual titles were won. Palatine also picked up points by placing fourth in tug-of-war, third in softball for girls 10 or 11 and second in softball for boys 10 and 11.

Under the supervision of park director

Steve Whittier, Palatine virtually dominated the softball throw, winning six first place blue ribbons.

The three winning girls with their ages listed in parentheses were Sue Ralf (8), Laura Lowecki (11) and Mary Smith (12). Winning boys were Mark Pape (8), Tom Spoo (11) and John Slywka (6).

Palatine won two first place awards each in boys kickball and tennis singles. Kickball winners were brothers Mark (9) and Mike Benz (13). Alice Hodge (11) and Phil Roberts (11) scored blue ribbon points for Palatine in tennis.

Other girls softball throw winners were Donna Weber (9) of Arlington and Sandy Rainey (10) of Wheeling. Boys who also won blue ribbons were Mike Lindholm (9) of Buffalo Grove, Schaumburg's Doug Allen (10) and Elk Grove's John Nelson

Boys' kickball winners included Mount Prospect's Jim Oswaski (8), Hoffman Estates' Frank Canmstia (10), Schaumburg's Kurt Rouhselarg (11) and Elk Grove's Steve Thon (12).

Winners in the girls' division were Wheeling's Martina Nizza (8), Hoffman Estates' Amy Thompson (9), Elk Grove's Tina Desantis (10), Wheeling's Cheryl Wood (11), Hoffman Estates' Sue Burton (12) and Elk Grove's Darlene Briscoe (13).

Girls who won in the basketball free throw were Hoffman Estates' Karrie Klimkoski (8), Mount Prospect's Valerie Plucinski (9), Arlington's Lynn Kashmere (10), Salt Creek's Nancy Kelly (11), Slat Creek's Shelly Andre (12) and Arlington's Debbie Dahm (13).

First placers in the boys' category were Glenn Sikarcis (8), Mount Pros-

pect's Wally Szymanowski (9), Schaumburg's Doug Allen (10), Mount Prospect's Craig Perriva (11), Elk Grove's Don Swight (12) and Elk Grove's Scott Parker (13).

Other tennis winners in girls' play were Salt Creek's Laurie Rossities (10), Mount Prospect's Cindy Alberti (12) and Mount Prospect's Mary Dickey (13).

Boys who won included Salt Creek's John Kotsakais (10), Hoffman Estates' Scott Culliton (12) and Hoffman Estates' Orson Faynor (13).

Complete tug-of-war standings, a team event, were Elk Grove, Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg and Palatine.

In softball for girls 10 and 11, placers were Schaumburg and Palatine behind winning Mount Prospect. It was Palatine and Wheeling behind Mount Prospect in play among boys the same age.

Schaumburg, Mount Prospect and Wheeling led the field in softball for girls 12 or 13. Mount Prospect won in the boys category, followed by Wheeling and Hoffman Estates.

In Friday's edition, the Herald will publish names of all individuals who placed first through fifth in any event.

#### PADDOCK OLYMPICS VII FINAL TEAM TOTALS

Palatine	303
Wheeling	249
Schaumburg	190
Elk Grove	176
Mount Prospect	172
Hoffman Estates	158
Arlington	124
Salt Creek	84
Buffalo Grove	54

Slide show  
Mark Parrish newspaper  
pictures  
baseball

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referendum  
pictures of  
2 people

# Parks' 'new look'

## 1—Heritage remodeling awaits funds

9-73

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Wheeling Park District has several plans to expand its programs and facilities to meet the growing needs of the community. In the stories on this page Herald staff writer Lynn Asinof describes several of the plans and also the district's hopes for more funding to complete the projects.

The number of new facilities being added onto the Wheeling Park District's building at Heritage Park will depend on the actual cost of construction.

The park board approved plans to remodel the building Thursday, and is now awaiting cost estimates for the project to determine how much of the proposed

work can be done.

The remodeling is one of the three projects promised in last year's \$700,000 park improvements referendum that the park district has been able to begin because of the current freeze on federal funds.

**MONEY FOR THE** other projects is being held until it can be used to apply for matching funds from the federal government. If the money is spent, the park district is no longer eligible for matching funds.

In the plans approved last Thursday night, the park district has allowed for four alternative plans. The basic design calls for new showers and locker rooms next to the gym and converting the present garage into a board meeting room.

Depending on how much the project will cost, the park district will then add on to the basic design. The first addition

to the plans will be a vestibule built at the building's front entrance and a new storage room attached to the gym.

Two indoor handball courts are also proposed and will be built if construction costs can be covered with referendum funds.

**THE PARK DISTRICT'S** consulting firm, McFadzean and Everly, Ltd., is preparing detailed plans for the remodeling and drawing up a list of bid specifications. This information is expected to be complete by September, at which point the park board will seek bids on the project.

A second referendum project, a new maintenance garage, is in final preparation stages. The park board has only to survey the proposed site in the far northwest corner of Heritage Park before it can seek bidders for the project.

The board cleared a major obstacle to

construction of the garage when it received permission from the Metropolitan Sanitary District (MSD) to build on an easement held by that agency.

The garage will be 40 by 100 feet, constructed of a prefabricated structure with masonry walls. It will include an office for maintenance personnel and will house all park machinery, a machine shop and storage area. It is estimated to cost \$40,000.

"We hope to be in it before winter," said Park Supt. Dave Phillips. "We're planning on it." He said he hoped the building would be completed by November.

A third referendum project, the installation of ceramic tile at Neptune's Pool, will begin shortly. A contractor has already been hired for the job, and cost of the project will be shared with School Dist. 214.

## 2—Revenue-sharing fund fight rages

Members of the Wheeling Park Board are continuing their battle to become eligible to receive a portion of the Wheeling Township revenue-sharing funds.

The park commissioners have written to the attorney for the Illinois Association of Park Districts seeking a legal opinion on how revenue sharing funds can be used. They are hoping that the attorney will report that park districts are eligible to receive revenue sharing funds from other governmental agencies.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, the Wheeling Township Board turned down a joint request by six park districts for a portion of their \$96,000 in revenue sharing funds. The decision was based on a legal opinion that park districts are not eligible for

township revenue sharing because they are special taxing bodies.

Park Supt. Dave Phillips said the park districts requested 50 per cent of the township's revenue sharing funds for land acquisition. He said the park districts would have divided the money according to their assessed valuations.

Roger Bjorvik, park board attorney, said the matter was handed over to him when the request was refused by the township board. He said he is now seeking a legal opinion that would support the park districts' eligibility to receive such funds from other governmental agencies.

Bjorvik explained that federal revenue sharing funds are only being appropriated to general purpose government

rather than special taxing bodies such as the park districts.

HE NOTED, HOWEVER, that Illinois is one of the few states that has a separate taxing body to govern parks and recreation. He said in most states the municipal government can use the funds to support park programs because there are no park districts. "Illinois is rather unique," he said.

Moreover, Bjorvik said that recreation is included in the broad guideline of areas where revenue sharing funds can be used. "One of the purposes is for recreation," he said.

The attorney said he could understand that the township would not want to finance park district activities. "They're saying that the township can't engage in park district activities," he said. "But

we have many other programs that they could finance."

BJORVIK SAID such programs could be designed for local senior citizens, area youth or just general recreation for the community.

The attorney said he is most concerned that a precedent might be set so the park districts would never be able to receive such federal revenue sharing funds. "I'm against this thought that we can't do it, period," he said.

Phillips said that a favorable legal opinion from the state park association might help the park district. "Their legal opinion would carry some weight in this area," he said.

He noted, however, that in law it is possible to find legal arguments to support whatever position you want to take.

## 3—New master plan granted final OK

The Wheeling Park District has granted final approval of its new master plan, thus meeting the final requirement for its application for funds from the Illinois Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

The district is seeking \$157,250 from BOR to help finance the purchase of two park sites in the village. The park district would pay for approximately half the land acquisition with \$175,000 allocated from referendum funds approved last December.

Park Supt. Dave Phillips said copies of the master plan are being sent to the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission for its approval. He said the master plan then will be sent to BOR as part of the park district's application for funds.

Phillips said he is hoping to receive some response from BOR within a

month. "Within the next 30 days we should have some word," he said.

PHILLIPS SAID that although the park district has \$175,000 for land acquisition from the referendum, the money cannot be spent until matching federal or state funds are approved. If the money is spent before the government aid is approved, the referendum funds will not be considered for matching grants.

The park district has already completed negotiations for a new 2.4-acre park site in northwest Wheeling on Valley Stream Drive. The site will cost \$53,500 and will be used as a neighborhood play area.

Phillips said, however, that the park district cannot make any commitment for a larger park site in the central west-

ern part of the village until it knows how much money is available from BOR.

PARK BOARD members are anxious to obtain land for this second park because the western part of the village is now served mainly by school-park sites. Property costs in the village are rapidly rising, and recent estimates showed prices starting at \$20,000 an acre for land in the flood plain.

The new park is expected to be about 15 acres. Use of the new site will be determined by the character of the land and the needs of the community, Phillips said.

The park district has already sold \$600,000 of the bonds approved by voters in December. The remaining \$100,000 in bonds has not been issued because of a

change in the interest rate at which the bonds can be sold.

THE ILLINOIS General Assembly has passed a bill that would raise the interest paid by the parks from 5 to 7 per cent. The park district is waiting for the governor to sign the bill before issuing the bonds.

Roger Bjorvik, park district attorney, said there would be little market for the bonds if the park tried to sell them at the five per cent rate.

All of the referendum funds have been invested until the park district can use them for the proposed park improvements. The district is currently waiting for a freeze on federal funds to be lifted so they can apply for matching grants for their other referendum projects.

## 'Neptune's Den' plans proceed

The Wheeling Park District is proceeding with plans to develop 'Neptune's Den,' a family recreation center in several converted classrooms above Neptune's Pool at Wheeling High School.

The center, designed for use by persons of all ages, will include a lounge area furnished with a sofa, chairs and tables and several games.

The park district plans to install a pool table, bumper pool table, air hockey game, table tennis plus and stereo system.

Neptune's Den will also include an office and concession area.

The park board last week approved the purchases, estimated at \$2,848.32.

Park Supt. Dave Phillips said depending on the park district activities scheduled at the high school, different groups will use the center at different times. For example, a men's exercise and sauna program is set for Monday nights. This means the center will be open for the men to use that evening.

The Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners so far has received only one application for the board's vacant seat created by the recent resignation of Board Pres. Gus Nizzi.

Nizzi has left the village to assume a position in the Neenah, Wis., school system.

Frank Schnaitmann, 51 George Rd., is the first person to express an interest in filling the park commissioner seat. Schnaitmann submitted his written request for the appointment about two weeks ago.

THE BOARD HAS not yet set a deadline for accepting applications, but Commissioner Lorraine Lark yesterday said she hopes the seat will be filled by the middle of September.

"A lot of decisions will have to be made about that time," Mrs. Lark commented, "We could find ourselves with a 2-2 impasse if we don't have our fifth member. It could be a real predicament for us where we'd really be stymied."

Some of the decisions Mrs. Lark referred to include pending land purchases, finalizing plans for scheduled remodeling at Heritage Park and taking bids on a proposed maintenance garage at Heritage Park.

"We have a lot of big things that we'll be starting soon that will begin with a big expenditure of money. We should have a full board," she said.



Gus  
Nizzi

MRS. LARK SAID the main thing the board will look for in prospective commissioners is a desire to serve the community.

"We want someone who has community interest at heart, a general feeling for the recreation needs of the community and a genuine willingness to contribute the time and effort it takes," she said.

Wheeling Park Supt. Dave Phillips agreed, saying flexibility is another desirable trait in park board commissioners.

"A good feature of the present board is that while they don't always agree with me and I don't always agree with them, nobody holds anything against anyone else," he said.

"A park commissioner needs the ability, I think, to be able to express his idea,

# Park district will receive Nike Base land—finally

The Wheeling park board is proceeding with plans to build a new maintenance garage, approved by voters in December's park district referendum.

The board is to discuss hiring a firm to do a topographical survey of the proposed garage site at Heritage Park tonight at its regular meeting. The public session will begin at 8 at the Heritage Park building, 222 S. Wolf Rd.

THE TOPOGRAPHICAL survey is the last step before construction can begin on the new facility. Wheeling Park Supt. Dave Phillips said the survey will probably take about a week to complete and cost in the neighborhood of \$400.

As soon as the survey is finished, Phillips said the park district will start construction of the garage that will take about eight weeks.

A major stumbling block in the project was overcome recently when the park district received permission from the

Metropolitan Sanitary District (MSD) to build on an easement held by the agency.

The \$40,000 garage, a steel pre-fabricated structure, will be 40 by 100 feet in size. It will include an office for maintenance personnel and will house the park districts five vehicles, a machine shop and storage area.

CURRENTLY, THE only vehicle storage facility is a two-car garage attached to the Heritage Park building.

Because most of the park district equipment is stored outside, maintenance and vandalism have been problems, Phillips said.

"The biggest advantages to having the new garage will be that we can keep our equipment inside," he said. "We're bound to save in maintenance costs especially."

IN OTHER BUSINESS on the agenda for tomorrow night's meeting, the commissioners will consider establishing a

pest control program to rid park district buildings of insects and rodents.

Phillips said the board is thinking of exterminating Neptune's Pool, the Chamber of Commerce community center and Heritage Park on a monthly basis.

Bids will be sought on the pest control program that Phillips said will cost several hundred dollars.

PRIOR TO THE regular meeting, there will be a meeting of the recreation committee at 7 p.m. to discuss fall, winter and spring recreation programs.

There will also be a meeting of the building and grounds committee to discuss proposed development of a 46 by 38-foot area above Neptune's Pool for recreation or park office use.

Several ideas for using the space have been suggested, including turning the area into a games room for use during the hours school is not in session, a television lounge, concession area or offices.



# Parks planning regulations for donations

by LYNN ASINOF

The Wheeling Park District is trying to set up a system that will govern donations from local developers and make sure they are collected.

The park board recently began actively seeking donations from developers. This effort has resulted in two problems for the district. According to Supt. Dave Phillips, the first is getting the developers to make substantial contributions to the parks and the other is in actually collecting the promised money.

"I don't think it's as much a problem of collecting the donations as making the people realize that the park district is more or less on an even keel with the school district," Phillips said. "The developers are more willing to be aware of those needs."

PHILLIPS SAID most developers think that donations to the park districts are not important because they provide recreational facilities in their own projects.

"They think that since they provide a small pool and a game room they are providing for the total needs of their population," he said. "Even if they have a tennis court, they're not meeting the needs for open space."

When the developers of Harmony Village on Wolf Road offered the park district a \$20-per-living-unit donation, the board members said they hoped this figure would set a precedent for future donations.

The donations to the park district, however, are not required by law in Wheeling. It is therefore up to the park district to seek out developers and ask for donations. Phillips said the village cooperates in this effort by notifying him of upcoming projects.

Members of the zoning and planning boards also aid the park district by asking developers to contact park officials.

They do not ask the developers to make donations, but merely ask whether the park district has approved a proposed project.

PARK BOARD members said that since donations are not required by law, they have no legal grounds to demand larger donations.

Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik said once the developers agree to make a donation which is accepted by the park board, the developers are legally bound to pay the promised money. He said, however, that if developers refuse to pay, the park district would have to take the matter to court, resulting in substantial legal fees.

Three Wheeling developers have not yet paid the park district donations previously promised. Developers of Foxboro Apartments on Wolf Road promised the park district \$1,000 when plans for that project were approved, and an additional \$1,000 when the last occupancy permit is issued.

The Foxboro plans were approved earlier this year, and the park district has not yet received its \$1,000.

Likewise, George Manda, developer of the VIP Condominiums on McHenry Road, promised \$2,000 to be paid when plans for the project were approved. These plans were accepted this spring, but the money has not yet been paid. Phillips said he has been unable to contact Manda to discuss the matter.

THE PARK district also was promised \$1,000 when plans were approved for Shadow Bend on Milwaukee Avenue. Once again, plans have been accepted by the village, but developers from Northern Illinois Builders have not yet made their donation.

While the park board plans to contact the developers about the promised money, they are also looking for a way to prevent such problems in the future. The matter came up while the board was discussing a donation offered by U.S. Home Corp. for a proposed development on McHenry Road.

Bjorvik suggested that the park district accept the donation with the provision that building and occupancy permits will not be granted by the village until donations are made. He said the developers can ask the village to hold permits until the park district notifies the village of payment.

The park board voted to accept the donation and have Bjorvik draft a letter that would outline the park district's conditions. If U.S. Home accepts these conditions, the park district will get \$9,000 in exchange for relinquishing a park site designated on the property.

"We're not doing this because of one development," said park board member Lorraine Lark. "We're doing this because of past experience and to set a procedure for the park district to follow."

# Neptune's Den rec center scheduled to open Nov. 5

The Wheeling Park District's new recreation center, Neptune's Den, is nearly completed and is scheduled to open on Nov. 5.

The center, located on the second floor of the indoor swimming pool at 900 S. Elmhurst Road, is being designed for leisure recreation. A pool table, ping-pong table, air hockey game, television, stereo and lounge furniture have been purchased and will be available to all park district residents.

The second floor area was previously used by Wheeling High School. The park district took over the area when it was no longer needed by the school because of the opening of the new Buffalo Grove High School.

