

Wheeling Park District Chevy Chase
April 1, 1997 Referendum





























































































WHEELING
OHIO

COMMUNITY
RECREATION
& AQUATIC
CENTERS

VOTE
APRIL 1

WHEELING
COMMUNITY
RECREATION &
AQUATIC
CENTERS

#5
4-1-97

Friends of Chevy Chase

DID IT!! ☺ WE DID IT!! ✌ DID IT!

TO EVERY FOLK FOR ALL OUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION



Victory Party
Friends of Chevy

Lee
Gail
Laurel
Darlene
Cheri
WPO - Tandy

Copier
Gail
Be
Cheri

#10
4-1-97



CHEVY CHASE G.C.

WELCOMES

YES!

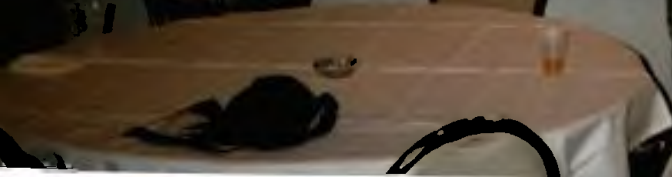
FRIENDS OF

NO

2305

CHEVY CHASE

1453



Victory Party
Friends of Chevy

#16
4-1-97



Victory Party
Friends of Olong

#7
4-1-97

WHEELING
PAWN STATE



CHEVY CHASE G.C.

WELCOMES

YES!

FRIENDS OF

NO

2305

CHEVYCHASE

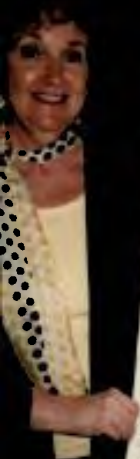
1453

Victory Party
Friends of Selwyn

7/15
4-1-97

Barlene
Lillian

EXIT



#	Yes	No	#	Yes	No
1	102	64	83	0	10
9	11	57	93	116	74
27	157	91	98	4	17
30	59	37	105	1	11
33	135	44	107	49	54
37		36	108	95	18
48	11	57	116	35	82
49	16	116	125	62	37
50	3	86	127	45	54
55	113	84	129	10	40
74	109	66	130	31	23
76	36	23	133	2	25
79	45	45	137	164	2
			138	0	11
			140		46
			144	85	76
			255	32	0

Victory Party
Friends of Chevy

#17

4-1-97

CHEVY CHASE
REFERENDUM
VOTE APRIL 1

WHEELING
MUNICIPAL
CENTER

4-1-7
4



WHEELING
PARK DISTRICT

COMMUNITY
RECREATION
& AQUATIC
CENTERS

"FRIENDS OF
CHEVY"
THANK YOU..

PAVED FOR
NON-PROFIT
USE ONLY
ONE BLOCK
WEST

Congratulations
Friends of Chevy
Chickling, W.P. J

21
4-97



Chevy Chase
Golf & Banquets

T HANKS

WHEELING VO TERS
GREENS & T E ES OPEN
MARCH 28 5 37 0082

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT

wise were employed for longer periods than were younger project workers."

BON-AIR CLUB'S NEIGHBORS ASK \$10,000 IN SUIT

The Bon-Air Country club neighbors sued the club for \$10,000 Monday. They charged the club permits its golf caddies to use the adjacent land for a recreation field, that patrons use the same land for a parking lot, and that the Bon-Air employes use its for a rubbish heap. The suit was filed in the Lake county Circuit court at Waukegan by E. G. Swanson, trustee of the neighboring property, and John W. Guild, business agent for the property. It listed as the owners of the club William (Billy) Skidmore, William Johnson, and others. The so-called country club is a combined public night club and golf course. It is situated near Half Day.

Chile Says Farewell to U. S. Envoy; Praise Close Ties

(Copyright 1939 By the New York Times.) SANTIAGO, Chile, June 2

ambling in the Bon Air Country club, on Milwaukee avenue a mile north of Wheeling, was filed in court yesterday. The owner of the club, R. Hutchins says he owns thirty of the sixty shares of the corporation which has leased the property, paying \$9,500 for two years, and that the management is endangering his investment by permitting gambling.

New Police Car Proves Its Worth; Beats Stork

One of Waukegan's new police radio cars, delivered Monday, got its first workout early yesterday in a race with the stork. Policemen Ben True and Donald Duncan were passing 408 South Genesee street in the city when Frank Zupanski rushed out and asked them to take his wife to a hospital. They delivered Mrs. Zupanski at the Lake County General hospital just two minutes before a baby boy was born to her.

who died Sunday. The trial will be held at 10 a. m. today.

SKIDMORE GETS NOTICE OF \$10,000 DAMAGE CLAIM

Deputy Sheriff Edward L. Dunne of Lake county notified the clerk of the Circuit court in Waukegan yesterday that a summons had been served on William R. Skidmore in a \$10,000 damage suit filed last Nov. 8.