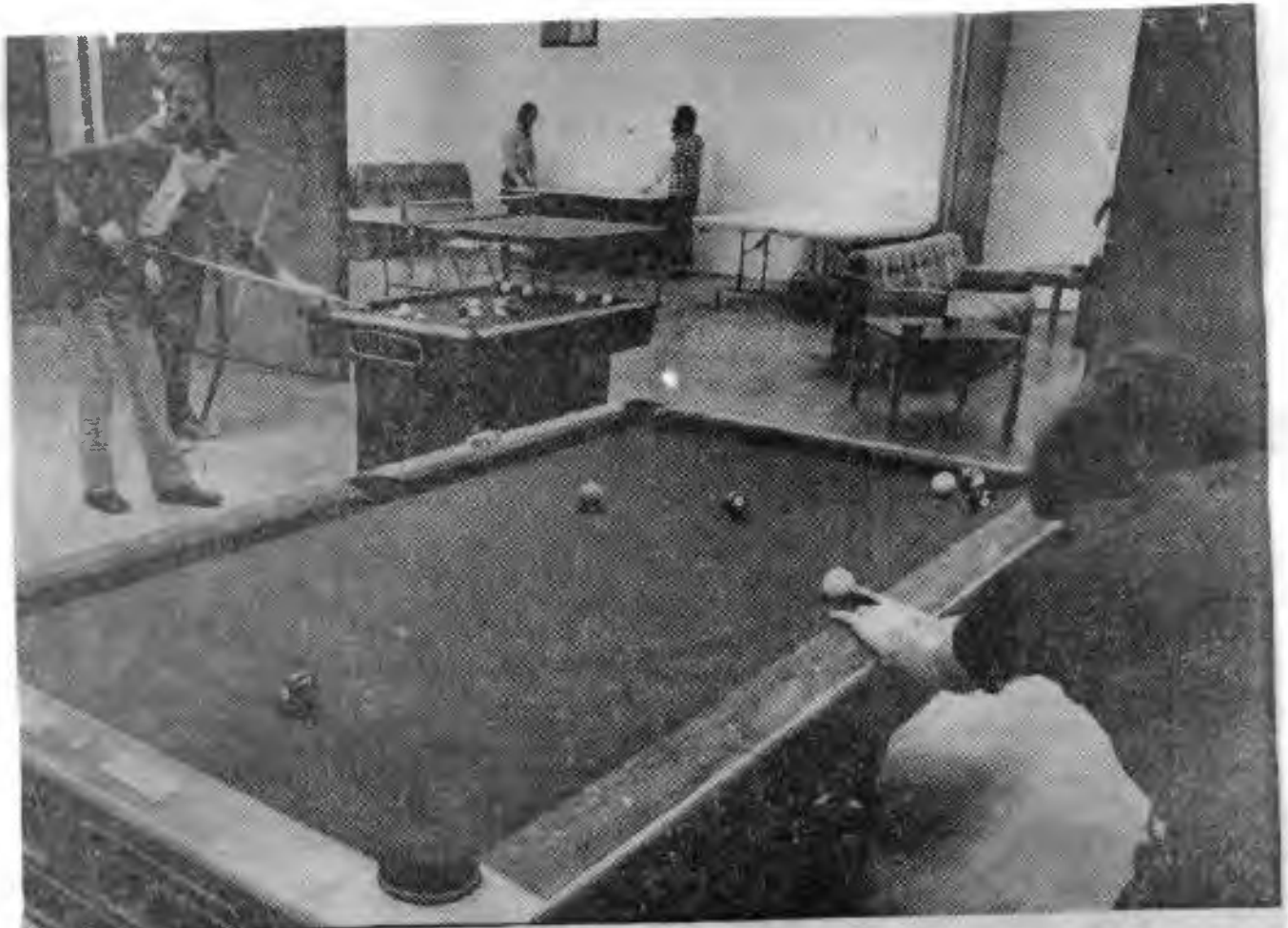
**PARK BOARD MEMBERS** have decided to open Neptune's Den on a limited basis for the first month of operation. A tentative schedule would have the center open from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays for high school students. The

center also would be open from 7-10 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday for family use.

Recreation director Rich Haddock has suggested that Neptune's Den charge a membership fee for the teenagers using the center. He said a club set-up would allow the teens to feel a greater responsibility for maintaining Neptune's Den.

Park board members, however, said they preferred to see public reaction to the center before imposing any kind of fee schedule. They therefore said Neptune's Den will be open without cost during the first month of operation. After that the board will evaluate response to the center, and make any changes they feel necessary in either fees or scheduling.

In order to make the public aware of the new facility, the park district is planning an open house at Neptune's Den on Nov. 11. The open house will include free swimming in the indoor pool.



11-14-73  
**WHEELING RESIDENTS** use park district's new pool equipment in Neptune's Den, located above the indoor pool in Wheeling High School, 900 S. Elmhurst Rd. The second floor area has been remodeled and furnished

with lounge chairs, television, stereo, pool tables and a ping pong table. It will be used as a leisure recreation center.

# Neptune's Den popularity amazing

The popularity of Neptune's Den, the Wheeling Park District's new recreation center, has surprised even park district officials.

Recreation Director Rich Haddock reports that about 400 students use the center during school days, with an additional 30 persons using it during the evenings. He said because Neptune's Den is so popular, the park district can soon expect to need new game equipment.

"It's going to wear out fast, and we're going to have to repair it," Haddock said. He also said the district should also consider buying more equipment so people using the center don't have to wait in line to use it.

Because of the popularity of the center, Haddock has recommended that Neptune's Den be open from 3:45 to 5 p.m. weekdays to handle students during the Wheeling High School activity period. The center is located in the high school complex.

**THE DEN ALSO** will be closed on Wednesday nights and opened on Friday nights to attract more people. One special day per week will be set aside for girls, so they don't have to compete with the boys to use the equipment.

Although Haddock suggested charging some type of admission fee to help finance the center, park board members want to keep it open to the public free of charge. The park board said the center may be expensive to operate, but added the district would have to work the extra cost into its budget.

A survey of 94 high school students using Neptune's Den showed most were in favor of the recreation center. Many said, however, they would like to see the Den open throughout the school day and have more game equipment available for use.

Haddock said the only major failing of the recreation center is that few adults have been using the facility. As such, Neptune's Den is not yet operating as a family recreation facility. Park board members said they hoped more adults would take advantage of the center.

## Neptune's Den proves a hit with teens

Neptune's Den, the Wheeling Park District's new recreation center, is receiving an enthusiastic response from the community.

Rich Haddock, recreation director, estimates that between 300 and 400 students at Wheeling High School use the center during lunch periods. Because of the large turnout, Haddock said the park district no longer is requiring student ID cards for admission.

In the evenings, Haddock said the number of people using the center drops to about 30. Neptune's Den, located above the indoor pool at Wheeling High School at 900 S. Elmhurst Rd., is open from 7 to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday for family use.

**ORIGINALLY,** Haddock was concerned that teenagers using the center would abuse the new pool and ping pong tables, air hockey, television, stereo and lounge furniture purchased by the park district. He said, however, "the kids are taking good care of the equipment."

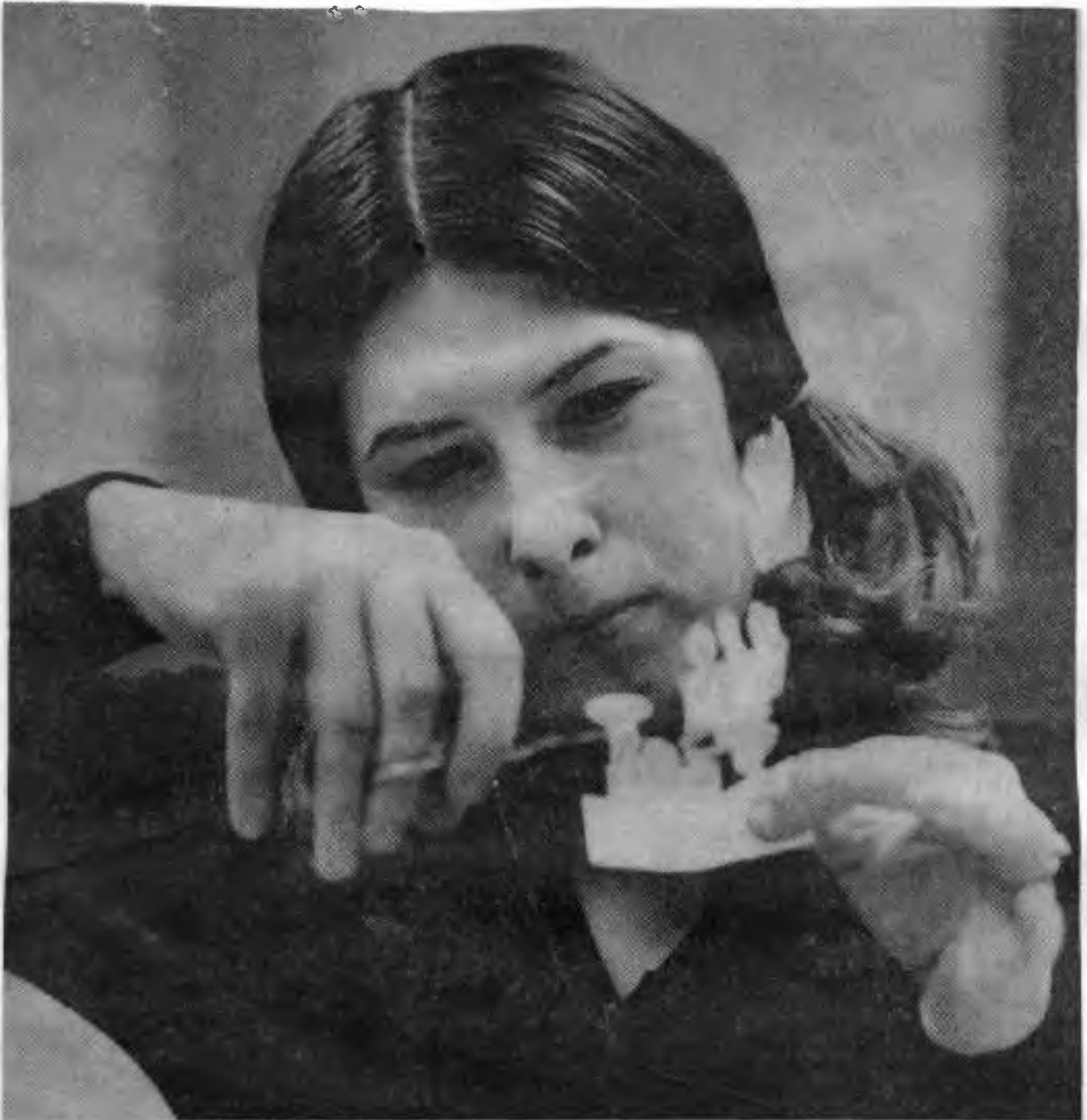
In order to keep the center operating, Haddock said he is planning to call on the most frequent users to help him draw up a set of rules and regulations. By using the approach which he calls "kid structure," Haddock said he will involve the teenagers and adults in setting operating policy for Neptune's Den.

The success of the recreation center has brought about an unexpected problem, according to Haddock. He said so many students are using the center during lunch hours that "we don't have enough games and equipment for the number of people who come up here."

The recreation director said he is looking into ways of making sure everyone gets a chance to use the game tables.

**NEPTUNE'S DEN** formerly was used by Wheeling High School for extra classroom space. When the new Buffalo Grove High School opened this fall, the space became available for park district use. The park district spent \$3,000 in redecorating and equipping the center.

Haddock also has moved his office into Neptune's Den, which will become a satellite operation of the park district. All activities at the center are under supervision.



11-23-73

**A NIMBLE SCISSORS** in the hands of Joan Ruley leads to the creation of holiday decorations and gifts. Members of the Wheeling Park District's holiday crafts class are working hard to prepare for the Christmas season,

and will be able to use the projects from the class to bring added festive spirit to their homes. In addition, the park district is offering a special stained glass artistry class for the holiday season.



**WHERE'S THE PUCK?** Although at least five of the youths appear to be watching an area in the center of this picture, the puck is actually about

three feet from the net and about to go in. Floor hockey such as this is good training for the real

thing which will start when ponds, streets and park district rinks begin to ice over.

# Lawsuit pondered to speed action on retention basin

12-11-73

by LYNN ASINOF

A "friendly legal suit" may develop between the Wheeling Park District and the village concerning delays in improving the Heritage Park West retention basin.

Park Comr. Lorraine Lark said the district has been saddled with an eyesore for three years because the Metropolitan Sanitary District does not want to spend money to improve the basin.

She has suggested that the district take a strong position in fighting for improvements to the basin. One such step might be filing a law suit against the village to get action, Mrs. Lark said.

**PARK BOARD** member Gene Sackett said yesterday he also thinks the suit might help the district as long as it is done "on a friendly basis. Let's not get carried away, but if that's the only way we can get something done, why not?"

When plans for the retention basin were first approved several years ago, the park district promoted the project so the basin could be used for recreation. The 20-acre lake, however, has never been suitable for recreation because of its size and depth. In fact, it is often described as a mudhole.

Park and village officials have been discussing improvements to the basin for about two years. No action, however, has been taken because the village wants the MSD to finance part of the project.

**VILLAGE MGR.** George Passolt said he has been meeting with the MSD to discuss proposed improvements, but said there are several questions that must be answered before the MSD can take any action. The manager said he is hopeful

that work will begin on the basin during 1974.

Mrs. Lark, however, said the MSD is trying to stall the proposed improvements. "The sanitary district is trying to 'snooker' the Wheeling Park District and the Village of Wheeling," she said.

Mrs. Lark also contends that the MSD does not want to approve plans until after the first of the year so that the project will not be included in the 1974 budget.

Passolt, however, does not think there is any need for a friendly lawsuit. "I don't really think it's come to that stage yet," he said. He also rejected a park district proposal to begin a letter writing campaign to the MSD.

"I SUPPOSE what they are saying is, we should needle a little more," he said, but added that the village and park district must be patient if they want funding from the MSD. "I'm not too happy to wait, but when you're standing there with your hand out, you're going to have to wait."

According to Passolt, work on improvements to the basin will cost a minimum of \$100,000. He said the village could only afford to bypass the MSD if they could find someone to cover a substantial portion of the cost. "I don't think we're going to find anyone who is that philanthropic," he said.

Mrs. Lark said there was a need for better communications between the park district and the village on the project. She said that while the village is interested mainly in flood control, the park district is interested in recreation. "We're at fault because we are not down there with you selling the recreation viewpoint," she told Passolt.

**PASSOLT SAID** the park district will be involved in discussion of the project "when they (MSD) are ready to talk turkey." He said until that time there is little reason for the district to participate in the meetings.

Plans for improving a second park flood control program are progressing. The village is planning to revamp the retention basin in Husky Park so the bottom of the basin will be dry and usable for recreation. In addition, the village plans to landscape the basin and make it more attractive.

Specifications for this project are expected to be ready for bid by the first of the year.

# Parks, planners debate Childerly

12-10-73

The Wheeling Plan Commission's refusal to recommend a park site designation on the Childerly Retreat House property was again the subject of heated debate among park board and plan commission members last week.

Park Comr. Lorraine Lark first took exception to statements that the district was asking for too much land when it requested seven park designations on the official village map.

The statement was made by planner Ray Waymel, who voted against the designation. "For that commissioner to say we asked for too much land is a fallacy," Mrs. Lark said. She said most of the requested park sites lie outside present village boundaries, and thus the designations have no effect until the land is annexed. She also said those sites requested within village boundaries totalled only 40 acres.

"That's a total of 40 acres of land for a community of 20,000 plus people, and I don't think that is too much land," she said.

TWO PLANNERS present at the park

board meeting said they voted against the park site because the Childerly property is being looked at for a proposed hospital. Jack Metzger and Gil Monoson said the park designation might be a stumbling block to the hospital, and the park district could always resort to the power of condemnation.

Mrs. Lark said a park designation would only strengthen any condemnation proceedings. She said that without the designation, the property might be developed as apartments or condominiums.

According to Mrs. Lark, the park board also hopes that a designation will keep the price of the property within an acceptable range. She said the park district cannot afford to pay an exorbitant amount for the property because the taxpayers would not allow it.

THE DISTRICT, however, looks at the Childerly site as a valuable piece of open land. Park Supt. Dave Phillips said the orchards, meadowland and old buildings at the site give the property great potential for a park.

Current plans call for using the site as a nature and outdoor education area with School Dist. 21, with some emphasis on the historical value of the buildings.

Phillips said the park district has purchased a 2.4-acre site adjacent to the Childerly site, giving the district about a 13-acre park. "There is so much potential within that site," he said.

Park board members also took exception to the fact that the plan commission did not consider an alternate site for the hospital. Mrs. Lark noted traffic, flooding and the size of the property as drawbacks to the development of a hospital at the Childerly site.

SAYING THAT a private corporation is promoting the hospital, Mrs. Lark questioned the vote of the plan commission members: "Do your interests lie

with a private corporation or the interest of the taxing bodies of the community?"

Mrs. Lark said that both Monoson and Metzger are members of the Citizens Action Program, which has pledged itself to promoting the hospital. She asked if this had any effect on their vote.

Both members of the plan commission said they felt the hospital was greatly over-all benefit of the community, and said they felt the hospital was greatly needed.

BOARD MEMBERS said they had been negotiating for the Childerly property long before the hospital was proposed. They said, however, most of the information on the property could not be released because it was discussed in executive session.

In order to push for the park site designation at Childerly, the park board plans to appear before the plan commission again on Jan. 17 when the official map will be considered.



'No problems' so far

12 - 11 - 73

## *Park district conserves light, heat*

Lighting and heat have been cut substantially in most Wheeling Park District buildings in an effort to conserve electrical power during the current energy crisis.

Park Supt. Dave Phillips said the district has not yet experienced any problems as a result of the energy crisis this winter. He added, however, during the summer months the district did have trouble obtaining natural gas to heat the outdoor pool.

Although the district has only two vehicles and gets its gas from the village, Phillips has restricted most driving. He said fewer trips are being made, and all pick-ups and deliveries are being made with full loads.

IN ADDITION, thermostats at Heritage Park and Chamber of Commerce Park buildings have been turned down to 65 degrees. Temperatures have also been reduced at the Neptune's Den recreation center. The only park facility now operating with warm temperatures is the indoor Neptune's Pool, since Phillips main-

tains any temperature cuts there could cause health problems.

Likewise, lighting in all park buildings has been cut. In the Neptune's Pool building and the Heritage Park recreation building, every other light has been turned out. Hall lights at the pool have been reduced to the right level, resulting in a 75 per cent cut.

Park officials are planning to close the indoor pool from 7-9 p.m. on Friday nights to conserve the use of electricity. Phillips said this is generally a slow period for public swim attendance.

PARK BOARD members also are con-

sidering building a makeshift wind block at the entrance to the Heritage Park building. For several years, the park district has had problems with heating because of the wind blowing in the entrance. The district is planning to build a vestibule at the entrance with referendum funds, but the project is not expected to be underway for some time.

Phillips said he is keeping in touch with Village Mgr. George Passolt because the park district gets its gas from the village. So far, the village has not had any problem in getting gasoline supplies.



YOUTH COMMISSION

President Scanlon & Board of Trustees  
Village of Wheeling  
255 West Dundee Road  
Wheeling, Illinois 60090

December 12, 1973

Gentlemen:

CHILDERLEY, in translation "children's meadow", by its past concern for and future potential to the welfare of children, has placed itself within the purview of the Youth Commission and stands squarely upon your sound judgment.

The early history of Childerley is almost entirely concerned with the welfare of disadvantaged children. The fathers were casualties of early industrialization, who in death, left these children semi-orphans. Mrs Francis Crane Lillie developed a small community for the widows and their children, initially as a personal responsibility which was later supported by the Crane (Co.) Endowment Fund.