Deputy Dunne cornered Skidmore Monday in the Chicago federal courthouse where he is on trial for alleged evasion of income taxes. The Lake county suit names Skidmore, William R. Johnson, who last October was sentenced to prison for income tax frauds; William Goldstein, Skidmore's attorney, and one William R. Peacock as "owners and parties interested in" the Bon Air Country club in Milwaukee.

E. G. Swanson and John W. Guild, owners and agents of property adjoining the country club, assert in the suit that patrons and employes of the club trespassed on their property, used it as a playground, dumped rubbish and garbage there, used it as a parking lot, and stripped it of rich soil.

Wallace Goldheim, 26 years old, 669 North State street, and Robert Fry, 23, of 3405 Southport avenue, were indicted yesterday after a shot fired by Policeman James Hayes of the Chicago avenue station in the rear of 123 North Dearborn street halted their flight in a stolen taxicab.

COUNTY LIQUOR LICENSE GRANTED TO BON AIR CLUB

A Lake county liquor license was issued yesterday to the Bon Air Country club, whose premises are leased to Bon Air Catering, Inc. by William R. Johnson, reputed gambling czar now on bond pending appeal from an income tax conviction. Granting of the license had been opposed by Assistant Attorney General Harold J. Tallett in view of "the known character of the club."

The license permit was signed by David Van Patten, chairman of the Lake county liquor control commission, who said that a recent inspection of the club by Emmett Moroney and Joseph P. Welch, deputy commissioners, found no violation of the Lake county liquor laws.

FRIZ



Johnson, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, received her law degree recently from the University of Wisconsin. She studied law while serving as a law clerk for the last 10 years.

QUIZ DISCLOSES JOHNSON LEASE TO BON AIR CLUB

Lake county liquor license commissionmen inspected the Bon Air Country club Monday prior to action on its application for a 1941 liquor license and learned the premises were leased to Bon Air Catering, Inc. by William R. Johnson. Johnson and William R. Skidmore, reputed gambling czars, are free on bond pending appeals of convictions of federal income tax violation.

E. H. Wait, president of the catering concern, told the committeemen Joseph P. Welch and Emmett Moroney, he owned 97 per cent of the Bon Air stock but said the ownership records had been taken by the government for use in the trials.

The committeemen said they would seek to obtain the records and would confer with other committee members before acting on the license application. The club is operating under its 1940 license, which expired April 30.

Gambling Club All Set, But Go Light Won't Flash

JUN 17 1938
Mr. Bill Johnson, the gambling man, appears to be having traffic light trouble up at the Bon Air Club Theater Country Club near Wheeling. Long time no light.

Mr. Johnson, who began his gambling career modestly in Lawndale and who is now octopusing all over the landscape, has been operating the Bon Air for three weeks now, but visitors there on several occasions, including one this week, have been unable to do any gambling.

The hired help tell the visitors that next week, or the week after, the management hopes to be able to offer the customers a chance to try their luck in the breath-taking and cash-taking fashion to which Mr. Johnson's followers are accustomed.

But the game room on the second floor a handsome chamber done in gray and blue with a figured wall paper, is dark, its indirect illumination idle for the moment.

Clucks of Sympathy.

This has caused the wise boys in Chicago to cluck in sympathy with Mr. Johnson's inability to get the word to go, for they know that there is a sizable nut to operate a place such as the Bon Air, an overhead that is difficult to meet out of the diners, the dancers, the golfers and the swimmers' fees. Revenue from roulette and other games of chance—the chance being taken by the customer—would aid the management considerably, the boys agree.

And there is Mr. Johnson, struggling along, without even a slot machine or a 26 dice game in sight.

The story is that Mr. Johnson has been the victim of sordid politics in Lake County. Sheriff Lawrence Doolittle has announced from time to time that positively, definitely and what not, there will be no gambling at the Bon Air. Sheriff Doolittle's chief deputy, Thomas Kennedy, is the Republican candidate for sheriff to succeed his present boss.

Kennedy is the odds-on choice for the sheriff's post at the present writing. Sheriff Doolittle is doing everything he can to push Kennedy's candidacy. Kennedy, report has it, is afraid that if gambling were permitted at the Bon Air, some of the righteous folk of Lake County might take umbrage and another sheriff. Hence to date, no go light for the Bon Air.

But how different is the home life of our dear Mr. Johnson. At the Devlin, one of his gambling chair stores at Devon and Lincoln avenues, the customers are rushing in nightly by the gross, eager to match their hunches against Mr. Johnson's mathematics.

Activity at Villa Moderne.

Over at the Villa Moderne, a younger, cleaner-necked crowd nightly drive up the Skokie highway to the county line to frolic, and in lesser numbers to patronize the gambling. An attendant informed an inquirer that Mr. Johnson has the gambling concession on the second floor.

The game room is about 14 by 18 feet. There are five roulette

tables and a blackjack table. Dealers were on the job, but only two of the roulette tables were setting a play. The minimum play is \$5, with the ladies allowed to wager 10 cent chips, but the men must use 25 cent chips as a minimum.

A Case of Understanding.

Various other spots in Chicago are operating, as has been noted in the Daily News from time to time, but the management at the Chez Parce must understand how Mr. Johnson feels about the Bon Air game room at the Chez has been dark ever since one night in the course of the heated April primary when Harry Richman, then appearing at the Chez Parce, went out and sang a few songs at a Kelly-Nash political rally. By a coincidence the state's attorney's police raided the gambling room there while the echo of Maestro Richman's notes were still sounding.

Operators of handbooks throughout Chicago are doing a nice business, too, but some of them have been severely reprimanded for having blackjack games.

"You'll have to stop that," said the captain's man. "We don't allow gambling in Chicago."

Oh, well.

BON AIR CLUB REOPENS--BUT FOR GOLF ONLY

MAY 24 1949 F3
Spot Now Known as

Chevy Chase

BY ROBERT CRONIN
The Bon Air Country club, in Milwaukee, is

open once more—but only for golf. Its new name is Chevy Chase. Formerly Vogel, former assistant manager at the Chez Parce, and general manager of Chevy Chase, says: "We are going to feature golf, swimming and very fine dinners. There will be absolutely no gambling."

Vogel, also a former comedian, said this with a straight face and in seeming sincerity. The club, in its Bon Air days, was a noted night club and gambling spot, run by the Skidmore-Johnson syndicate. It has been closed, however, since 1942.

Scotty Is Back

In the interval, according to Herbert (Scotty) Irwin, Chicago golf professional, who returns to the head pro post which he held at Bon Air, the greens and fairways of the 6,738 yard course have been kept in shape.

"The fairways right now are just as good as they ever were," Irwin says, "and the greens are the best they've ever been."

Bill Miller, long regarded as one of the district's finest greenkeepers, has moved from Briergate to Chevy Chase.

Was Quite A Boxer

Irwin, who spends his winters at the Delray Beach, Fla., Country club, has been professional at Old Orchard, Vernon Ridge, Westmoor and Bon Air, and also ran a golf school at Heurich's. He came to this country from Scotland (where he was featherweight boxing champion) in 1913, and served in the United States air corps (where he was featherweight boxing champion) during the first World war. He turned golf pro in 1919, but still serves as a prize fight judge.

His neighbors in Florida, incidentally, include Bobby Cruickshank, pro at Gulf Stream, and Tommy Armour, pro at Boca Raton, both of whom, like Irwin himself, are natives of Edinburgh.

Them Days Gone Forever

Scotty says that dining and locker room facilities will be available, and that the course—one of the longest in this area and with 11 water holes—will cater to tournaments. But he added wistfully that he will miss the old days.

"The early golfers would be coming out to tee off at 5:30 or 6 Sunday mornings," he said, "and as they got out of their cars they'd wave to friends who had just left the night club and were climbing into their cars to go home."

After introducing us to Conrad McGrath, president of the club, Scotty led the way thru the sprawling kitchen, where a dozen chefs used to labor, until a pair of locked doors barred the way. We peered thru into the deserted night club.

Nostalgia Gets Him

"Over there is the automano stage," Scotty said, "and the gambling casino was in the room beyond. You know, Gertrude Niesen and Jane Froman and lots of other big stars used to entertain here."

By this time nostalgia had him firmly in tow.

"In those days," he concluded, "people would drop in and say: 'The place sure looks crowded with all those cars. How about it?' And I'd tell 'em: 'Go on out and play. Those cars all belong to the help.'"

Green Bay Back Plays

EDITOR CHARGES \$100,000 GAMING BRIBE ATTEMPT

Alleges Skidmore Offer to Hush Opposition.

Frank H. Just, publisher of the Waukegan News-Sun, last night revealed publicly for the first time charges of an alleged effort by an agent of the Skidmore-Johnson gambling syndicate to bribe him with \$100,000 not to fight the opening of a gambling establishment in Lake county.

Last Aug. 23 Mr. Just told this story to federal investigators, and appeared before the federal grand jury four days later. He refused last night to discuss the nature of his testimony before that body.

Bares Gaming Resort Plan.

Mr. Just says he told federal investigators that a man called upon him in May, 1933, and represented himself as an emissary of the Skidmore-Johnson syndicate. Skidmore, the man told the publisher, was planning to open the Bon-Air Country Golf club, north of Wheeling, as a deluxe gambling house. Without gambling, he added, the place could not be operated profitably.