The 32 acre section (of the 600 acre Crane Farm) which was originally designated to the orphan's welfare, is now known as Addolorata Villa. The name "Childerley" was later adopted for the 10 acre site, which itself had been donated to the religious welfare of the Lillie's fellow man. On this site stands Mrs Lillie's own historic preservation, a log cabin. Built about 1825, it was moved, repaired and developed into a chapel of retreat. Nearly 150 years old, it most certainly holds some of the secrets of man's earliest triumphs. His physical stamina, his ingenuity and his perseverance are all in evidence in the cabin, fashioned as it was from trees which the early settlers cut and shaped without benefit of mechanized equipment.

Preserving the physical structure, which contains the history of these early community settlers and of the woman who preserved their work, using it as she did in foundation for her own outstanding contributions to the welfare of others, is a privilege few communities have an opportunity to enjoy.

The Commission members feel the preservation must be a priority and should be designated for future Park District development which stipulates the future preservation of (at least) the log cabin if not all the buildings on the property.

We recognize the importance of the hospital tentatively proposed for this site as it relates to the physical well being of the community and its youth. However, we are convinced that Childerley holds equal importance as a physical example of the religious and humanitarian philosophy of the earlier era and its pioneers.

We respectfully suggest that a responsible decision cannot be made without first having full particulars of the amount of history contained in this site, the desperate need for strategically designated open areas and the dearth of historically significant landmarks for the benefit of our children, within our community.

A hospital can be built and conduct whatever humanitarian work it may do, almost anywhere. Childerley can only be retained by preserving it where it is.

Sincerely,

June Orlovski, Chairman  
WHEELING YOUTH COMMISSION

cc: Wheeling Historical Society  
Wheeling Park District  
Wheeling Jaycees

TO: President and Board of Trustees  
Village of Wheeling  
FROM: Wheeling Park District  
Board of Commissioners  
SUBJECT: Childerly Retreat Property

May we take this opportunity to familiarize you with a calendar of events leading to the Wheeling Park District's desire to have Childerly Retreat Property placed on the Official Map with a public use designation for a park site.

This unique property with its historical significance, first came to the Park Board's attention when one of our Commissioners toured the property at least three years ago. That Commissioner requested that if ever the property were to be considered "For Sale" that the Park District be advised so that the Park Board could be put in contact with members of the Calvert Foundation to discuss the possible purchase of the site for park purposes.

That Commissioner informed the Park Board of this idealic park setting. Although it is located on a major arterial road, not too many residents are familiar with the property and what it has to offer the community.

In the fall of 1972 the Park Board was made aware that the possibility existed that Childerly might be available for purchase. A tour of the premises was arranged and the Park Board President and two commissioners toured the grounds, chapel and houses, evidencing their earnest interest in the property and happily noting that it was ideal from a park district aspect. The five acres of rolling meadows abutted a 3 acre parcel the park district contemplated purchasing. The orchard with its countless apple trees formed a picnic grove that would take many dollars and a decade or more to develop. The chapel was a historical landmark that not too many people know existed. (The Park District had already been one of the forces which saved and renovated the original Community Presbyterian Church - now the Community Center in Chamber Park - a building used by civic, church, park and private groups every week-night, September through June). The potential of Childerly had been recognized and now a way to purchase or lease it had to be found. Those three Commissioners reported to the full Board that Childerly was an ideal park setting and the Board unanimously concurred that Childerly must be saved and remain as it stands - a monument to history and one of the last vestiges of slowly diminishing open space, which could serve the recreational needs of the community. Another tour was scheduled for those Commissioners who had been unable to see it before. That tour was in early winter of 1972.

Preparation was then going on for the referendum in December which would earmark funds for land acquisition. The referendum was successful.

The Board, funds now made available by voter approval, could now proceed with contemplated land purchases. Many Executive Sessions were held, - all dealing with properties located in various locations in the Wheeling Park community. Because these were Executive Sessions you, the Village Board and the citizens of Wheeling knew nothing of the park's interest in the Childerly Property until the Northeastern Illinois Plan Commission released information that the park had made application for funding through B.O.R. (Bureau of Outdoor Recreation) This was just shortly after a hospital group announced their interest in Childerly. Our application had been pending for months.

Our first meeting with members of the Calvert Foundation was an informal meeting held in early spring of 1973. At that meeting three Park Commissioners the Park Superintendent and three members of the Calvert Foundation met so that the Park District could inform the representatives of the Foundation why the Park desired to be considered as prospective purchasers or leasors of Childerly. We were informed at that time that "no sale" would be made of the property until the Park District was given first consideration.

The first correspondence was a copy of a letter relative to our meeting with the Calvert Foundation requesting us to put in writing just what we proposed, relative to purchase and or lease, and if lease, for how long. It also asked that the Park District should know that they (Calvert Foundation) were interested.

On August 13, 1973 we sent a letter to the Foundation expressing our interest in the property setting forth price and terms.

A letter was received from Calvert House on September 27, 1973 asking if the price could be reconsidered.

After more discussion in Executive Session, another letter was sent under date of October 6, 1973 to Calvert House with a revised figure.

It was not until November 9, 1973 did we receive a letter from Calvert House which mentioned contact had been made with a representative of a group which desired the property to build a hospital. Although we had read articles in the newspapers indicating an interest by someone other than the Park District in Childerly, this was the first official notification we had indicating that the articles were correct.

We are still however, most desirous of purchasing the property to upgrade recreational and open space areas through out the community.

Park District plans for the use of this property by the community will include for consideration the following:

1. Use of the thirteen (13) plus acres ten (10) acre Childerly property and our newly acquired three (3) acre parcel adjoining Childerly on the south border, as an outdoor education area in coordination with grade School District #21. The untouched meadows and orchard are ideal for this purpose. Walking paths can be developed with the flowers, trees, shrubs and grasses identified for the citizens of the community.
2. This natural area could be an ideal summer day camp for children. This could include a new program for the area, a day camp for the handicapped children organized by the new Northwest Special Recreation Association.
3. Possible community group meeting location to use the retreat buildings.
4. Possible location for park programs on western side of the community.
5. The chapel and cabin built in 1825 are being sought as a historical building recognized by the State of Illinois. This could also be a possible museum site.
6. The area would also be an ideal picnic area for families in the community.

7. The property could continue to be used as a retreat area by community groups interested in fellowship over the weekend.

The park property, acquired in past years and local school property is now, with our successful 1972 referendum, able to be developed. Matching funds are being sought to double the size of these improvements. While these other improvements have had to wait for our 1972 referendum, the development and the expense there of for the Childerly property can be assumed now because of the natural state of the area and by the increased park district financial base.

Questions raised by the plan commission were based mainly on the possible location of a hospital at this site.

The Wheeling Park District, in answering the survey on the hospital, and at public meetings since, have stated our total support for improved medical facilities and treatment for the community residents. It is our firm feeling that this particular piece of property will better serve the residents as a community park and that an alternate site is possible to especially serve the emergency needs of the community and to act as a base of operations for the Wheeling Fire Departments Para-medics.

Traffic patterns around Childerly were also discussed at the Plan Commission meeting when the park approached them with our requested park site designations. It is our feeling that a much lighter use pattern develops at a park designated as an Outdoor Education Area, than a 250 bed hospital. Buses for school children will be the main mode of transportation. Many bicyclists will be able to reach the park without crossing a major roadway.

It is our hope that this information will assist you in your decision concerning the Childerly retreat property. The Wheeling Park District feels strongly that this property should be retained as open space for the community. With its unique heritage it is at the top of our priority list.

The support the community has shown both as community organizations and as individuals speaking for themselves has been appreciated. We thank you for the time we have taken to present our petition and again thank the people we all serve for their concern over the use of this unique property. We urge that you vote to place the Childerly Retreat property on the Official Map with a public use designation for a park site.

Thank you.

January 28, 1974

Hospital at location remains a possibility

Jan - 74

# Village map shows no park earmarked for Childerly site

The official village map has been sent to the Wheeling Village Board without a park-site designation on the 10-acre Childerly Retreat House property, 506 McHenry Rd.

The plan commission has approved its recommendations for revising the map after deciding not to reconsider a designation for the Childerly property. Previously, the commission failed to approve a park district request for the designation in a 3-3 vote, saying it might be a stumbling block for a hospital proposed for the site.

The Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital of Chicago has been negotiating for the Childerly property as the location of a proposed satellite branch. The Wheeling Park District has also been negotiating for the land, which it proposes to develop as an outdoor education center.

JEANNE EATON, 85 E. Dennis Rd., spoke in favor of the park's plans to use the site for recreation. "It's one of the few open places left in this village," she said.

Other residents and local agencies have objected to the hospital's proposed location because of the historic buildings located on the Childerly property.

The plan commission, however, decided not to reconsider, saying none of the members would change their vote. They referred Mrs. Eaton to the park board, saying her information on a recent telephone survey might be helpful to the park district.

The park district has decided to contact Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital, to outline its history of negotiations with the Calvert Foundation for the Childerly property.

PARK BOARD members said they were upset that village officials think that the park district began negotiating for the site only after plans for the hospital were announced in September.

Park Supt. Dave Phillips noted that negotiations began more than 12 months ago when the Calvert Foundation asked the park district to make an offer on the property. He said the park board members were "surprised the hospital was not made aware by Childerly that they had approached the park district."

Although the park district has the power to condemn the property, the park board claims that an official designation on the site will give them a better bargaining position. The park board mem-

bers plan to ask the village board to approve this designation when the official map comes to the board for final consideration on Jan. 28.

Jan 74

## Neptune's Den Movie Guide

Neptune's Den, located above Neptune's Pool at Wheeling High School, has announced its movie schedule through February.

The Munsters, Mr. Magoo and the Three Stooges will be among the features during the next several weeks.

### NEPTUNE'S MOVIE GUIDE

January 19: "Hey There, It's Yogi Bear"

January 26: "Treasure Island"

February 2: "Munster, Go Home"

February 9: "The Music Box", a Laurel and Hardy comedy plus color cartoons.

February 16: "Gripes, Groans and Grunts", featuring the 3 Stooges plus Icabod and Mr. Toad

February 23: "Mr. Magoo - Man of Mystery"

All movies are free and begin at noon. Refreshments are available at the concession stand.

## New recreation organization looking for director

1-74

Area park districts located in Wheeling, Elk Grove, and Palatine townships met recently to organize a recreation cooperative for mentally and physically handicapped children and adults.

The new organization, known as the Northwest Special Recreation Association, is currently looking for a director who will handle administrative duties and program planning plus Private Fund Solicitation. A committee is interviewing candidates.

Another committee is developing a set of by-laws to define the purpose of the

association, functions, cost assessment, and other articles of agreement between the districts involved.

At the present time Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove, Mount Prospect, Palatine, River Trails, Rolling Meadows, Salt Creek, and Wheeling Park Districts have granted \$500 each to initiate programs and hire a director for a period ending May 1, 1974.

Upon that date, each park district will assess itself according to its assessed valuation for continuing the work of the association at a rate to be agreed upon later.

## Parks join 'special' program - for now

1-7-74

The Wheeling Park District will participate in the planning of the Northwest Special Recreation Assn. but has declined to make any long term commitment to the project.

Park board members approved spending \$500 to help finance programs and a full-time director until April 30, 1974. If a state law is passed allowing park district to levy a tax for special recreation, the park board will consider becoming a permanent member of the association.

The special recreation association will serve handicapped people in nine area park districts. Park Supt. Dave Phillips said only one of the 10 park districts approached to join the association has decided not to participate.

The Wheeling Park District currently runs a swimming program for the handicapped, but only one person is enrolled in the class. Phillips said the new association will create a well-rounded program in "an area where we do not have a high degree of skill to handle."

## Wait on joint garage

Park officials are waiting for the village board to act on a proposed joint garage before selecting a site for the needed maintenance facility.

"If the joint site can be developed, that is the ideal site for us because of the decreased cost," said Park Supt. Dave Phillips. The park district has proposed building the garage to straddle common boundaries, with the village and the park sharing construction costs.

Phillips said the village board will be presented a cost analysis of the joint garage site tonight. He said if the proposal is not accepted by the village, the park district will have to build its garage at Heritage Park south of the recreation building.

Some park commissioners said they did not like the alternate site, but Phillips said it was the only other feasible location. "These are the two sites we are narrowed down to, whether we like it or not," he said.

## New park rental fees?

A new hourly fee schedule for park district rentals is under consideration by the park board.

Park Supt. Dave Phillips proposed the new fees to eliminate the "fuzziness" surrounding the current flat fee rates. He said the current rates do not take into account the length of the rental and noted that some organizations are not charged for their use of park facilities.

Park board members delayed any decision on the matter, saying they wanted more time to study the proposal. They are trying to find a way of establishing a policy on rentals that will retain the rental income and provide for maximum use of the facilities without penalizing groups that cannot afford the rental fees.

Phillips said the park district has estimated about \$1,500 will be collected in rental fees this year.

## 40 acres annexed

Appraisal termed preliminary move

# Park district acts to buy Childerly Retreat property

by LYNN ASINOF

Preliminary steps to obtain the Childerly Retreat House property, 506 McHenry Rd. have been ordered by the Wheeling Park District.

Board members directed Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik to obtain an appraisal of the site in preparation for an application for matching governmental funds. The park district is negotiating with the Calvert Foundation for the 10-acre site. The park district plans to use the site as a community park and outdoor education center.

Bjorvik said the appraisal is needed for the matching funds application and will determine the amount of money requested by the park district. He said that if the matching funds are approved, the district will definitely purchase the property, even though the Calvert Foundation has not accepted the park district's offer.

"The receipt of federal funds will absolutely be the determining factor," Bjorvik said. "If we do get the federal funds, we will absolutely finalize that."

HE ADDED that the park district might attempt to purchase the site even if the matching funds are not approved.

The Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital is also negotiating for the Childerly property as the location of a proposed satellite facility. Some opposition to the hospital has arisen because of the historical value of the buildings on the Childerly site.

Park district officials are hoping to reinforce their claim on the Childerly site by requesting a park-site designation for the property on the official village map. Members of the plan commission refused to approve the designation in a 3-3 vote, saying it might be a stumbling block to the hospital project.

The park board is planning to appeal this decision when the official map comes before the village trustees for final approval. They maintain that the Childerly property is more valuable as a

## *Lichter farm sought for park site*

The 10-acre Lichter farm may soon become a community park if matching funds can be obtained by the Wheeling Park District to purchase the property.

The park board has authorized Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik to prepare an option to purchase the site for \$236,000. The park district is hoping to get half that amount from the government.

The farm property, located east of Schoenbeck Road south of Robert Avenue, is the second park site proposed as part of the 1972 park improvements referendum. The park district has already approved the purchase of a three-acre site off Valley Stream Drive.

The land acquisition program financed with referendum funds is geared to provide increased open space in the western section of the village. Park Supt. Dave Phillips said development of the Lichter property will be based on feedback from residents near the site.

PHILLIPS SAID, however, no plans

for the park will be made until the purchase is made final. He said that if the transaction is completed and the park district obtains the Childerly Retreat House property, the park will have acquired 23 acres of new park land.

"Originally, we only anticipated purchasing 13 acres," Phillips said.

The park district has been negotiating for the Lichter farm since October, 1971, according to Bjorvik. He said the negotiations were long and tedious, but ended with the park district getting a reasonable price.

Research is currently being done into the various governmental agencies offering matching funds. The park district plans to make application to the agency that is most likely to approve their requested grant.

"We think this is progress," Bjorvik said of the proposed purchase. "The open space is really at a premium and it's going fast."

park site than a hospital site because of the historic buildings, meadowland and orchards.

THE CHILDERLY property abuts the new three-acre park site off Valley Stream Drive recently purchased by the park district, creating a 13-acre park.

Legal problems resulting from the original charter of the Childerly property have made it questionable whether the Calvert Foundation will be able to sell the property. Even if the foundation refuses to sell the 10 acres, the park district has the power to condemn the site.



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1-74

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JEANNE EATON, 85 E. Dennis Rd., spoke in favor of the park's plans to use the site for recreation. "It's one of the few open places left in this village," she said.

Other residents and local agencies have objected to the hospital's proposed location because of the historic buildings located on the Childerly property.

The plan commission, however, decided not to reconsider, saying none of the members would change their vote. They referred Mrs. Eaton to the park board, saying her information on a recent telephone survey might be helpful to the park district.

The park district has decided to contact Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital, to outline its history of negotiations with the Calvert Foundation for the Childerly property.

PARK BOARD members said they were upset that village officials think that the park district began negotiating for the site only after plans for the hospital were announced in September.

Park Supt. Dave Phillips noted that negotiations began more than 12 months ago when the Calvert Foundation asked the park district to make an offer on the property. He said the park board members were "surprised the hospital was not made aware by Childerly that they had approached the park district."

Although the park district has the power to condemn the property, the park board claims that an official designation on the site will give them a better bargaining position. The park board mem-

bers plan to ask the village board to approve this designation when the official map comes to the board for final consideration on Jan. 28.

## Alternate sites for hospital to be discussed

1-74

(Continued from Page 1)  
erly location. Davis said Franklin Boulevard plans to present these surveys to the state hospital licensing board in April.

The hospital must hold an option on its proposed location before applying to the licensing board for approval.

MEANWHILE, the Calvert Foundation is considering offers from both the park district and the hospital for the Childerly property. The Rev. Rollins Lambert, managing director of the foundation, said no decision was reached at a meeting of the Calvert trustees yesterday.

Father Lambert declined to comment on the trustees' reaction to a park district offer to purchase Childerly for \$250,000. The park offer included a guarantee that the property could be used by Calvert for retreats to be scheduled on a priority basis.

Park board members, however, indicated that several of the trustees responded favorably to their offer, because it would preserve the use of Childerly for retreat functions.

# No decision on whether park district or hospital gets Childerly retreat

by LYNN ASINOF

No decision was reached yesterday by the Calvert Foundation on the sale of the Childerly retreat house property, 506 McHenry Rd., to either the Wheeling Park District or the Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital.

Park board members, however, reported a favorable reception by the Calvert Foundation when it considered their offer of \$250,000 for the ten-acre site.

According to Park Comr. Lorraine Lark, the Calvert trustees apparently

have not decided the legal question of whether the Childerly property can be sold.

The deed establishing Childerly defines its purpose narrowly for the use of University of Chicago students, alumni, and faculty. If the Calvert Foundation ceases to exist or function, Childerly properties revert to the Archbishop of Chicago. There is no provision in the deed for the sale of the property.