"The emissary," he said, "You have the only daily paper in Lake county. We want to establish friendly relations with your paper. William Johnson is coming in with Mr. Skidmore on Bon-Air. Mr. Skidmore has unlimited money, and Mr. Johnson is known as the 'Square Gambler.' Mr. Skidmore is a liberal man, and we know that your paper is in debt over \$200,000."

Reveals \$100,000 Offer.

Mr. Just said he told the emissary that the paper was in debt less than \$100,000 whereupon, he said, the agent replied:

"One hundred thousand dollars, laid on your desk, in currency, is a lot of money—"

The publisher interrupted, he said, to say: "Newspapers don't take money from you people."

Yesterday state papers of incorporation were issued to the Waukegan Post as a daily newspaper. It started publication Sept. 5. The incorporators were listed as W. Goldstein, Frank T. Fowler, and Frank T. Fowler Jr.

Last night William Goldstein, an attorney with offices at 140 North Dearborn street, confirmed reports that he was one of the incorporators. He frankly admitted he was a lawyer for Skidmore.

Says It's Personal Venture.

"The new paper is purely a personal venture for myself and my sons, who attended colleges of journalism and, like myself, are interested in newspaper work," he said. "No other group, and surely none of my clients, neither Skidmore nor any one else, is interested in it."

Mr. Goldstein said he had met Mr. Just on two occasions two years ago while canvassing the north shore cities for newspaper fields and had discussed with him the chances of entering the field in the Waukegan area.

SPLIT OF BON AIR CLUB PROPERTIES IS SOUGHT IN SUIT

AA
Big Bill Johnson's Brother

Asks Division at Once.

MAR 11 1942 F2

Suit for a division of the Bon Air Country club, most of which and property of William F. Skidmore and William R. (Big Bill) Johnson, was filed in the Circuit Court of Lake county in Waukegan yesterday by John E. Johnson. Skidmore and Big Bill Johnson long have been considered overlords in the gambling racket in the metropolitan area. John E. Johnson, Big Bill's brother, is a former assistant attorney general.

The club, with an 18 hole golf course attached, is partly in Lake county and partly in Cook county. The main structure stands on Milwaukee avenue at the south edge of Lake county. Its existence has been one of checkered periods of affluence and shutdowns. The roulette wheels, crap tables, chuckaluck, and other games have been at a standstill now for more than a year.

Appointment of Receiver.

John Johnson's suit asks for a partition of the property equally among those who may be entitled to share in it. It also seeks the appointment of a receiver to operate and administer it until such a division is made.

Named with Skidmore and Johnson in the suit are Skidmore's wife, Ethel; Joseph Sperling, Walter Kemp, Walter Hendrickson and his wife, Helen; William Goldstein, long an attorney for Skidmore; the Bon Air Catering corporation, nominal owner of the property, and "any unknown owners." The suit says the club consists of 11 parcels of real estate in addition to the buildings, and that the whole is under lease to the catering company until Dec. 31, 1943.

The suit says John Johnson obtained a one-eighth interest in the property by quit claim deed from William Johnson last Saturday. It says this change in ownership was recorded on Monday and asks that

the partition of the property be proceeded with at once.

Tenants on Property.

The petition says that Kemp and Hendrickson and his wife merely are tenants on the property and have no other interest. It says that Skidmore does own and may claim an interest in the club.

Skidmore at present presumably is preparing to go to the penitentiary for evasion of income taxes. His efforts to escape a 30 months' sentence have proved futile and he was given his last 30 days' stay on Feb. 15.

William Johnson likewise was convicted and sentenced to prison as an income tax dodger. He won a reversal in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. The United States Supreme court, however, ordered the case reopened and Johnson may or may not be tried again.

Chevy Chase's Intriguing Story

Park District traces history to gambling and gangsters

by Laura Layton
Correspondent

Legends about underworld patrons and underground railroads weave Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, in a web of history and mystery.

The beginnings of the Tudor-style clubhouse are only told through word of mouth. No building plans have been found, original owners have since died and many who could confirm the stories aren't talking.

David Phillips, Wheeling Park District superintendent, began researching the history of Chevy Chase when the Park District bought the club in 1977. Phillips said his research has been a continual process and it seems "we find new rooms here every day."

"The clubhouse during Prohibition and the Depression was very exclusive and a very popular place for entertainment, politicians, entertainers, floor shows, dance bands, summer theatre, theater in the round," Phillips said. "They had a beautiful swimming pool — and of course gambling."

A few of the famous who frequented the premises included Al Capone, Mae West, Imogene Coca and Vincent Price.

People who owned Chevy Chase

Chevy Chase Country Club was originally named Columbian Gardens at its first phase of construction in 1920. The Knights of Columbus built and developed an 18-hole golf course on the 125-acre site.

The name changed to Windsor around 1934 and Terrill Realty Corp. took over the club, leasing it to Kraft Foods in 1935.

In 1936, the building was completed, and the club was taken over by Tom Williams, reputed to be the Lake County gambling czar, Phillips said. Williams remodeled the club, changed its name to Bon Aire, and made it a gambling emporium. He was said to have made deals with the state's attorney in order to keep up his operation.

The club then was taken over by William Skidmore and William Johnson. Skidmore soon died and Johnson, a showman and gambler, operated the club according to Phillips' research.

As the 1940s arrived, Johnson brought in his brother Joseph to operate the clubhouse. It was also said that William admired the Tudor-style architecture prevalent in Chevy Chase and renamed the club for the last time. When William died, he left the club to Joseph. Joseph died, leaving the club to his wife and four children who are mum about its history. Phillips said they operated it until the park district acquired the club with a \$3.7 million bond issue granted in 1977.

"We're really not able to spend a lot of time researching and getting a totally accurate time frame of the club and how it went who to who, what to what happened, when to when it happened,"

Phillips said. However, he believes his timetable is as accurate as possible, he said.

Tour of Chevy Chase

On a tour of the club, one would find relics of an earlier way of life encased safely behind glass in the main hallway. China inscribed with Columbian Gardens, a Bon Aire crystal ashtray, age-worn summer theatre posters, a change-maker from the casino days, an ornate seltzer bottle, and old tickets were among the items found when the park district began cleaning in 1977.

In the bar, several coats of arms line the walls. From the barroom unfolds a room that used to be the gambling hall, complete with a barred cashier's window. The chandeliers and lamps that light the club appear to be originals and help in imagining the way the club used to look and feel.

The ballroom, built in 1934, opens up full view beside the gambling hall. The stage was once operative with hydraulics that would raise and lower the main stage and raise a revolving circular mini-stage in the center.

Behind the stage are old dusty dressing rooms of stars gone by. A wooden plank was found behind the stage that lists the acts playing in an unknown year, probably during the 1950s. Such stars as Mae West, Imogene Coca, Vincent Price and John Agaz entertained that year.

A four-foot-wide vent at the top left corner of the stage becomes the focus of mystery and speculation. It is the only entrance to a room with no windows and no doors. Reportedly, club owners watched gambling proceedings through this inconspicuous opening. It is also believed to be a room underworld patrons might have found a safe place for conferences or other activities. "It is obvious it was not for the federal government or the police to find," Phillips said.

Capone was here

There are a number of stories that indicate the club had involvement with the underworld and more specifically, the Mafia. Al Capone himself was reported to be a patron of the club.

"The activities that took place here — the gambling — obviously influenced other activities," Phillips said.

More evidence that large supplies of money and a vast array of people were part of the club appears upon entering the basement of the club. It is obvious that one of the owners found it very important to have excellent security for their storage rooms as evidenced by six-inch thick doors, some made of solid iron. "These iron doors look like they're right out of an Alfred Hitchcock movie," Phillips said.

Another mystery involves an enclosed darkened stairway with seven visible stairs that leads to a concrete wall. Phillips said no one seems to know why the stairs were built, unless something used to be on the other side until someone found it necessary to close it off.

Yet another display of history is found within the basement. Another legend with physical evidence supporting that the club was the site of an underground railroad. A section of the basement maze reveals a 20-by-5-foot debris-laden pit which leads to an underground tunnel.

"Supposedly the tunnels — from here go under Milwaukee Avenue to the Des Plaines River and then over to the 18th green," Phillips said.

Snipped telephone lines dangle from the wall nearby where a 50-year-old pearl-button phone, now removed for safekeeping, once hung next to the trench.

"The phone implies that there was contact from others to that exact location. Someone was

stationed there," Phillips said.

Marshall Balling, Wheeling Museum historian, said he remembers the club being built during the prosperous years following World War I only to be practically wiped out during the Depression. As a bank teller in Wheeling during those years, Balling witnessed the rise and falls of the club under numerous names as it bounced from owner to owner.

During the Bon Aire/Johnson era, Balling said he received thousands of dollars of gambling checks at the bank all from North Shore society people. Balling said it was "quite a thrill" to see.

A not so thrilling component of dealing with gamblers arose when gamblers asked for their checks to be stopped, saying the dice were loaded. Club owners and their henchmen found it necessary to visit bank workers like Balling and advise them strongly not to stop any checks.

"We have means of breaking bones, they would say," Balling recalled. They were always able to collect."

Balling said Johnson created quite a showplace complete with showgirls who stayed in Johnson mansion on the premises. The girls were treated like family and there was no monkey business, Balling said.

Johnson got all the big stars to come and he set up an outdoor tent for summer events, Balling said.

"Stars like Buddy Ebsen and Joan Caulfield would come and rehearse. It was like a little Hollywood here. It was really a great era," he said.