**THE PARK BOARD** members said their seven-minute presentation yesterday to the Calvert Foundation was favor-

ably received, despite a substantially higher offer of \$445,000 from the Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital.

The park commissioners said the strong point of their offer was the fact that Childerly would be able to continue as a retreat house under park ownership. The park district has agreed to allow retreats to be scheduled in the buildings on a priority basis.

"The comments made by the trustees were that they would rather sell to the park district which would perpetuate the use of Childerly as set forth by Mrs. Lil-

lie in her will," Mrs. Lark said.

In appealing to the Wheeling village board for a park site designation, Mrs. Lark said the designation was needed in case the hospital bought the property and did not get state approval. She said in this case the property might be used for condominiums or apartments.

As of the Herald's deadline last night, the village trustees had not voted whether to grant the park district's requested official map designation.

**THE DESIGNATION**, if granted, would give the park district one year from the time development plans are approved to purchase the property.

"Our asking you to give us an official designation is like asking you to give us and the community a one-year option to purchase Childerly," Mrs. Lark said.

She said if the designation is not granted, the park district will have to begin condemnation procedures immediately because of the importance of the time element.

In a lengthy and emotional presentation, Mrs. Lark argued for the preservation of the Childerly property and the historic buildings located on it. "We know the buildings cannot stand and have a hospital there too," she said.

The park district plans to use the land as an outdoor education center, a summer day camp and a place for community meetings.

Trustee William Hein was most active in questioning the need for a designation. He noted that the park district might have to condemn the property even if the designation is approved. Hein further outlined the need for a local hospital by citing the number of times the village ambulance could not be received at area hospitals.

# Parks to make new Childerly offer

1-7-73

by LYNN ASINOF

Wheeling Park Board members will meet today with the Calvert Foundation to present a new offer for the purchase of the Childerly Retreat House property, 506 McHenry Rd.

The park board worked throughout the weekend in a last-ditch effort to prevent the sale of the 10-acre site to the Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital. Board members met Friday night and again Sunday morning to prepare the new \$250,000 offer.

As part of their offer, the park commissioners will grant the Calvert Foundation the right to use the houses on the property for any retreats that may be scheduled.

The park board members are increasingly optimistic about their chances of getting the property despite the Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital offer of \$445,000 for the site. They may get substantial support from four Calvert trustees who attended the meeting Friday night.

"Although we are not a private organization and cannot offer lots of money, we feel we can make a contribution in the preservation of the buildings," Park Comr. Lorraine Lark told the trustees. Several of the buildings at Childerly are considered historic landmarks, including a log cabin built in 1825.

THE PARK board is hoping to convince the trustees that the preservation of the buildings, orchards and open space

will offset the difference in the size of the two offers for the site.

Park board members agreed to raise their offer from \$175,000 to \$250,000 after learning of the impending sale of the property to the hospital group.

"If we don't go that whole route, I will not be happy that we didn't do everything we could," Mrs. Lark said. The park commissioners said \$250,000 is the maximum they could afford to pay for the land, which they want to use as an outdoor education center.

In addition to the new offer, the park board members also worked on tonight's presentation to the Wheeling Village Board for a park-site designation on the Childerly property.

Park Supt. Dave Phillips said the possible sale of the property makes the requested park-site designation even more important. The designation would give the park district one year to purchase the site after the property is subdivided for development.

Phillips noted that plans for the hospital may fall through after the property is sold. He said the official designation would allow the park district to purchase the site in case a developer wanted to put apartments on the property.

Park Atty. Roger Bjorvik said the designation is most important because it would give the park district one year to raise the money for the purchase. He said that while the park district has the right to condemn property, it would be diffi-

cult to exercise this right if the hospital were already built.

The park district has applied for matching state funds to purchase the property. A review of the application, however, is not scheduled until February or April.

"You know how slow the government moves on processing these applications," Bjorvik said. "I certainly think the park board needs all the time it can get."

Bjorvik said, however, that the sale of the property to Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital would not affect the park

district's right to condemn the property. Park board members have said they are willing to go to condemnation if necessary.

Although the park board has been negotiating for the Childerly site for about one year, few people were aware of park plans for the property since discussions were in closed sessions.

Mrs. Lark said the park would have had more support from the village in this matter if negotiations had been made public. "Executive session is what killed us on this whole project," she said.

## Park board wrapup

# Alternate garage site to be planned

The Wheeling Park District board has decided to develop plans for an alternate garage site while waiting for the village to decide if it wants to share a joint facility.

The district originally proposed building a joint facility to span common property lines. The village, however, has not yet responded to the offer.

Park board members therefore decided to investigate building the garage just south of the Heritage Park recreation building on Wolf Road.

Park planners from McFadzean and Everly Ltd. said the district might reduce its construction costs by building on the alternate site. They said the work could be done at the same time as remodeling of the recreation building, thus saving on installation of utilities.

This savings may allow the park district to build a masonry garage instead of the proposed prefabricated steel structure, according to Park Supt. Dave Phillips.

"We're really pursuing both avenues now," Phillips said. "We can look into this with the village as well as the site south of the Heritage Park building, and really pick the best site for our purposes."

## *Spring in the air?*

To avoid an expected fertilizer shortage next year, the park board decided that the district should purchase its spring and summer supplies now.

Comr. Gene Sackett told the board that fertilizer was one of the products expected to be in short supply in the near future.

Park district employes are now checking on the price of fertilizer and the amount needed so that the purchase can be made soon.

## *40 acres annexed*

About 40 acres north of Hintz Road east of Schoenbeck Road was annexed to the park district as part of an annexation program.

Property owner Al Schwind, 122 W. Hintz Rd., Prospect Heights, questioned the park board on the impact of the annexation on his taxes.

The park board members said the annexation was designed to square off park district boundaries and provide a more solid base for the district. They said the annexation would not appear on the Schwind's tax bill until 1975.

## *School-park upgrading deferred*

Approval of a contract with McFadzean and Everly Ltd. for the development of school-park improvements was deferred until the next park board meeting.

Park officials plan to review the contract, which calls for the development of working plans for the improvements. Park Supt. Dave Phillips said the contract will allow the park district to move quickly once matching governmental funds for the work are either approved or denied.

"Once we come to that point, if we're not prepared to begin immediately, we're losing time," he said.

# Hospital may get option today on Childerly land

1-74

by LYNN ASINOF

The Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital today may be granted an option to purchase the 10-acre Childerly Retreat House property, 506 McHenry Rd., for almost \$500,000.

The Herald has learned that the Calvert Foundation has called a meeting for 4:30 p.m. to consider the hospital's offer.

The hospital is seeking a one-year option on the property to build a 223-bed satellite branch that would serve the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove area. Franklin Boulevard is offering \$445,000 for the property with \$25,000 paid when the op-

tion is approved, according to Calvert trustee Frank Petta.

THE CALVERT Foundation board meeting will begin just hours before the Wheeling Park District is scheduled to appeal to the village board for a park-site designation on the Childerly property. The board meeting is set for 8 p.m.

The park district wants to use the 10 acres of orchard and meadowland for an outdoor education center. The historical buildings on the property would be preserved by the park for community use. Negotiations between Calvert and the park district began about one year ago.

The Rev. Rollins Lambert, managing director of the Calvert Foundation, said he believes that the option to purchase will be approved today. "I think that there are enough votes to approve the option," he said.

Once the Calvert board approves the hospital's offer, the option must be approved by John Cardinal Cody, archbishop of Chicago.

ACCORDING TO Father Lambert, a major consideration in the sale of the property is the amount of money offered by the hospital.

"Frankly, the trustees would have preferred to sell to the park district if the park district's offer had approached what they could get from the hospital," he said. He noted there was a substantial difference between the two offers.

According to Calvert trustee M. O. Horcher, the last park district offer was \$175,000. Park board members are reportedly considering making a new offer for the property.

Father Lambert said the option proposed by Franklin Boulevard would allow the hospital to purchase the property at any time during a one-year period without further action by the Calvert Foundation board.

THE PARK DISTRICT is in the process of applying for matching federal funds to purchase the Childerly property. Park board members have said they are willing to go to condemnation procedures if necessary, despite the impending sale of the property.

Several local groups and residents have spoken out in favor of the park district's plans to preserve the historic buildings on the Childerly site. Although the option granted to the hospital would include an agreement to preserve only the chapel complex, other buildings on the site and the orchards would have to be removed for hospital construction.

Representatives of both the Wheeling Historical Society and the Youth Commission tonight are expected to ask the Wheeling Village Board to approve a park-site designation on the Childerly property.

Members of the Wheeling Plan Commission recently failed to approve the designation in a 3-3 vote, saying it might be a stumbling block to the hospital. The village board will review that decision tonight when it receives recommendations from the plan commission on updating the official village map.

Park board calls special meeting

Jan 74

# Alternate hospital sites to be discussed tomorrow

by LYNN ASINOF

Alternate sites for the proposed satellite branch of the Franklin Boulevard Community Hospital will be discussed tomorrow at a special meeting of the Wheeling Park Board. The meeting is at 8:30 p.m. at Heritage Park.

Hospital representatives have been invited to the meeting to learn of park district plans for the 10-acre Childerly Retreat House property, 506 McHenry Rd. The hospital has been negotiating for the Childerly property, and has become a major obstacle to park district acquisition of the land.

Norman Davis, hospital consultant, said the Franklin Boulevard group only recently learned that the park district wanted the site for an outdoor recreation center. He said the fact that the park district is willing to condemn the property may make a significant difference in the hospital's choice of a location to serve the Wheeling-Buffalo Grove area.

"I understand the authority of the park district," Davis said. "Hell, they could knock us out in the morning if they wanted to."

In a recent letter from Park Board

Pres. Robert Ross, Davis said he became aware of the park district's intention to condemn the property if necessary.

"I HAD NEVER been aware officially from anybody of this situation," Davis said. "He spells it out, and that makes a lot of difference. We'd better just sit down and see if we can work this thing out. Nobody has an axe to grind here."

According to Davis, the hospital has no particular interest in the Childerly property. "We're more interested in the land," he said. "But it has to be good land."

The consultant said Ross informed him that there is some less-expensive acreage on major Wheeling roads. "Monetarily, this could be a better set-up for us," Davis said. "They are indicating property at a lesser fee. The only thing we want is good accessibility."

Ross called the special park board meeting after the village board deferred any action in designating the Childerly property as a park site on the official village map.

Village Pres. Ted C. Scanlon asked that the matter be continued until Mon-

day so the hospital and the park representatives could discuss their plans for the 10-acre site. He also asked that members of the village board visit Childerly so that they could decide whether it is best suited for a park.

ACCORDING TO Ross, the meeting was called "strictly to discuss that property and or other property which may be available." The park board president said his board could indicate other possible locations to the hospital representatives, but could not become actively involved in their negotiations.

The Franklin Boulevard group has offered \$445,000 for the Childerly property. Park board members, however, said they found better parcels on major village streets that cost only about \$23,000 an acre.

Davis said that if this was the case, the hospital would be receptive to looking at other sites. "We're willing to retreat," he said.

The consultant said the hospital project's major problem will be time. He said preliminary surveys on the need for a hospital have been based on the Child-

(Continued on page 5)

# Parks in another effort to make Childerley park site

4174  
by RICH HONACK  
and JOE FRANZ

The Wheeling Park District will make another effort tonight to convince the village board to designate the Childerley property as a park site on the official village map.

Park officials are hopeful that a joint special meeting between them, village trustees and representatives of Franklin Boulevard Hospital last week will get them a favorable vote. The hospital is also interested in the site at 506 McHenry Rd. for a satellite facility.

Norman Davis, a consultant for the hospital, told the two boards and an audience of about 15 people, however, that his group is in a "confused position."

(Continued from Page 1)

now, and a reason for not just giving in to the park district on the land question, is time. He said that it is imperative that the hospital obtain land for the facility in order to get an application on file with the state by April, when the hospital governing board meets.

He later explained that this date is important because of a pending "certificate of need" law, which is now going through legislative channels. The law has already been passed by the state house of representatives and is now in the state senate.

This law would force a hospital to show a specific need for a hospital in a given area. "As far as I'm concerned, this is a 'kangaroo court,' and would probably show there isn't a need for another hospital in the entire state," Davis said.

Therefore, he added, the hospital must have a site and if park officials or anyone else could recommend an alternate site, hospital officials would be happy to abandon the Childerley site to the park district.

DAVIS THEN WAS presented with maps from the district's real estate consultant, Charles DeBruiler and village trustee William Hein, that showed several areas of vacant land that may be used for the hospital. The areas shown by DeBruiler are sites definitely available for purchase, while Hein's map just showed vacant land in Wheeling.

3-4-74  
"As far as I'm concerned, we are really not in contention with anybody."

DAVIS SAID HE was unaware of anyone else wanting the Childerley site until a Herald reporter contacted him last week and asked about the situation. Davis then added that the only reason is because it was offered to the hospital by village officials when the hospital was invited to Wheeling.

"We are not bound in any way to any specific plot of land," said Davis. "There is also no guarantee in the world that the Buffalo Grove-Wheeling area is going to get a hospital. We're willing to bring a satellite hospital here."

Davis also said that the main problem

(Continued on Page 5)

With an expression of hope that the hospital can find another tract on which to build, the official meeting ended with five village trustees, hospital representatives, DeBruiler and a few park board members going into another room to discuss the sites.

When approached by The Herald, Village Pres. Ted Scanlon said the officials did not want to discuss the sites in public for fear that newspaper articles about the locations would raise the price of land in those areas.

Scanlon also said one of the most important things concerning the hospital is to "keep it in Wheeling."

When asked about the park designation vote tonight, Scanlon and several of the trustees said they will view it with an open mind. They said the 3-3 vote by the plan commission will not be considered as a recommendation or negative vote, as plan commissioners noted at the end of their discussion on the matter several weeks ago.

The trustees also said that they would like to see both the park district and the hospital satisfied in this case. Several added, however, that if it came down to picking between one or the other, it would be a tough decision.

Tonight's board meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Rd.

## Hospital a 2-town project: officials

Franklin Boulevard Hospital officials "definitely" consider their proposed satellite facility a Buffalo Grove and Wheeling venture, despite never consulting Buffalo Grove village officials or surveying its residents.

Those were the feelings of Norman Davis, a consultant for the hospital. He said of a special meeting in Wheeling last week that the hospital officials consider Buffalo Grove and Wheeling "like the twin cities."

When asked why the people of Buffalo Grove were never surveyed, Davis said the survey of Wheeling residents' needs was sufficient enough.

"When you have two villages so much alike there is no need to survey both of them. Besides that the survey that was conducted was done by the Village of Wheeling."

DAVIS ADDED that all considerations and projections being made by the hospi-

(Continued on Page 5)

## Hospital a 2-town project: officials

(Continued from Page 1)

tal, however, involve both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

"When we look at the population of the area, for instance, we look at both villages and then determine our needs," he said.

Hospital officials also said that Buffalo Grove was a primary reason for wanting a site in the northwest portion of Wheeling. They said this way the accessibility from Buffalo Grove and other Lake County communities would be easy.

Officials said, however, that at no time

have they considered moving the hospital site to Buffalo Grove, since it was Wheeling officials who approached Franklin Boulevard.

Officials also pointed out that the local board of directors will have three Buffalo Grove residents, as well as four from Wheeling.

Currently, a majority of hospital cases in Buffalo Grove are handled by Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights and Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines.

## Childerley property to be earmarked for park site

The Childerley Retreat House property, 506 McHenry Rd., will be designated as a park site on the official Wheeling village map.

Board members voted without any discussion to approve the designation, which gives the park district one year to purchase the property after development plans are approved.

The unanimous vote was the result of more than a week-and-a-half of work by park board members to prevent the sale of the 12-acre site to the Franklin Boule-

vard Community Hospital of Chicago.

THE HOSPITAL had proposed building a satellite facility on the Childerley property that would serve Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. But at a meeting last week hospital representatives said they would consider alternate sites.

Previously, the plan commission had failed to approve the park designation, saying it would be a stumbling block to plans for the hospital.

Several trustees said they voted for the park designation because the hospital

was not bound to the Childerley property.

"The hospital people were in complete agreement with moving to another site," said Trustee Ed Berger. "They were not committed to the Childerley property."

Trustee Ron Bruhn said he decided in favor of the park designation after visiting the Childerley property with Trustee Al Lang.

"The thing that made up my mind was the walk around the property last week," Bruhn said. "We saw a spot of years ago still within the friendly confines of

Wheeling. It was something that definitely should be saved."

A LARGE NUMBER of residents also turned out to speak in favor of saving the Childerley site for park development.

The park district is now negotiating with the Calvert Foundation for the 10 acres of orchards and meadowland, which is proposed as an outdoor education center. The historical buildings on the property will be preserved if the park district purchases the site, park board members said.



# Federal monies expected soon for retreat site

A federal grant to purchase the Childerly Retreat House property is expected to get final approval this month, David Phillips, Wheeling Park District superintendent, said Thursday.

Phillips said the park district has received approval of a \$117,225 grant but the state officials asked for an updating on appraisals of the property.

"It's only a matter of updating the appraisal. I hope to have the information to the state by next week. They told me it will receive immediate action because of the delay," Phillips said.

Lorraine Lark, park commissioner, said she can't understand "why this is taking so long."

"WE'VE BEEN ROLLING on this thing for two years if not longer.

Somewhere along the line, we've got to get moving," she said.

Mrs. Lark said a recent tour of the property showed "the buildings are really going to rot because no one is taking care of them." She said 45 people on the tour want "to take an active part in bringing Childerly back."

The U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation earlier this year approved a grant to the park district to allow purchase of the property at 506 McHenry Rd. The \$117,225 grant is part of a matching funds program in which the federal government provides half the purchase cost.

**THE OWNERS OF** the Childerly property last year, after lengthy negotiations, agreed to sell the site to the park district for \$250,000. Park officials plan to develop the site as an out-of-door education center, including a summer day camp, a community meeting place and possibly a community zoo.

Park officials also are considering restoration of historical buildings on the site as a community historical center. The property includes several old houses and two chapels.

A Wheeling-Buffalo Grove Dist. 21 science consultant has proposed a plan to develop the property as a nature center, including meeting rooms, permanent exhibits, a library, an herbarium and craft rooms.

In other action, the board postponed action on the proposed 1976-77 budget until the July 15 board meeting.

Nov 1978



Herald photo



More than 60 dolls were entered in the Wheeling Park District doll contest, and all of the 27 boys and girls who participated went home winners. Ribbons were awarded Friday in 10 categories, including prettiest, scariest, most loved and homemade. Park officials Jan Schwass Bob Veness and Linda Peterson (left to right) judge the entries.