Warfare among gangs, liquor smuggling up the river, a tunnel to hide from G-men and Al Capone patronizing the club were all big stories of the time, Balling said, but he couldn't personally vouch for their truth.

"But I know that as long as Johnson could 'deal' with politicians and police, he could make money," Balling said. "It was a wonderful operation. Too bad it had to be illegal," he added.

Police enjoyed show

Wheeling resident Marvin "Skye" Horcher was a caddy for the club during its Bon Aire days and later a police officer for Wheeling from 1948-1977.

Horcher said he used to sneak up to the club with his friends to watch the outdoor entertainment. He said Johnson was quite a polished gentleman, who was good to his employees and a fantastic showman bringing spectacular entertainment to the club. Patrons of the club were required to spend at least \$100 a night on gambling, or they were thrown out, he said, adding that \$100 was equivalent to \$1000 today.

Restoration continues

Phillips said the outside of the building is high quality construction, however, the infrastructure is bad and therefore troublesome. He added that he wished some type of building plans had been found to aid their rejuvenation process.

Phillips said Chevy Chase has not been considered for historical monument status but the possibility does exist.

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CHECKERED CHEVY CHASE
CLUBHOUSE HAS SEEN SOME BIG TIMES-AND HIDDEN OTHERS

You've probably passed it.

If you've driven on Milwaukee Avenue between Lake-Cook and Deerfield Roads during the last 68 years or so, you've passed *Chevy Chase Country Club* or one of its forebears.

The Tudor-style manor house graces southern Lake County, just over the border of Cook. It's always been close enough for Chicagoans to go out for an afternoon or evening outing, and in Prohibition days it was far enough away from authorities for high adventure.

Maybe you've done more than pass by the sprawling gabled clubhouse, banquet hall and ballroom. Maybe you've pulled into the parking lot (paved this year for the first time) for a golf outing. Maybe you attended a banquet during the '80s or '70s, a wedding in the '60s, a prom in the '50s, a Chicago Ward party in the '40s or '30s, or played some Catholic golf in the '20s.

Although the facade of the great gabled lady has remained constant, the amusements offered by its owners have changed with the times, sometimes shadowy, sometimes sublime.

Since July 1, 1977, the Wheeling Park District has managed the golf course and country club. Following the passage of a \$3.7 million bond issue, the Park District added Chevy Chase's 120 acres to its previous holdings of 96 acres. The deal brought with it a faded jumbo building and a weed-choked golf course.

"It was in disrepair when we got it," said Karop Bavougian, Park District manager, who makes his headquarters in an oak-paneled Chevy Chase office. "It would have been nice to take a million dollars and refurbish it all at once."

Lacking that million dollars, the Park District continues to revitalize and refurbish the club, little by little, year by year. Now weddings, parties, proms, Rotary lunches, golf outings are all back. And back with them are guests from previous years and previous outings, who find the place teeming with memories.

"Nostalgia creates our atmosphere," said Vern Verstraete, superintendent of golf course services and unofficial house historian.

"Chevy Chase today echoes all those events that were in this building. I think it's great that the Park District bought it and restored it. I've talked to so many people who have come here for weddings in the past. And generations of the same families have had their weddings here."

To trace the course of the country club back through more than six decades is an adventure in itself: Some existing documents contain contradictions, and missing documents create gaps.

Conventional wisdom, as well as a 1981 Wheeling Historical Society document, indicate that the original golf course, called Columbian Gardens and Country Club, was developed between 1917 and 1923 and was owned by the Knights of Columbus, though the K of C says it didn't.

Verstraete said an original two-story building was completed in 1923 and burned down in 1976, one year before the Park District bought the property.

Columbian Gardens was one of the early developments in which homes were planned around a golf course. The special interest group that these particular developers targeted were Catholics.

An ad in a 1928 edition of the Knights of Columbus newspaper advertised

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11/17/91

the place as exclusively for Catholics. Restrictive membership was also the basis of rival Medinah Country Club, conceived about the same time.

But contrary to conventional wisdom, the Knights of Columbus says it never owned the golf course. John Hughes, who handles public relations for the Knights of Columbus in Illinois, said, "Columbian Gardens was owned by an outside group of guys who said, 'Let's make this an all-Catholic club.'"

He said the ad for Columbian Gardens and Country Club was placed in the organization's paper back then by a Chicago realty company.

Apparently individual Knights were involved in various aspects of the development, Hughes said. "But the Knights of Columbus owned only one country club. It was in Twin Lakes, Wis., the Commodore Perry Country Club."

Alfred Bertucci, 75, of Highland Park caddied at Columbian in the late '20s. Later he was superintendent of the Old Elm Golf Club in Highland Park from 1958 to 1980. "Columbian was a nice golf course, brand new," Bertucci said. "It had a long layout, yardage wise, with short greens. Pretty much like it is today."