# Parks' Blank to be remembered

by JIM DAVIS

He was an original.

When a handful of Wheeling residents decided in 1961 to form their own park district, William Blank was there to offer his services.

And he stayed there for 18 years, serving as the only treasurer the Wheeling Park District had ever known until he died of a heart attack earlier this week.

Blank will be remembered as a man who could have served in a position with more glamour and prestige, but chose to remain in the background. He devoted his time to an obscure but essential position with the park district, his friends and co-workers say.

Although his responsibilities for financial affairs increased as the park district blossomed from its modest beginnings to a district with a \$2.8 million budget, Blank repeatedly turned down efforts of park commissioners to raise his pay from \$50 per week, Park Comr. Loraine Lark said.

"THAT MAN gave hours and hours of his time in making the park board the viable force it is today," she said. "Every time we talked about increasing his stipend, he'd say, 'I enjoy what I'm doing.'"

Park Director David Phillips recalled that he and Blank once had joked about Blank's hourly wage. "It was

about 12 cents," Phillips said. "Bill's efforts were really a labor of love."

Mrs. Lark said Blank had the knowledge and savvy to serve as a park board member or even run the park district. He once was approached about serving as village treasurer. But friends and neighbors say he preferred to remain in the background.

"He always shied away from politics," said Wedgewood Hancock, a neighbor of Blank's for 23 years. "He'd say, 'I'm doing a greater service where I am.' He was a very quiet and easy-going person."

ANOTHER NEIGHBOR, Roberta Krause, recalled that she and other

friends had just celebrated Blank's 57th birthday.

"When you were with him, you just felt good," she said. "He was the kind of man that never had anything bad to say about anybody."

Village Trustee Robert Ross, a former park board member who knew Blank for 12 years, said he was "just one hell of a nice guy. It's going to be a long time before he's replaced."

A memorial fund for Blank is being established by the park board in Blank's name. The proceeds will be used to plant trees in the village.

Blank, Mrs. Lark said, probably would have liked that.

# Lorraine Lark — woman of valor — dies at age 48

WHY IS IT we always seem to wait to tell people what we think of them until it is too late for them to know?

I met Lorraine Lark about six years ago when I first began covering the community of Wheeling for *The LIFE*. It seemed every place I went,

She was a village employee for 15 years; she was instrumental in seeing that Wheeling ran a home rule referendum, which was successful; she was on the recall committee which worked to see that Wheeling became the first community in Illinois to pass an ordinance providing for recall of its offi-



## In the midst

BY JOANNE KANTER

there was Lorraine. I began to realize she was someone special.

I asked her if I could interview her and she tried to steer me away from the topic of her work in the community. She was a park board member for 13 years, eight of them as president of the board. During that time she worked for land acquisition and the park district successfully acquired Chevy Chase, Childerly Park and some other smaller properties.

She also worked diligently in getting the village and the Metropolitan Sanitary District to live up to their responsibilities in redoing the Heritage Park retention basin so it works and provides the recreational facility it was originally designed to do.

**NAME AN ACTIVITY** that was good for the community and Lorraine was probably in on it.

cial; she was active at the high school in the instrumental league.

There is only one public endeavor in which Lorraine was unsuccessful to my knowledge in the years I have known her. She tried to form a League of Women Voters in the community. I even tried to help her, putting her in touch with someone I know who is active in the state LWV. But there wasn't enough interest. Lorraine felt the League could provide the kind of non-partisan watchdog interest in politics that Wheeling needed. It was the only time I saw her fail and she was philosophical about it, realizing that women in Wheeling may not have the time to devote to such activities because so many of them worked outside the home before it became fashionable to do so.

**I KNOW** Lorraine's family will miss her, as will her friends. She was



LORRAINE LARK

only 48 — too young to die. But her life was so well lived. It was so meaningful and she was such a moving force, she will be long remembered in Wheeling. This doesn't ease the pain right now, but in time her family will realize that Lorraine changed the course of things in Wheeling — for the best. Because she was one of the best.

I will miss her.

# An uncommon woman

9/19/80  
The family and countless friends of Loraine Lark have our heartfelt sympathy. They have lost a woman of rare commitment and uncommon devotion to her community, a woman who unhesitatingly volunteered when few others would. Wheeling will always be the better for her involvement in civic affairs.

Mrs. Lark, who died Wednesday at 48, served on the Wheeling Park Board during its most significant growth. First elected in 1967, she served eight years as its president and was re-elected to a third term on the board last year. Under her

tutelage, the Wheeling Park District acquired and began renovating the Chevy Chase golf course and clubhouse while continuing a vigorous program of recreation and park service throughout the district — a program which has won national recognition.

But Mrs. Lark didn't confine herself to park activities. She assumed the chairmanship of a special committee to establish more accountability in village hall, the result of which was enactment of the first official-recall ordinance in Illinois. She also headed a special panel to explore the prospect

of declaring home rule, and the village board followed the committee's recommendations.

On top of all this, Mrs. Lark still found time to devote to the village historical society, to school activities and to church organizations. Because of her and others like her, residents of a home for the aged were remembered at Christmas, and kids who might otherwise have been overlooked received toys and lollipops from Santa.

People like Loraine Lark do not come along often. How sad it is that she left so early.

## Lorraine Lark dies

# Friend is gone

9/25/80  
ONE OF WHEELING'S unique ladies is gone.

Lorraine Lark, 48, who dedicated much of her life to the village of Wheeling, died Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Chicago's Columbus Hospital.

"One of the things that comes to my mind right of way," says Dave Phillips, director of the Wheeling Park District, "is the way she loved Wheeling. She not only worked for the village but defended it as well."

Lark served as a member of the Wheeling Park District's Board of Commissioners and served as its president.

Her activities, however, were not limited there.

"WHEELING LOST its best friend when it lost Lorraine," says Alberta Klocke, "and I lost mine." Klocke, Wheeling Village Clerk, served with Lark on several activities, including working with residents at Addolorata Villa. "This woman knew more about this town than any ten people I know," Klocke adds.

Village President Bill Hein said Lark was the kind of person that "if anything had to be done, she would be the first one to start getting it done. She was a very civic-minded woman.

"She did a lot of things for people that were never in the papers," Hein says. "She was quite a remarkable woman."

She is survived by her husband, Don; two sons, David and Scott; a granddaughter, Amanda; her mother, Elanor Swieczowski and three sisters; Elaine Hintz, Geraldine Mann and Joan Jones.

"SHE ALWAYS thought about the people of Wheeling," says Klocke. "She wanted to make Wheeling a better place to live. And that's just what she did."

Funeral services were held at St. Joseph the Worker Church on Saturday, Sept. 20. In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorials be made to either the Wheeling Park District, Wheeling Fire Department paramedics or the Choral League at Wheeling High School.

For more on Lark's life and dedication to the village, see page four.

# Activist Lark dead at 48

by Jim Davis

Herald staff writer

Lorraine Lark, one of Wheeling's most prominent community leaders, died Wednesday after a month-long illness.

An autopsy will be conducted to determine the exact cause of death, but Mrs. Lark, 48, was undergoing treatment at Columbus Hospital, Chicago, to discover the source of an ailment that was causing liver and kidney failure.

She had served on the Wheeling Park Board since 1967, eight of those years as president. Mrs. Lark also spent 15 years at village hall, starting as a clerk. She was the village's purchasing and payroll officer at the time of her death.

But beyond her official involvement in village affairs, her friends say, was

a deep concern for other people and a willingness to pitch in and help.

MRS. LARK'S community involvement ranged from serving on numerous school and church organizations, the village historical society to organizing Wheeling's "Lollipop Lane," in which she and other volunteers saw that there were free toys and lollipops for children at Christmas as well as presents for the residents at Addolorata Villa, a home for the aged.

"I think what she did came from a love of Wheeling," said Park Director David Phillips. "She came to the defense of the good name of Wheeling and its citizens countless times."

Mrs. Lark chaired a special citizens committee formed when the village wanted to become a home-rule community. That committee recommended, and the village board adopted,



Lorraine Lark

measures limiting the broader taxing powers that accompanies home-rule powers when the proposal was approved by the voters in 1977.

When Wheeling was embroiled in political turmoil after the firing of for-

mer Village Mgr. Terry Zerkle, and some citizens were clamoring for greater accountability of their elected officials, Mrs. Lark headed another special committee to study the issue.

THE RESULT was a recall ordinance, the first one in Illinois, giving voters the power to remove public officials from office.

Services for Mrs. Lark will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Wheeling. Visitation will be from 4 to 9:30 p.m. Friday at Kolssak of Wheeling Funeral Home, Wheeling.

She is survived by her husband, Donald; sons, David and Scott; daughter-in-law, May; sisters, Geraldine Mann, Elaine Hintz and Joan Jones; and her mother, Eleanor Swieczkowski. Memorials may be made to the Wheeling Park District, Wheeling paramedics or Wheeling High School Choral League.



IN HONOR OF THE MEMORY OF Lorraine Lark, the Childerley Park Chapel is being renamed the Lorraine Lark Chapel of the Orchard. (Photos by Jerrold Turner)



FRANK SCHNAITMANN in his painstaking task



ENTRANCE TO THE chapel as workmen are busy inside.



LETTERS ARE painted in in preparation for





A sense of tranquility and history permeates the Childerly House grounds

## WHEELING

# Park officials map fall tax referendum

7/18/85  
by Maribeth Vander Weele

Herald staff writer

The Wheeling Park District tonight is expected to take a key step toward establishing a fall tax referendum.

The board will complete appointments to a citizens advisory committee to research what new parks and buildings are needed, what projects are most important and how much money to ask for from voters.

"This work is extremely important to identify and place those most important capital needs (land and buildings) before the voters," said Park

Director David F. Phillips.

The committee of 20 Wheeling residents is being formed three years after voters defeated by a five to three margin the district's last request for more tax money.

In 1982, the district asked for a property tax increase from 45 to 70 cents per \$100 assessed valuation to buy, among other things, seven acres of land in both the northeast and east sections of town and construct a new outdoor pool.

Those requests came after an 18-member committee spent more than 700 manhours assembling a package

for voters, Phillips said.

The downfall of the last referendum came in its timing and its size, Phillips said.

"The local, state and national economy at that time were certainly a factor," Phillips said. "Potentially the size of the package was a factor."

Phillips speculated it was voted down also because voters knew they would be paying higher taxes for Lake Michigan water instead of well water in village water supplies.

So far members of the committee called the Capital Needs Reassess-

ment Advisory Committee include Pat Lavelta Corrado, Barbara Dittman, Christine Dolgopol, Lillian Stiller, Ruth Wieder, Marge Hartman, Alice Wargo and Sonia Edelman. These volunteers were recruited by board members.

Board members are expected to bring further appointments at their regular meeting tonight. The park board meets at 7 p.m. for its workshop session and at 8:30 p.m. for its regular board meeting at Chevy Chase Club House, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling.

# LIFE in Wheeling

9-20-84

## Family gives \$500 to chapel garden

THE FAMILY of the late Edna Wilkins recently donated \$500 to the Wheeling Park District for a memorial in her honor.

Mrs. Wilkins' husband, Hugh, and her youngest sister, Barbara Frillman, made the presentation to John Piazza at the Park District. The money is to be used for restoration of a garden adjacent to the Lorraine Lark Chapel library at Childerly.

"She (Edna) loved it so much here," said Mr. Wilkins.

The chapel was built by Mrs. Francis Crane Lillie, who owned the Crane Farm and headed the Crane Foundation for widows and orphans.

Mrs. Wilkins spent part of her childhood at the farm, which was later purchased by the Park District and turned into Childerly Park. Childerly is located at 506 McHenry Road.

Mrs. Lillie opened the farm to help families who lost their breadwinner during the Depression, stay together. During the Edna Ragusin, a young widow with nine children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 12 years, came to the farm.

Edna, her daughter who later became Mrs. Wilkins, was the oldest of the girls. Mrs. Wilkins wrote in her memoirs, "My first impression of the farm was one of despair," because "adapted to city life, I had little desire for the quiet of the country." However, she soon changed her mind, and as her memoirs state, life at Childerly was anything but quiet for Edna and her brothers and sisters and childhood friends.



June  
Stewart

Afterward, in her memoirs, Mrs. Wilkins wrote, "It was a lovely place, and I spent my happiest years there."

Life at Childerly, the farm, was anything but quiet, according to Mrs. Wilkins' writings.

In addition to the planned activities of the farm, Edna and her friends managed to think up plenty of mischievous activities, such as taking baskets of fruit to a nearby stand to trade for candy bars and soda pop.

Her recollections of "the farm" bring back childhood memories for anyone who has ever enjoyed the fragrance of lillies of the valley in the summer, or trudged through the snow or tobogganed in winter.

A partial copy of the memoirs is at the Wheeling Historical Museum for anyone who would care to see them. Contact Al Fantl, at 537-3119.

\* \* \*

THE WHEELING Park District

# Park district awarded \$228,000 state grant

By MARK MALEY

4/10/86

How do you buy six acres of prime property worth nearly \$500,000 and pay just \$7,000 for the land?

Ask the Wheeling Park District.

Thanks to a hefty contribution from an Arlington Heights developer and a state grant, the park district is about to purchase a parcel on the east side of Wheeling for next to nothing.

The district found out last week that it's been awarded a \$228,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Conservation to apply toward the purchase of open space in the Arlington Club development — a project now under construction near Dundee and Buffalo Grove roads.

**IN ADDITION TO** the state money — which is part of Gov. James Thompson's Build Illinois program — the district is also the beneficiary of a \$221,000 contribution from the developer of Arlington Club, Lexington Homes.

The state grant plus the money from Lexington will just about cover the cost of the six-acre parcel, located on the west edge of Arlington Club, near Sarasota Drive. Once state money is released, the district only have to pay about \$7,000 for the property, which is valued at \$456,000.

Had the state funding not been approved, Lexington would have built some multi-family housing on the site. Instead, Lexington and the park district have started negotiating for the land.

"We're extremely pleased that we'll be acquiring this park land," said Dave Phillips, park district manager. "It's exciting to be able to add that much open land in an area that otherwise would have been developed."

**NOW THAT THE** state grant has been awarded, the district must get two appraisals of the property and turn them over to the department of conservation. The park district has until the end of the year to acquire the land.

Although the park district now has the money to buy the site, Phillips said no funds have been set aside to develop the park. The district is eyeing a proposal to put a playground, a picnic area, a baseball diamond, a soccer field and a multipurpose court on the park — improvements that will cost an estimated \$67,000, Phillips said.

The district's Capital Needs Reassessment Advisory Committee is looking at possible development of this park as part of its overall study of the park district's needs, Phillips said. And the committee will soon come up with recommendations on what district-wide improvements should be made, he said.

# Park board hedges on early start for officer

4/3/86

While Wheeling Park District staff is hoping to start the park community service officer program earlier this year, chances are it will begin at the usual time.

The park district has an intergovernmental agreement with the Wheeling Police Department for a park community service officer who acts as a visual deterrent to crime in the parks and also helps direct the activities of children in the park.

"It gives people a feeling of security in the parks," said Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger.

The park district pays the largest portion of the officer's salary, however, the police department is responsible for recruiting and supervising the individual.

**PARK DISTRICT STAFF** had proposed that the program be expanded to April through November rather than just during the three summer months. Plus, staff requested that the park district purchase a vehicle for the park officer.

But park commissioners refused to act on the recommendation. When the issue came up before the park board last month commissioners voted "present" — a move which in effect killed the recommendation

to start the program early.

Meanwhile, the police department will begin interviewing applicants for the position in about two weeks, Haeger said.

Because park community service officers are college students, the program probably would not have been able to start earlier even if the park board went along with the staff's recommendation because the students aren't out of school until the summer, Haeger said.

**APPLICANTS ARE USUALLY** studying subjects related to parks and administration or law enforcement, and students who speak Spanish are preferred, he said.

As for a vehicle, Haeger said his department asked that the park district provide a vehicle for the park community service officer this year because two regular community service officers are working at once during the summer and there are only two cars designated for those officers, Haeger said.

Park District Manager Dave Phillips said the staff plans on asking the park board for more details as to what kind of vehicle it wants to purchase for the park community service officer.

April 10, 1986

Cotton tri-color pants set  
50% cotton, 50% polyester. Elastic waist and  
roll up sleeve.  
Colors: Wisteria, orchid and white, or khaki,  
peach and white.  
Price: \$74.00

## Park district to vote tonight on architect for recreation center study

4/17/86

Wheeling Park District commissioners will decide tonight who they want to study a site for a community recreation center.

The district's Capital Needs Reassessment Committee is recommending to the park board that the architect firm of Unteed, Scaggs, Nelson Ltd., of Elgin be hired for \$6,100 to conduct a feasibility study of Hawthorne School becoming a center site.

Hawthorne closed about five years ago after enrollment dropped in District 21.

The park board is considering buying Hawthorne School from District 21, and Park District Manager Dave Phillips said based on the condition of the building, the board will be in a better position to discuss possible purchase.

Commissioners narrowed the field of possible architects from four to two — Unteed and James L. Ohle of Chicago —

and asked the 15-member citizens' advisory committee to make a recommendation.

Both companies are qualified, but Unteed appeared to be more of a "we will" organization while Ohle seemed to be saying "we can," said Ed Main, committee chairman.

Ohle had submitted a bid of \$6,000 to \$8,000 and made a verbal presentation to the committee while Unteed had a written presentation and a \$6,100 bid. Main said.

The committee has asked that it work with architect in identifying renovation work or new construction that may be needed or desirable in the 31,000-square-foot school. Development of a community recreation center plan with estimated costs will also be required of the architect, according to the committee's plans.

## Parks seek OK for center from panel

by Fran Guziel and Evelyn Dorman

4/14/86

Herald staff writers

Before choosing an architect to determine whether Hawthorne School in Wheeling is suitable for a community center, Wheeling Park District commissioners want to make sure they have the OK from their citizens advisory committee.

Park commissioners, who Thursday interviewed architects, are now expected to hire a firm only after members of its Capital Needs Reassessment Committee talk with the architects.

An architect is needed to provide a feasibility study for the possible purchase of the former Hawthorne

School, 200 Glendale Ave. The advisory committee is recommending that the park board launch a November tax referendum to buy the school for a community center.

Four architectural firms the park board interviewed recently said they would charge between \$6,000 and \$18,600 to conduct the study. Park officials said they thought that two of those firms — Unteed, Scaggs, Nelson LTD. of Elgin and James Ohle and Associates of Chicago, who offered their services for \$6,100 and \$6,000 to \$8,000 respectively — were more reasonable.