Bertucci also thought the Knights of Columbus owned it. He said the men and women he caddied for were mostly small-business people, good tipppers and Catholic. The grounds had a pro shop, caddy shack, small swimming pool and clubhouse.

Sometime in 1928, during Prohibition, the country club was sold to William "Big Bill" Johnson and William "Billy" Skidmore. Over the next two years, additions to the clubhouse included the ballroom, several main-floor dining rooms, private rooms upstairs and a labyrinthine basement with dressing rooms, storage areas, numerous stairways and some tunnels.

Bon Aire Country Club, as Skidmore and Johnson called it, flourished as a night spot through the '30s, '40s and into the '50s. And what a night spot.

Rumors persist that Al Capone ran Bon Aire, that it was a hoodlum hangout, that it was a front for the Mafia.

"Capone's involvement is like a fish story," Verstraete said with a smile. "It just keeps growing."

Literature on the Capone years also puts distance between him and Bon Aire, while Skidmore's name grows in prominence. Most books that cover the Capone years in Chicago mention Skidmore. He's described variously as an ex-saloon keeper, a court fixer, gambler, junkyard operator, bondsman, casino operator and owner of a 1,000-acre estate on Pistakee Lake in McHenry County.

In 1975, George Murray, the Chicago Herald-American's (later Chicago's American and still later Chicago Today before folding in 1974) chief crime reporter for 40 years, including the Capone years, published his book "The Legacy of Al Capone."

Murray wrote that Jake Guzik was Capone's office manager in charge of personnel and accounting. In mid-1929 Guzik replaced Skidmore, his collections man, with Hymie "Loud Mouth" Levin.

"For years Guzik had used Skidmore as a political fixer," the book states, "to collect weekly tribute from bookmakers, casino operators and whorehouse operators and to make the weekly payoffs to the City Hall, the state legislature, the judges on the bench and the prosecutors in the state's attorney's office as well as the state police."

Apparently by 1929 Skidmore was confining his operations principally to his own gambling houses. "He (Skidmore) was operating his own casinos, in partnership with William 'Big Bill' Johnson . . .," Murray wrote.

One of Skidmore and Johnson's operations was Bon Aire Country Club. Alfred Kruger of Wheeling, 69, father of Palatine Mayor Rita Mullins, caddied at Bon Aire in the early '30s. Kruger said he didn't know Skidmore or Johnson, but he knew the manager, Buck Hendricks. "I used to take money to the bank for him," he said. "They used to have top stars in the nightclub. Alice Faye worked there. I remember a brother-and-sister act, Verna and Rollie Pickard, who jitterbugged on stilts. The stars stayed at the old Union Hotel in Wheeling."

Kruger said he played golf with singer Tony Martin once to complete a

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foursome. He also remembers the FBI raids because of the illegal gambling and alcohol. There could have been more raids at the Bon Aire, he said, "but when they'd raid, the Hartman House (a roadhouse) was the first to be hit." Hartman's spread the word up Milwaukee Avenue, and gambling and drinking paraphernalia would disappear into secret rooms, while certain guests would disappear down back stairways and out through tunnels.

"Yes, it's true," Verstraete said, "The FBI raided now and then. People escaped down any of several stairways into the labyrinthine basement. From there a tunnel went out to the 18th green."

A large square plywood board on the boiler room floor marks the spot of a long-since filled tunnel that probably led out to the golf course.

Long, brick tunnel-like corridors snake under the entire structure, from the men's locker room on the south end to the boiler room, to open storage areas that now pulse with new air conditioning equipment in warm weather, to hidden rooms on the north end, then west under the stage area to dressing rooms for chorus girls, band members and the stars. The way is dotted with stairways.

Verstraete said a bricklayer who used to work at the club told him that things were put into the building for illegal purposes. There was storage space that not every country club would have. A barrel drop for rolling barrels of liquor down a chute led to a large secret room beyond a false wall. Bushes and trees obscured the view of the barrel drop from the road.

Also among Bon Aire's legacy were spotlights on the roof to locate FBI agents who might raid from the golf course side, roof-top parapets for lookouts, phones throughout the building, cubicles above the private dining rooms—large enough to hold a bed, and a small window opening in the anteroom of the ballroom for gamblers to buy chips.

But as Verstraete said, stories from those days often are enhanced. From his findings, Verstraete believes that Bon Aire was not a hangout like Mineola, the alleged former mob hotel on Mineola Bay in the Chain O' Lakes area. He thinks it was a storehouse for distribution of illegal booze in Lake County as well as a place to make money through gambling and drinking, along with nightclub entertainment.

"There were a lot of Cook County ward fundraisers here," he said. "Lots of politicians came and went through here to raise money for re-elections."

Like Al Capone, Skidmore and Johnson were sent to prison for income tax evasion. Skidmore died in prison. On Johnson's release on Dec. 24, 1952, after serving 20 months in prison, he returned to running Bon Aire until he died in the early '50s.