THE OTHER firms were Cody Braun and Associates of Lisle for \$9,900 and Orville I. Kurts and Asso-

ciates of Des Plaines for \$18,650.

Commissioner Julia D. Robberson said she was not sure the board was following the right procedure by hiring an architect without a recommendation from the advisory committee.

But another commissioner wanted the board to act and was dismayed that advisory committee members had not attended the interviews. "I would like to see us go ahead and say this is it," Commissioner Donald P. Lark said. "I'm very disturbed they're not here."

Only one advisory member, Ruth Wieder, had attended the meeting, but originally as a spectator. "You can't proceed without some professional direction. How can you go before the community with a referen-

dum without backing it up?" she asked.

THE ADVISORY committee is scheduled to meet with the architects at its regular meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Devonshire Room of Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Once selected, the architect would study whether the school could be converted into a community center. The advisory committee is proposing raising the tax rate 25 percent — or 12 cents — per \$100 assessed valuation to buy and refurbish the school at a cost of \$1 million.

That could mean the owner of a \$60,000 house could pay \$11.52 more in taxes to the park district.

# Resignation an end of era

4/24/82

## Parks director cites only personal decision

by Evelyn Dorman

Herald staff writer

To his friends and even some of his critics, David F. Phillips was beyond reproach when it came to assessing his dedication to the Wheeling Park District.

But amid the shock and surprise of his sudden resignation Sunday, those closely involved with the park district are beginning to wonder whether Phillips was forced out by park commissioners or whether he left after 14 years to save face.

In the past, Phillips seemed to weather the controversy and criticism over park district methods.

For example, last year it was discovered that he had used an in-house compensation system to grant park discounts to "friends of the park," and that the park district had not performed maintenance on its district vehicles. Nor had the district's Neptune's Pool been maintained, and some park employees had forfeited weeks of vacation and put in hundreds of hours of uncompensated overtime.

AT THAT time, it was reported that the park board was working on those problems.

This year, park commissioners have called for an auditor to scrutinize the 1986 preliminary budget, and were holding up a pay raise for Phillips, who was paid \$44,107 annually, pending a review of his performance.

Insiders now are speculating that Phillips' resignation may have to do with a recent outburst by district employees threatening to unionize and strike if they did not receive raises.

Although the board earlier this month approved granting merit raises of 4, 5 and 4 percent over the next three years, those employees last week charged they were promised 8-percent raises by January 1986.

Phillips, 37, may have been an unwitting scapegoat by being blamed for causing the mix-up, sources say.

The resignation of 19-year employee Pat Hancock, Phillips' secretary, a day after his departure added more confusion to the situation. Her explanation for her quitting was: "Now is the time to change. He (Phillips) left. I don't know why except he said it was personal. I can't break in another superintendent."

PARK DISTRICT commissioners and Phillips have consistently refused to disclose what brought about Phillips' resignation or what created such an emergency that they called a closed meeting on a Sunday.

"There were things occurring that could not wait. It was an emergency meeting," Park Board President Anthony Abruscato said. In the end, there was a unanimous decision to accept Phillips' resignation, he said.

"Right now we're trying to keep the place going," Abruscato said. "I don't see this as a time for factions. It's a time to work together and pull together and move forward instead of dwelling on the past decision. We need to get things rolling and get a new parks director."

Phillips' only comment has been that his resignation was "a personal decision" and that he was "just going to take it easy and reassess my career direction. I wish the district and the community well."

Even though some in the community directed criticism about the park district Phillips' way, they say they never questioned his dedication to the park district, which some termed "his baby."

"IT WAS a shock to us," said Frank J. Schnaitmann, president of the Wheeling Historical Society and a former park commissioner. "You'd always try to get hold of Dave and he



It was "a personal decision" to resign. "I'm just going to take it easy and reassess my career direction."

— Former Park Director David F. Phillips



"I hope the commissioners find a replacement with as good a character and concern for the park."

— Citizens advisory committee Chairman Edward R. Main

was always at Chevy Chase (Clubhouse)."

Schnaitmann's wife, Lonnie, agreed. "You could always get mad at him and rant and rave, but he would always sit down and listen to you. I just can't believe it (his resignation)."

Said Edward H. Main recently, "I found him open and above board; yes, even in areas where we disagreed. I hope the commissioners find a replacement with as good a character and concern for the park."

Phillips began his tenure with the park district in 1972, first as director of recreation.



## Puppy love

Toni Mueller is all smiles as she proudly holds her dog Bandit at a kids' dog show sponsored by the Wheeling Park District. Toni entered Bandit — who had a broken leg — in the best costume competition. Turn to page 15 for more photos. *(Staff photo by Daniel White)*

5/1/86

# NORTHWEST WHEELING

June 1986



## A guide to recreation in Wheeling

### Adult open gym

Heritage Park offers open gym to all residents at 222 S. Wolf Road, Wheeling. Call the Wheeling Park District at 537-2222.

9-4 p.m. Saturday

Cost: \$1

### Garden Plots

The Wheeling Park District provides 250 garden plot sites for personal gardening purposes. Garden plots are located on the west side of Wheeling Road just south of Dundee Road. Plots are assigned on a permanent basis, with annual registration taken to confirm plot assignments. Call the park district at 537-2222.

Flexible hours

Cost: Free

### Men Only

Men 55-years-old and older can join this "men's only" group for programming and trips of special interest to men including a special breakfast. Pavillion Senior Center, 199 N. First St., Wheeling. Call the Pavillion Senior Center at 459-2670.

First & third Fridays of the month Cost: Free

### Stamp Collecting

The Senior Pavillion offers a club for stamp collectors. The program teaches about the history of different countries through collecting at the center, 199 N. First St., Wheeling. Meeting times are tentative, so call 459-2670.

10:30 a.m. Wednesdays

Cost: Free

### Ballroom Dancing

Dancing is open to the music of the big bands at the Chevy Chase Country Club. Wednesday evenings and the last Friday of the month, 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling. Cash bar. Singles are welcome. Call 537-0082.

8:30-11:30 p.m. Wednesdays

8:30-11:30 p.m. last Friday of month

Cost: \$5.75

### Open recreation

Lattot YMCA, 300 E. Northwest Hwy., Des Plaines, offers open swim and men's basketball, a running track and use of exercise equipment with the purchase of a daily guest pass. Call 296-3376.

6:30 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

Cost: \$5 adults, \$3 children



# Citizens say more seats needed on park board

By C.L. WALLER

There could be three commissioners elected to the Wheeling park board next spring instead of one if the park district's citizens advisory committee has its way.

The district's Capital Needs Reassessment Advisory Committee is recommending to the park board that it increase from five to seven members.

Commissioner Jim Gallagher's term will be open in the April, 1987 election. Adding two more seats to the board would mean voters would elect three commissioners in the spring race.

The park board has been made up of five members for the past 25 years. But the members of the park district advisory group say are not enough for continued growth of the district or even present size of the district. "The number of people and the land it controls has increased," said Greg Klatecki, chairman of the citizens' committee.

**THE ISSUE OF** more members is important at this time. Klatecki said, "Bringing it up now gives them (board members) ample time to decide before the election."

The committee members also say the five board members are spread too thin and two more people would help share the load.

The Capital Needs Reassessment Advisory Committee was appointed by the park board and is charged with reviewing the park district's facility needs. The committee is also expected to come up with a recommendation on whether the district should seek a property tax hike referendum to purchase additional facilities for the district.

Klatecki, who also serves on Wheeling's seven-member zoning board of appeals, said almost every village committee has seven members.

Occasionally park board members are not able to make meetings and with two extra members, it's likely that more members will be in attendance, he said.

**THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL** also

6/12/86

calls for commissioners' terms to be shortened from six to four years.

Six years is too long for one person to obligate himself as shown historically by the number of board resignations and unfulfilled terms, according to the committee. Many park board members have left office either because of job changes or illness, Klatecki said.

Other reasons the committee gave for shorter terms include: new blood being important for rapid growth, changing times and the need for a progressive attitude; more qualified people might be interested in being park board members if the terms were shorter; and there is a continuity and stability in staggered terms and re-election.

Klatecki said four of the five members present at last week's park board meeting said they were in favor of the proposal.

**KLATECKI SAID THE** changes would not affect present board members. "They got elected to a six-year term and let them finish it," he said.

As a possible candidate next spring, commissioner Gallagher said he would prefer a shorter term in office. "Six years is a long time," he said.

Gallagher also said he is in favor of more members on the board. "Right now, if the board comes up with any committees, we feel like we all have to be there," he said.

Commissioner Ed Klocke said he had no opinion regarding a seven-member board, but he did say he was in favor of shorter terms. Klocke is in his second term and eighth year on the board.

Board President Tony Abruscato declined to comment on the committee's proposal, saying he hadn't had enough time to study the recommendations.

Klocke said the park board will discuss the committee's proposal in September.

Gallagher said the state code governing park districts allows park boards to increase in size or shorten terms either by passing a resolution or presenting the question in a referendum to district voters. He said if the board did make the change they would probably do so by passing a resolution, not conducting a referendum.

6/12/86

## *Community center in park district's future?*

Whether Hawthorne School should be converted into a community center and how Wheeling parks should be improved will be the focus tonight when the Wheeling Park District's citizens advisory committee meets.

The Capital Needs Reassessment Advisory Committee hopes to deliver its recommendations to park commissioners next month.

The committee's decision to recommend the park board buy Hawthorne School, 200 Glendale Ave., hinges on how much Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 is selling it for.

AND EVEN though an architect has deemed the school in good condition for such a conversion, committee members said they did not know if it would be feasible to purchase the school when other areas of the park district need improvements.

The committee meets at 7 p.m. in the Devonshire room of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Besides ruling on Hawthorne School, the committee hopes to wrap

up its decisions on what improvements should be made to the district's parks.

The committee is considering making play areas safer by installing new equipment. Committee members want to make sure play equipment meets national safety standards because of the liability insurance crisis that has made many public bodies across the country scramble for coverage.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS also have expressed interest in making improvements to the Chamber of Commerce Park Church, which could include restoring its pews and upgrading siding, windows, roofing and gutters and making it accessible to the handicapped.

It could cost roughly \$276,000 to replace and upgrade playground equipment and \$1.3 million to convert Hawthorne School. Committee members have yet to decide whether they would recommend the work be phased in to future spending plans or whether to propose launching a tax referendum to foot the bill.

## Park officials contract for big

Removal of asbestos from four facilities in the Wheeling Park District will get underway in September, following awarding of a contract to an asbestos removal company last week.

A \$258,000 bid from Asbestos Control, Inc., was approved by park board members last week.

St. Joan's House at Childerley Park, Heritage Recreation Center at Heritage Park, Neptune's Pool at Wheeling High School and Chevy Chase Clubhouse at the Chevy Chase golf course and club will each have asbestos removed within six weeks of the time work begins.

A \$31,500 bid was also approved for Air Quality Testing to provide asbestos management services while the asbestos is being removed.

Air Quality's duties include approving the contractor's work plans and programs, daily air sampling to insure no asbestos releases to the outside or other building areas, approval of work site containments, overseeing all regulatory document filings and provide a full written report of how the project was carried out.

## award \$258,000 asbestos project

Air Quality was previously hired by the park board at a fee of \$8,500 to conduct Phase 2 of the project, which included drawing up plans and specifications for bidding contractors.

The total project cost is expected to be \$298,400 and park staff members are looking into obtaining a three-year loan to pay for the asbestos removal.

Based on the total project cost, the park district is looking at an installment contract of \$93,635 per year. Principal and interest will be repaid from the tort immunity fund which has a tax rate budgeted at 4.65 cents per \$100 assessed valuation for this year.

Acting Park District Manager John Muno said obtaining a loan and repaying it over a three-year period will mean the tax rate stays about the same. Next year, the tax rate for tort immunity is projected at 4.56 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, he said.

Paying for the entire amount all at once would mean risking an increase in the tax rate, Muno said.

Thursday, June 12, 1986

Thursday, June 12, 1986

# Voters' support key to park district progress

By MARK MALEY

When the Wheeling Park District has needed the support of the community for new parks and facilities, residents have come through with flying colors.

In the district's 25-year history, park officials have asked voters to approve property tax referenda six times to either buy or improve parks and facilities. Five of the six tax questions were OK'd by voters.

In fact, Heritage Park, Chevy Chase golf course and clubhouse, and Neptune's Indoor Pool are all part of the Wheeling park system because voters gave the go-ahead to park district tax proposals.

When the newly-created park district wanted to purchase a 66-acre parcel of land near Dundee and Hintz roads for its first real park, Heritage Park, residents approved a property tax referendum that enabled the district to buy the land.

**IN 1967, WHEN** the district wanted to begin levying property taxes for recreation programs for the first time, voters again said "yes."

Two years later, the park district asked voters to OK an \$850,000 bond issue that provided funds to build an indoor pool at Wheeling High School, and to purchase and renovate the old Wheeling Community Pool at Chamber Park, which closed in 1979.

That referendum, which was approved in June, 1969, added about \$12 a year to the property tax bill of the average Wheeling homeowner.

In 1972, voters approved a \$700,000 tax referendum that funded major improvements to Heritage Park, Chamber Park and seven District 21 school sites. That money and a \$500,000 federal grant were also used to purchase a 10-acre site

on Schoenbeck Road that became Horizon Park.

**PARK OFFICIALS ASKED** voters to approve the referendum to preserve open space. The new parks would serve as a hedge against future development, they said.

"We have a responsibility to our families and our community to provide open space lands while it still exists," former park board president Lorraine E. Lark said in a letter to residents prior to the December, 1972 vote. "The time to act is now. Our parks and recreational facilities can be our community's greatest asset."

Residents apparently agreed with Lark, as the referendum passed and the park sites were acquired and developed. The \$700,000 bond issue added about \$7 annually to a resident with a home assessed at \$10,000.

While that referendum played an important role in the park district's growth, it paled by comparison to the \$3.7 million tax vote that took place five years later. That referendum, which was the largest in Illinois at the time, provided the money to purchase and develop Chevy Chase and Childerley Park.

**EVEN THOUGH RESIDENTS** had approved four previous referenda, park officials at the time were unsure if they would have the same luck this time around, said Frank Schnaitmann, who was on the park board at the time.

"Any time you go through a referendum you are hoping that it will pass, but you don't know what the outcome will be," said Schnaitmann, a park commissioner from 1975 to 1981. "This was a big referendum, which we were very pleased was passed."

As was the case with the previous



Former park commissioner Arthur Aronson moves a shovel full of dirt during groundbreaking ceremonies at Heritage Park in 1964. The 66-acre park, the district's first, was purchased after voter's approved the first of five property tax referenda. (Park district photos)

referendum, park officials urged voters to approve the tax hike to preserve open space. Had the park district not acquired the 128-acre Chevy Chase property, the land may have been sold for a multi-family development.

"The retention of open space for our children and our children's children is of utmost importance for the continued balanced growth of our community," a park board statement said just prior to the

(Continued on page 17)

# DID YOU KNOW?

## 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.
- December, 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.
- November, 1969— Community Outdoor Pool purchased from Wheeling Community Pool Committee.
- June, 1970— Purchase of Northside Park.
- December, 1972— Successful referendum to purchase Horizon Park and further develop park and school sites.
- March, 1977— Successful referendum to purchase Chevy Chase Clubhouse and Golf Course and Childerley Park.
- October, 1978— Wheeling Park District receives the National Gold Medal Award recognizing it as the nation's outstanding park and recreation agency.
- January, 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 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.

**Thank you for participating in our events!  
Please continue to do so!**

# Parks celebrate 25 years

A time capsule, cake and an outdoor concert will all be part of Wheeling Park District's celebration of its silver anniversary.

The public is invited to start off the all-day celebration Sunday at 9 a.m. with an all denomination service at the Lorraine E. Lark, Chapel of the Orchard at Childerley Park, 506 McHenry Road. The Rev. Howard Miller, Rabbi Hordecal Rosen and the Rev. George Mulcahey, representing three denominations, will conduct the service. Participants are asked to bring lawn chairs because if weather permits, it will be an outdoor service. Coffee, doughnuts and juice will be served after the service at St. Joan's House, located a few feet from the chapel.

**HORIZON PARK**, 378 Schoenbeck Road, will be dedicated at noon and a youth baseball game will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the park.

A carnival-like atmosphere will occur from 1 to 3 p.m. at Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Road. A time capsule will be put together and other planned activities include a balloon launch, an animal kingdom show, clowns, face painting and children's games.

From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., park district enthusiasts can travel to Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, where an ice cream social and an outdoor concert will be held.

At 6:30 p.m., the Audrae Duke Memorial will be presented at Chevy Chase, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. Duke was one of the first park district board members and an instigator in forming the Wheeling Park District.

**THE PARK BOARD** and guests will welcome residents from 7 to 10 p.m. at Chevy Chase where the anniversary cake will be cut and cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a sweet table will be available. There will also be dancing and entertainment by Vito Buffalo and his orchestra.

This week, in conjunction with the anniversary celebrations, the *Wheeling Countryside* is saluting the park district with a special report that begins on page 14.

This historical feature includes stories on how the park district went from an all-volunteer organization to a district with a multi-million dollar budget, on the mysterious past of the Chevy Chase Country Club and on who various property tax referenda played key roles in the success of the park district.

On page 10, Wheeling Park Board President Tony Abruscato has a special guest essay for district residents to honor the occasion.

Thursday, July 24, 1986

## Parks to fete 25th anniversary

By LINDA COOPER  
Correspondent

The Wheeling Park District last week unveiled the ceremonial schedule for its 25th anniversary celebration Sunday, July 27.

The festivities will take place at Horizon Park, Chamber Park Church and the main lobby area of Chevy Chase.

At noon on Sunday, Commissioner Anthony Abruscato will present

a brief background about the purchase and development of Horizon Park at that location. Commemorating the park, a plaque will be mounted on the front lawn area.

Events will continue at 3:30 p.m. at Chamber Park Church, where the history of the original location of the church and the relocation to Chamber Park will be discussed. The presentation of a historical marker will be permanently placed at the site.

At Chevy Chase, at 6:30 p.m., a presentation will be held in honor of Audra Duke, co-founder of the Park District. A plaque, which will later be permanently placed in the front entrance, will be presented. The celebration at Chevy Chase will also include a look at the Park District's past, present and future. Also on the agenda is mention of past commissioners, volunteer recognition and an anniversary cake cutting.

# Parks celebrate 25th anniversary

The Wheeling Park District is planning a day of fun and events to help celebrate its 25th Anniversary. The party will be held on Sunday at various parks and facilities. At 9 a.m., there will be an ecumenical service at Childerley Chapel at 506 McHenry Road, followed by refreshments in St. Joan's House. At noon, there will be a dedication ceremony at Horizon Park, 378 Schoenbeck Road, followed by Youth Baseball Exhibition.

From 1 to 3 p.m., Heritage Park will be having an animal kingdom show, balloon launch, face painting, children's games, popcorn, candy and clowns. From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., there will be an ice cream social, an outdoor concert and the Historical Society will be having a special exhibit in the Museum at Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road.

Starting at 6:30 p.m., Chevy Chase, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., will be having the dedication of the Audrae Duke Memorial and from 7 to 10 p.m., there will be dancing and entertainment, cake cutting ceremony, hors d'oeuvres and sweet table.

All events are free and all residents of Wheeling are invited to attend one or all of the events.

## Soccer registration

The Wheeling Park District, due to popular demand has extended its fall soccer registration until Aug. 10. This will be your last opportunity to sign up for a team and play fall soccer so

## River Trails offers early A.M. swim

To avoid the crowds and get in the swim early, the River Trails Park District is offering an early morning swim at the Woodland Trails Pool. It is from 7 to 8 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Admission is by a pool token or \$1.25. The early morning swim will be offered through Aug. 28. The

## River Trails parks

temperature must be above 60 degrees at 6:45 a.m. for the pool to open. Call 296-7666 for the temperature that we use. For more information, call 293-4445.

## In the parks

do not hesitate and register NOW.

Games will be played on Saturdays at Holmes Jr. High School and practices during the week. Children are divided into 4 divisions: 1st and 2nd grade, 3rd and 4th grade, 5th and 6th grade and 7th and 8th grade. Fee is \$25. for first child and \$22 for second child. Fee includes tuition. For more information call the Park District at 537-2222.

## Senior events

The Wheeling Park District offers many senior events, which are held at our new Pavilion Senior Center. For more information on programs designed just for adults 55 and older, please call the Senior Center at 459-2670.

Along with their weekly program, many special events and trips are planned. Don't hesitate, come on out

and recreate and have good old fashioned fun.

## Flag football camp

This new program offered by the park district is designed for fourth through eighth graders who are looking for a fun, recreational and helpful introduction to football.

Age groups will be divided with emphasis on learning skills, safety and techniques for each age group. Classes will be conducted at the Wheeling High School practice football field and supervised by the high school's league champion coaches Rick Benedetto, Burt Perlow and their staff. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. starting July 29 and running to Aug. 21.

Fee is \$20 for residents and \$30 for non-residents. Registration is now being taken at Heritage Park. For more information, call the park district at 537-2222.

# Wheeling parks to celebrate 25th year

by Evelyn Dorman

Herald staff writer

2/24/86

The Wheeling Park District will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a day of activities July 27.

The park district expects to start the celebration with a service at Childerly Chapel, followed by a dedication of Horizon Park, the most recent addition to the park system.

The list of day-long activities includes a memorial tree planting, time capsule ceremony, children's games, balloon launch and ice cream social. The celebration will conclude with an evening of speeches and dancing at the Chevy Chase Country Club.

The anniversary celebration is expected to cost the park district about \$2,500, which will come out of the district's corporate contingency fund.

"We're excited about the celebration," David F. Phillips, park district director, said. "We think it will be a great opportunity to bring the com-

munity together and be a positive activity."

**THE PARK** district was formed in 1961 after a group of interested citizens petitioned the Cook County clerk for an election to form a park district and select a board of park commissioners. At the time, park programs were held in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 schools.

The next year, the Meadowbrook Tot Lot was purchased for a playground site, but the first park wasn't built until 1964 when voters approved a tax referendum to purchase 66 acres in central Wheeling for the site now known as Heritage Park.

Growth of the district has added Neptune's Pool, Chevy Chase Clubhouse and Golf Course, and six parks.

The Wheeling park district offers residents recreation, educational and leisure activities.

"We're trying to use this as a celebration and as a way to promote our services," Phillips said. "We can always do a better job of that."

## Parks set for silver celebration

by Evelyn Dorman

Herald staff writer

What began as 900 acres of farmland 25 years ago has evolved into eight parks, an indoor swimming pool, a country club and a golf course for Wheeling residents.

To those closely involved with the park district, that feat is something to celebrate. So on Sunday, the Wheeling Park District will host a day full of activities to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

The events begin at 9 a.m. with an ecumenical service at Childerly Park, 506 McHenry Road. Those attending are asked to bring their own lawn chairs. Following the service will be refreshments at St. Joan's House, 506 McHenry Road. Other activities, including a youth baseball game, an ice cream social, park dedi-

cation and presentation of a time capsule, will be held as the day progresses at various park sites.

**ALTHOUGH THE** district was not formed until a referendum was passed in 1960, its origins can be traced back to 1956, when Audrae L. Duke moved into Wheeling, which then had 974 residents.

"When we all moved here, there were no parks, library and no facilities as we know them today," Barbara Farr, a friend of Duke, said. "She became a community activist and was on the steering committee from the very beginning and participated in the referendum to establish the district."

Whitman Elementary School, at 133 S. Wille Ave., and a few vacant farm fields provided the only recreation spots for children at the time, prompting Duke to organize a steer-

ing committee to launch a park district master plan.

The first hurdle was the disannexation of 900 acres of land in the Dunhurst and Hollywood Ridge subdivisions of Wheeling in 1959. That land, known as the Wheeling Rural District, acted as a "preventative" to keep rural farm property out of village park taxing districts.

**WITH THAT** land disannexed, Wheeling voters approved forming the Wheeling Park District on Dec. 23, 1960, by a vote of 152 to 27. Duke was elected as the district's first president.

"She was just a super person," said Ruth Wieder, who is organizing a memorial to Duke, who died in 1972, as part of the anniversary celebration. "In the beginning, there was nothing. The people of Wheeling really have

(Continued on Page 5)

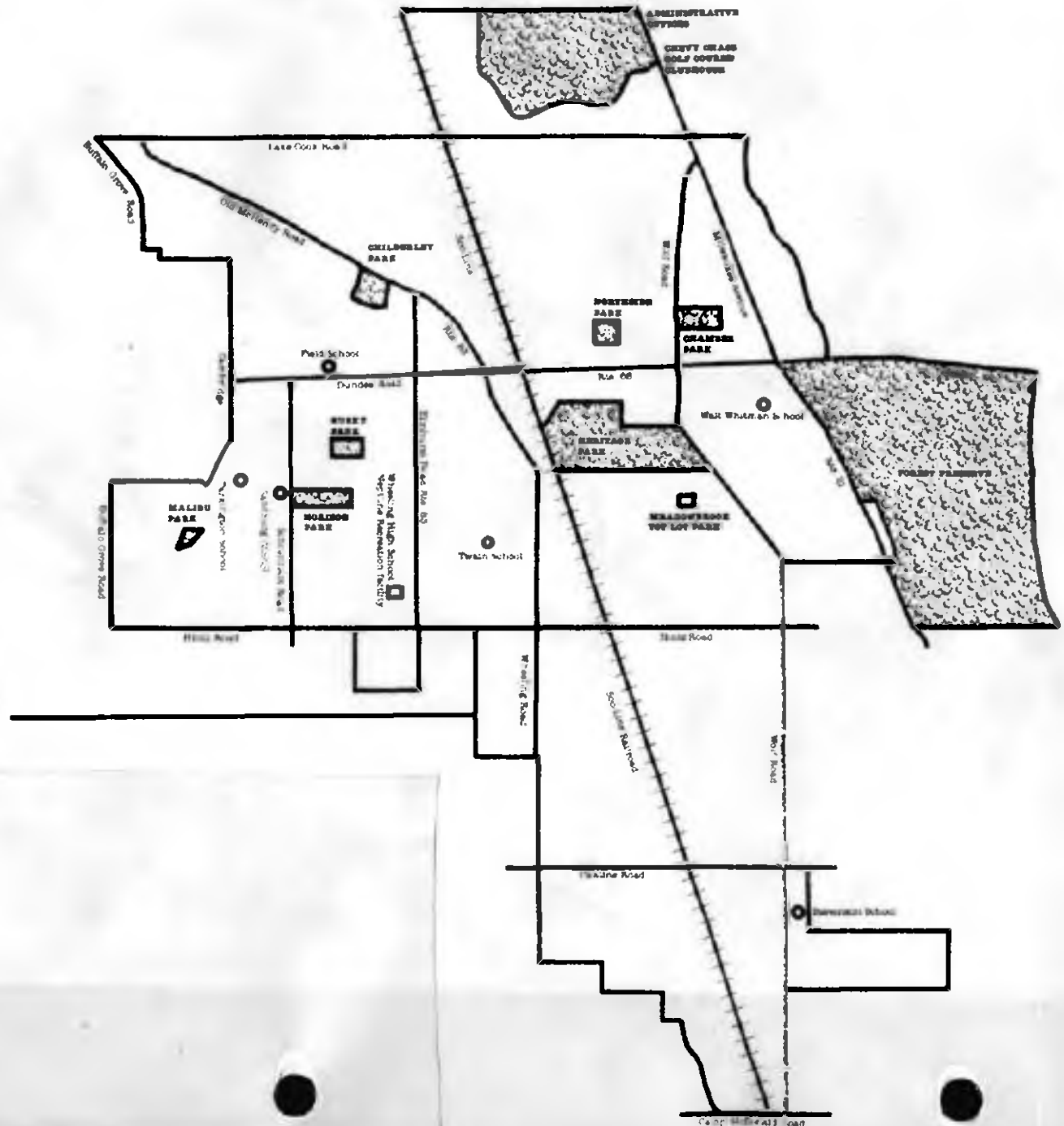


# BOUNDARIES AND FACILITIES WHEELING PARK DISTRICT

## BOUNDARIES AND FACILITIES WHEELING PARK DISTRICT

### PARK LOCATIONS

<b>HERITAGE PARK</b> (Recreation Administration Building) 537-2222	
222 South Wolf Road	66 acres
<b>CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PARK</b> (Community Meeting Center, Museum)	
537-9698	
251 North Wolf Road	6 acres
<b>HUSKY PARK</b> (Behind London Jr. High)	
Lee Street	5 acres
Lee Street	5 acres
<b>NORTHSIDE PARK</b>	
220 Glendale	3 acres
<b>NEPTUNE'S RECREATION CENTER</b> (Indoor Pool, Den & Health Club) 537-7895	
900 South Elmhurst Road	1 acre
<b>MEADOW BROOK TOT LOT</b>	
Nancy Lane	1/2 acre
<b>HORIZON PARK</b>	
378 Schoenbeck Road	10 acres
<b>CHILDERLEY PARK</b> 537-8990	
506 McHenry Road	13 acres
<b>CHEVY CHASE 18 HOLE PUBLIC GOLF COURSE &amp; CLUB HOUSE</b> 537-2930	
General Administration Offices	
1000 North Milwaukee Avenue	125.5 acres
<b>MALIBU PARK</b>	
Lakeview Drive	1 acre



# Park district ready to celebrate No. 25

(Continued from Page 1)

participated and cared and have helped form the district."

By March 1962, the district had purchased a half-acre on Nancy Lane for the Meadowbrook Tot Lot. Subsequent referendums in 1964, 1969, 1972 and 1977 helped the district build Neptune's Pool and a recreation field house, purchase 66 acres for Heritage Park, and acquire the district's crown jewel, the Chevy Chase Country Club and golf course on Milwaukee Avenue.

In the beginning years, Eugene W. Sackett, as first park district superintendent, helped orchestrate the development of recreation.

**FERDINAND ARNDT** became the district's first full-time superintendent in 1966 until he stepped down in 1972. Arndt was instrumental in the park district's acquisition of Chamber of Commerce and North Side parks.

Arndt was replaced by David F. Phillips, who resigned three months ago after spending 14 years guiding the district through its growth from six sites to eight. Under Phillips, the district bought and developed the Tudor-styled Chevy Chase Country Club and golf course and Horizon Park and won a National Gold Medal Award, recognizing it as an outstanding park and recreation agency.

John C. Muno Jr. currently is the acting parks manager.

Newest additions to the district include Horizon Park, which is to be dedicated at noon Sunday, at 378 Schoenbeck Road. District officials

recently purchased four acres near the Polo Run subdivision and are negotiating the purchase of six acres at the former Arlington Heights Country Club.

A citizens' advisory committee is expected to recommend the park board improve its facilities and possibly consider acquiring a school building for a community center in the future.

"Looking back it doesn't seem like 25 years," Wieder said. It seems like just yesterday. Time moves so fast until you recognize what is done. There's still a lot to be done. It's not over. We have a lot to do."

Saturday, July 26, 1986 Section 1-5

THE DAILY HERALD

## Wheeling Park District's 25th anniversary celebration

Sunday

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 9 a.m.         | Ecumenical Service, Childerley Park, 506 McHenry Road.   |
| 9:30 a.m.      | Refreshments, St. Joan's House, 506 McHenry Road.<br>Noon dedication of Horizon Park, 378 Schoenbeck Road.   |
| 12:30 p.m.     | Youth Baseball Game, Horizon Park.   |
| 1-3 p.m.       | Balloon Launch, Heritage Park, 222 S. Wolf Road.<br>Animal kingdom show.<br>Clown and character shows.<br>Face painting.<br>Children's games and petting zoos.   |
| 3:30-5:30 p.m. | Ice cream social and outdoor concerts, Chamber Park, 251 S. Wolf Road.   |
| 6:30 p.m.      | Audrae Duke Memorial and time capsule presentations, Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.  |
| 7-10 p.m.      | Anniversary cake-cutting ceremony, Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.<br>Welcome ceremony.<br>Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, sweet table.<br>Dancing and entertainment by Vito Buffalo and his orchestra. |

# Mud Madness

7/28/86



Dozens of Wheeling kids had some good clean fun at Heritage Park last week as they took part in the park district's "Mud Madness" day. Park district staffers created a giant mud pit by flooding the ice skating area at the park and then turned the kids loose on each other. Participants got dirty from head to toe as they went through an obstacle course, played tug-o-war and buried each other in the mess.

**Staff photos by Daniel White**

At left, park district camp counselor Randy Peterson barks out instructions prior to the activities. Below, a youth decides to stay clean instead of joining in on the tug-o-war.



At left, Randy Peterson slips as he fails to tackle Tracey Hartog in a football scrimmage in the mud. Above, Paul Giordano tries to escape from the cool spray of a firehose after getting cleaned off.



Top, a youngster maneuvers through the muddy obstacle course. Above, three participants seem to be enjoying the "bury your friend" activity. At left, David Gross gets a face full of water as he's hosed down following the Mud Madness event.







# COUNTRYSIDE

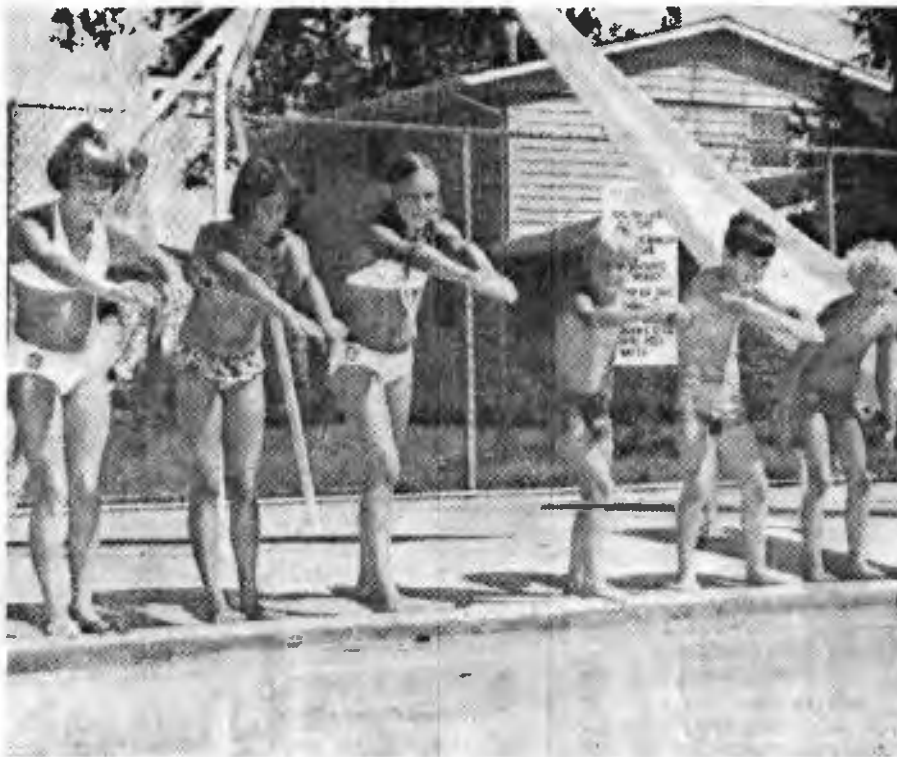
## On the cover

It's now used for aerobics classes and park board meetings, but in its heyday the Chevy Chase Country Club was the entertainment and gambling mecca of the suburbs. This week, as part of our special report on the Wheeling Park District's 25th anniversary, we take a look at the mysterious past of Chevy Chase. Coverage starts on page 14.

*Staff photo by Bill Oakes*

# Wheeling Park District: 25 years of serving

## Volunteers kept district going in early years



Youngsters ready to take a dive at the park district's old community pool at Chamber Park. The pool, which the district acquired in 1969 thanks to a property tax referendum, was closed for good a decade later.

*Although the Wheeling Park District officially turned 25 years old in January, the district is marking the occasion with a special celebration this weekend. We, too, are honoring the Wheeling Park District and its contributions to the community with a special report that takes an up-close look at the history of the park system.*

It was just a tot lot in the beginning. Like most new organizations, the Wheeling Park District was put together with volunteers.

Arthur Aronson, who was on the first park board in 1961, remembers when there was no library or park district to serve Wheeling. Aronson had just left the District 21 school board and some friends recommended he attempt to become a commissioner on the new park board.

Aronson served on the first board along with Ted Scanlon, Arthur Brown, Ralph Neubauer and Audrae Duke. Richard Ault, Roy Hammond and Michael Donzella were appointed members to the first board.

In 1961, there had been a few sport teams organized to play against one another, but there was no umbrella organization like a park district, Aronson said.

An independent organization

donated money to build a swimming pool in town and there just seemed to be a need for a park district, he said. Some parents were enrolling their children in Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights park districts.

For the first couple of years, the district relied on volunteers to run the few programs that existed. "It was almost like a volunteer organization in the beginning," he said.

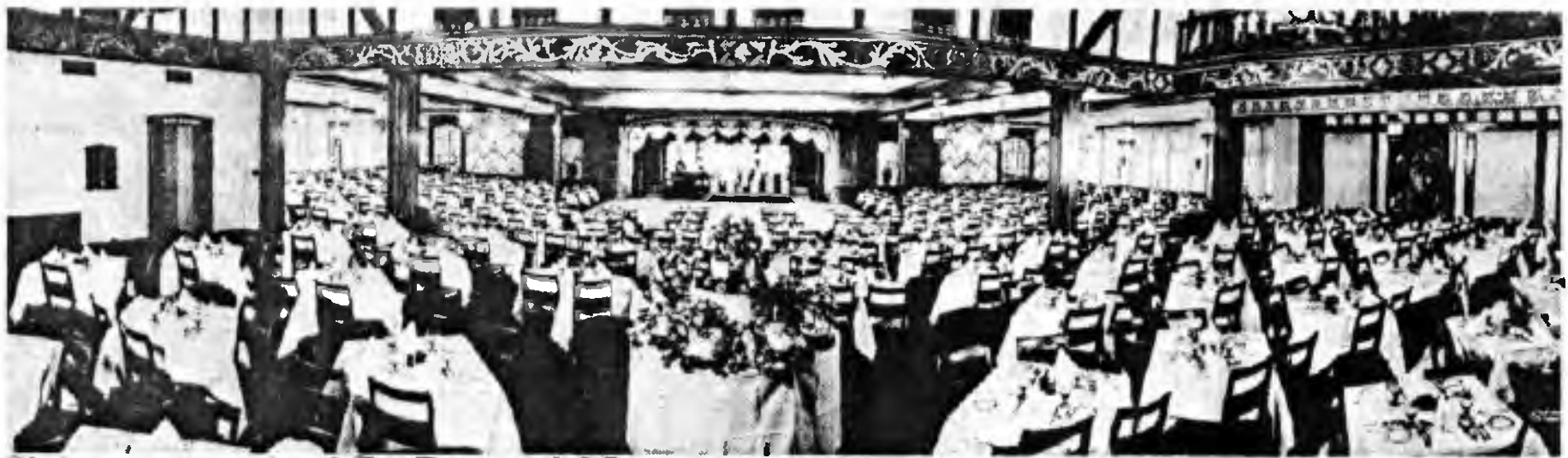
There were pool activities, Little League games, and volleyball and softball for adults, Aronson said.

But there were no parks until 1962, when the fledgling district purchase a half-acre neighborhood tot lot in the Meadowbrook subdivision.

In 1964, the park district got its first "real" park property thanks to a successful property tax referendum. The 66 acres along Wolf Road that the district acquired is known as Heritage

(Continued on page 17)

ne community



This photograph, which now hangs in Chevy Chase, shows the ballroom in its heyday, when the country club was called Bon-Air.



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## EDITORIALS

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*'Our aim: To fear God, tell the truth and make money.'*

11 C PADDOCK 1852 1938

### Happy birthday

What started 25 years ago as a 900-acre tract of farm land has evolved into a park district with eight parks, an indoor swimming pool, a country club and golf course.

The Wheeling Park District celebrated its 25th anniversary Sunday.

Although the district was not formed until a referendum was passed in 1960, it started sending out roots in 1956 when Audrae L. Duke, a community activist, moved to town. Duke was on a steering committee to launch a park district master plan.

The first playground was the Meadowbrook Tot Lot. In 1964 60 acres in central Wheeling were purchased for what is now known as Heritage Park. The district's growth has meant the addition of Neptune's Pool, Chevy Chase Clubhouse and Golf Course and six parks.

The celebration brought the community together and gave the park district an opportunity to promote its services.

Twenty-five years as an entity in the community is a milestone worth marking. We hope the park district will use the occasion as an opportunity to pledge to overcome its recent personnel problems to ensure that Wheeling residents have a good park system

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## On the cover

Ten-year-old Scott Slome of Wheeling gets a paint brush smack dab in the middle of his nose during a Wheeling Park District 25 th anniversary celebration Sunday. Turn to page 42 for more photos on the festivities.

*(James C. Svehla photo)*



Bob Hoffman, above, a renown animal trainer, gives his parrot a kiss during a performance at Heritage Park Sunday. At right, a few ladies enjoy some dairy delights during an ice cream social at Chamber Park, demonstrating that Sunday's festivities were fun for kids of all ages.



Julie Ellsworth, 8, hops toward the finish line during a potato sack race at Heritage Park Sunday.

# Silver celebration

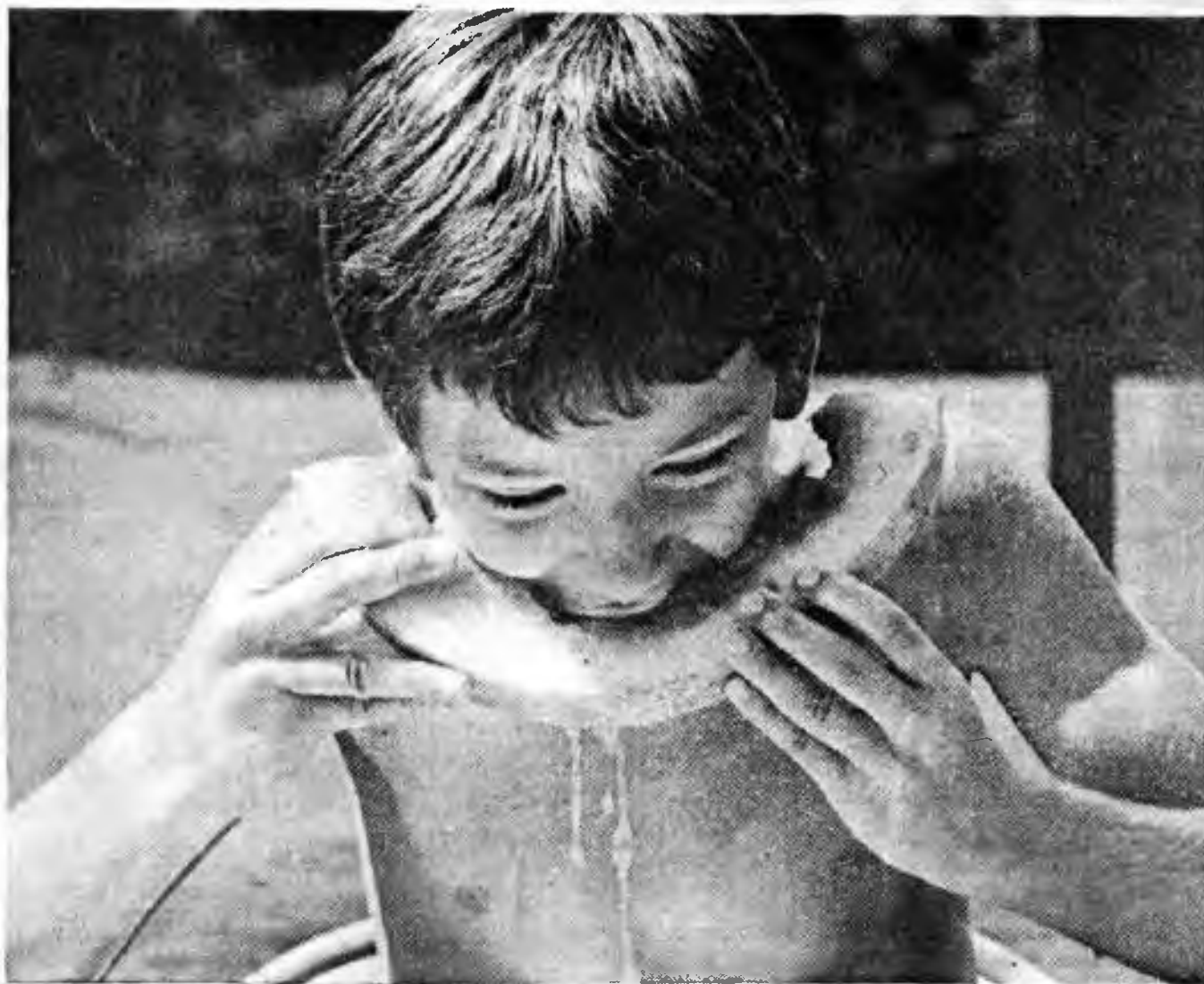
The Wheeling Park District had a special birthday party Sunday, and the whole town turned out to join in the celebration.

The park district, which turned 25 this year, sponsored anniversary events all over Wheeling — with festivities starting at 9 a.m. and running all day and night.

The event kicked off with an all-denomination service at the Lorraine E. Lark Chapel at Childerley Park Sunday morning. Following the service was the dedication of Horizon Park and a youth baseball game at the park.

There was a host of games and entertainment at Heritage Park in the afternoon, including a balloon launch, an animal kingdom show, clowns and children's games.

**James C. Svehla photos**



Ten-year-old Tom Campazano devours a slice of watermelon during a watermelon-eating contest at Heritage Park.

# Parks toast 25th anniversary

Reynolds  
Life  
7/31/86

By LINDA COOPER  
Correspondent

Sunday, July 27, was a day of celebration in Wheeling. Festivities began in the early morning and continued into the night, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Wheeling Park District.

The entire community was invited to attend the day of activities sponsored by the Park District. The day began with an all-denominational chapel service at Childerley Park. At Horizon and Heritage parks, events geared to the kids were held throughout the morning and early afternoon.

Chamber Park was the scene of outdoor musical entertainment later in the day. The proceedings continued throughout the evening in the main ballroom of the park owned by Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

First on the program was the dedication of a memorial plaque in honor of Audrae Duke, co-founder of the Park District.

Barbara Farr of Wheeling unveiled and presented the plaque, which was inscribed, "Her inspiration lives on, Audrae Duke, Co-founder 1958, Wheeling Park District, First Board President 1961-63."

Farr said that Duke left a legacy to her community. She explained that when Duke began her community service work, Wheeling was a town of 900 residents with no facilities. During 1957-58, Duke formed and led a steering committee. The work of that committee led to a referendum from which the Park District was formed.

Duke was also instrumental in bringing classes for the handicapped into Wheeling elementary schools, Farr said.



WINNING THE WATERMELON eating contest at the Wheeling Park District 25th anniversary celebration Sunday is Brian Klatecki. This event was only one of many held throughout the day as community

leaders took time to acknowledge those who helped develop the Park District and to recognize the district's many contributions today to the community. (Photo by Alan Sue)

Addressing the assembly of residents, G.L. Duke, husband of Audrae, said, "In her name and in all of your names, Wheeling has become a marvelous place to be."

After the dedication, Board President Anthony Abruscato introduced past commissioners who were present at the event. They included Audrey Christianson (1963), Harry Thill (1965) and Frank Schnaitmann (1973).

Commissioner James Gallagher presented a green time capsule containing the 25th anniversary celebration invitation, newspaper clippings relating to the gala and the guest book. Abruscato said the capsule would be sealed and re-

opened at the next celebration in 25 or 50 years.

Park District volunteers were given special recognition by Commissioner Julia Robberson. Robberson called volunteers "the most important people in any organization."

On behalf of the Park Board, Robberson acknowledged the work of the Friends of the Park, the capital needs re-assessment committee, and members of the Wheeling Historical Society. She also thanked the 150 athletic coaches, the committee to renovate Lark Chapel, and the anniversary party volunteers.

The speeches were followed by

hors d'oeuvres, an anniversary cake, and dancing to the 10-piece orchestra of Vito Buffalo.

Acting Park District Manager John Muno's office provided facts about the Park District's current operation. He pointed to the district's 12 facilities, along with an administrative and recreation office headquartered at Chevy Chase, a basketball court, a lighted ball diamond, a football field, an outdoor hockey and ice skating rink and a soccer field.

The district also offers a clubhouse with a banquet room/restaurant, a golf course, tennis courts, senior citizen center, gymnasium and historical building.



Herald photos by Vince Pierri

## Party in the parks

A variety of fun events and memorials highlighted the Wheeling Park District's 25th anniversary celebration last weekend. Above, Wilhelmina Franta gets a heart painted on her face. Not everyone can go to the zoo, so Bob Hoffman of Chicago, at right, brought his "petting zoo" to Wheeling residents at the park's celebration. Here he entertains patrons with a small monkey.

Daily Herald  
7/31/86



# Time capsule marks parks' 25th birthday

by C.L. Waller

Herald staff writer

*Dec 11, 86*

A time capsule marking the Wheeling Park District's 25th anniversary will be buried for at least 25 years at Heritage Park, but the project has some park officials trying to recall whether a similar capsule was buried for an earlier anniversary.

Talk of a time capsule prompted some park officials to recollect that a capsule from the past may be buried somewhere on park property — possibly under the flagpole at Heritage Park — but no one is sure.

"Supposedly, there is a time capsule in the concrete holding up the flagpole at Heritage Park," said John Piazza, superintendent of resource management services.

"TO MY knowledge, there was one," said Patti Hancock, a 25th anniversary committee member and former 19-year park employee.

Some wonder whether the park

district contributed to a time capsule buried by the village in 1969 or whether the district made its own at that time, Hancock said.

After checking with people she thought might remember the time capsule and reviewing park board minutes, Hancock said she came up empty handed.

"The only way we really will know is when the village opens theirs up in 1991," she said.

The 25th anniversary committee was not convinced that a capsule existed and decided against destroying the flagpole base to check.

A picture of the park board members, a Chevy Chase Club House matchbook and a golf course scorecard will be among 30 items placed in the 25th anniversary time capsule, which will be buried by the end of the year at an undisclosed spot in the park at 222 S. Wolf Road.

The anniversary committee is recommending the time capsule be opened for the park district's 50th anniversary.

"You really do it so those people who are around then (in 50 years) can see what was happening," said Ruth Wieder, committee member.

The whereabouts of the 25th anniversary time capsule will be written on paper, sealed in an envelope and kept in the park district safe, Wieder said.

Most of the items in the time capsule are made of paper, such as Chevy Chase menus, a copy of the park district's history, newspaper articles about the celebration and 25th anniversary brochures and programs.

Commissioners look to 1987

*Service Life*  
7/17/87

# Parks approve budget

By LAURENCE MINSKY  
Correspondent

The Wheeling Park District gave final approval to the 1986 budget last week and commissioners are already looking at how they can make next year's budget-making process easier.

At its meeting July 3, the board OK'd the budget on a 4-1 vote. The 1986 budget is about 13 percent higher than the 1985 expenditures.

The board was originally dissatisfied with the \$4,258,104 budget and had hoped to find an independent accounting firm to review the figures.

Board President Tony Abruscato had contacted two firms—Arthur Anderson and Laventhol and Horwath—according to John Muno, acting Park District manager.

Even though the firms were contacted, no specific recommendations were made. However, an Arthur Anderson representative suggested that the Park Board was looking at too many details.

Last March when the budget appropriation advance was passed, Commissioner Julia Robberson said one reason to seek the audit was to find a way to make the budget process more efficient. She said that many of her questions had been answered since then.

Now the Park District will try to improve the format when it works on the 1987 budget, Robberson said.

"We will be looking for new formats for 1987," said Abruscato, who said he did not like the format or readability of the 1986 budget. Finding the new format will be a responsibility of the new Park Dis-

trict manager, Abruscato said. The board is currently looking for a manager to replace David Phillips, who resigned in April.

Commissioner Donald Lark agreed that the budget format needs to be changed. "There's too much detail," he said. He added that he has looked at the village's budget and hopes to adopt its format.

Commissioner James Gallagher, the only one to vote against the 1986 budget proposal, said that he still has questions. However, he then said that the budget is basically a guide or an estimate.

Abruscato also noted that commissioners will review individual expenditures over \$750. "If there's something we do not agree with, we can catch it when it comes before the board," he said.



# 1985 property tax bills up slightly in Wheeling

By C.L. WALLER

Cook County's 1985 property tax bills arrived in the mail this week, and the average homeowner in Wheeling will be sending about \$13 more to the county treasurer's office this year than he did a year ago.

However, the average Buffalo Grove resident living in Cook County will be able to keep an extra \$11.48 in his pocket this year, as the overall tax rate in that village decreased slightly.

Property tax bills are due Aug. 29 and the damage appears to be minimal for Wheeling residents, even though they don't save money like those in Buffalo Grove.

For the Wheeling resident who resides in School Districts 21 and 214, the Wheeling Park District and the Indian Trails Library District, the tax rate for 1985 was set at \$8.57 per \$100 assessed valuation — up .82 percent from the 1984 rate of \$8.50 per \$100 assessed valuation.

That means a resident living in those taxing districts with a home valued at \$75,000 will be paying \$1,551.71 this year — up from \$1,539.04 the same resident saw on last year's tax bill.

Here is a breakdown of the 1985 tax rates in area taxing districts:

## Wheeling Township

In looking at percentages of increases, the tax rate in Wheeling Township has jumped the highest — a whopping 15.7 percent. But the township's tax rate is actually one of the lowest on the tax bill.

The township rate has increased about 5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation in the town fund and less than one cent in the general assistance fund. In other words, a Wheeling resident with a \$75,000 home is paying \$13.03 to Wheeling Township rather than the 1984 bill of \$5.06. A Buffalo Grove resident with an average home valued at \$90,000 would pay \$16.14 to the township rather than \$6.27.

The present township board walked into a situation where it would have to increase taxes. The former administration had surpluses of money that built up from things such as the sale of road and bridge buildings, Grundberg said. Those board members chose to allow surpluses to dwindle down to nothing and while the surpluses were going down, the tax rate was staying the same.

The township is also preparing for the cutoff of federal revenue sharing funds. Grundberg said the board has decided to maintain support for social service

## Wheeling Township Tax Rates

Here's a look at the 1985 property tax rates of major taxing districts in Wheeling Township and how the rates compare with last year:

TAXING DISTRICT	'85 RATE	'84 RATE	% DIFFERENCE
School District 21	2.460	2.425	1.44%
School District 214	1.988	2.071	-4.10%
Village of Wheeling	1.447	1.359	6.48%
Wheeling Township	.072	.028	157.1%
Wheeling Park District	.505	.469	7.88%
Indian Trails Library District	.329	.329	0.0%

(Source: Cook County Clerk's office)

agencies despite revenue sharing money that's likely to run out within another year, and that meant a hike in taxes.

### Village of Wheeling

A resident with a \$75,000 will pay \$261.90 to Wheeling this year. A 6.48 percent

increase in the village's tax rate has occurred, causing the village's portion of the tax bill to increase from \$245.97 last year.

The increase was due to a drop in the state's multiplier from 1.84 to 1.8085, said Greg Peters, director of finance and

(Continued on page 11)