Joseph Johnson was just the opposite of his brother, Big Bill, Verstraete said. "Joe was conservative, a regular businessman. He took over Bon Aire in the early '50s, called it Chevy Chase (named after the northern English hunting grounds) and ran it until the early '70s, when he died."

Joseph and wife Catherine capitalized on the English manor theme to change the image of the club. They were serious about purging the old demons from the club.

According to Sheila Schultz, mayor of Wheeling, the Johnsons opened the ballroom to parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker Parish for Sunday mass until the church was built. That was in 1957 and lasted more than a year.

From the early '50s to the early '70s, Chevy Chase kindled glittering memories with big bands in the ballroom, summer stock under a tent, swimming in the Olympic-size pool and dancing on the roof. The golf course was on the professional circuit, Verstraete said, and he played there himself in the '50s as a golf professional.

Robert O. Lewis and Franchot Tone were among the summer-stock stars. The Dorsey brothers brought their big bands.

Dave Edwards of Palos Hills recalls playing saxophone and clarinet there with the Buddy Lane Band from 1956-58. "We had big crowds every weekend. It was a beautiful ballroom. We played a lot of standards, but in an upbeat, fast

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tempo," he said.

By the mid-'70s the club had fallen into disrepair, but in 1977 the country club embarked on a new era with the Wheeling Park District. Lorraine Lark was then president of the Wheeling Board of Commissioners of the Park District. She was a friend of Catherine Johnson and wanted Chevy Chase to be preserved and restored.

The Johnsons originally had planned to sell to a developer for homes, so they closed the club in 1975 and let the property go to weeds-the greens were weeds, the sand traps were weeds, the pool's filtration system was weeds.

"Those two ladies were something," Verstraete said. "They both felt strong about Chevy Chase and wanted restoration to become a reality. A lot of Mrs. Johnson's history is here."

Eventually, with \$3.7 million approved in a referendum, Wheeling Township bought the property for its park district.

Today, original blue vases still flank the stage in the ballroom. Original red and yellow glass chandeliers shed a soft glow on the burnished dance floor, which vibrates with big band sounds every Wednesday night. Weekends year-round are booked with banquets, weddings and dinner-dances.

A pretty-in-pink bridal room upstairs serves the wedding crowd, the refurbished Devonshire Room and Wayside Room stand in readiness for private parties, and the Gable Room is open five days a week for lunch and dinner.

Maybe not as pristine as it was in the '30s or '50s, maybe not "nouveau" enough for today's movers and shakers. Still, its wood accouterments are polished, its greens are clipped, its mystery pervasive.

Chevy Chase is a survivor: a treasure house of a people's memories.

Chevy Chase Country Club is at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling; phone 708-537-2930.

PHOTO (color): Karop Bavougian, Wheeling Park District manager, makes his headquarters in the Chevy Chase Country Club.

PHOTO (color): Stories of the Al Capone era surface out on the fairways-as did some of the fleeing mob. Photos by Hung Vu.

PHOTO: The fairways of Chevy Chase County Club have been reclaimed from the weeds that filled them after the club was closed for a time in the mid-1970s. Tribune photos by Hung Vu.

PHOTO: Golf course superintendent Vernon Verstraete (left) and Karop Bavougian, Park District manager, now oversee Chevy Chase.

PHOTO: Dance instructors Tom and Agnes DeBartolo bring back some of the memories of the big band era that enlivened Bon Aire Country Club, predecessor to Chevy Chase Country Club. Tribune photo by Val Mazzenga.

KEYWORDS: SUBURB PROFILE GUIDELINE GOLF RECREATION

**WHEELING PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 1995**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois was held in the Devonshire Room of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Klatecki, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioners present: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake, M. Parkinson

Staff present: Karop Bavougian, Director; Steve Pohlman, Supt. of Leisure Services; Tom Busby, Supt. of Finance and Personnel; Steve Schiller, Supt. of Golf Services; Tom McDonald, Greens Supt.; Roger Christensen, Supt. of Clubhouse Services; Mark Harrison, Supt. of Resource Management; Mitch Cohen, Asst. Supt. Resource Management; Trudy Wakeman, Promotions/Special Events Coordinator

Present in audience: Judy Abruscato, Trustee, Village of Wheeling; Cheri Bentrup, Wheeling Countryside; Dwayne Wong, Wheeling Daily Herald; approximately 50 concerned citizens (a list of whom is attached to and made a part of these minutes)

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS - None

**PUBLIC HEARING
CHEVY CHASE CLUBHOUSE**

The purpose of this public hearing was to consider the future of Chevy Chase Clubhouse. The hearing was divided into two parts: A.) Informational presentation and B.) Public opinion.

A. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

In opening the presentation Director Bavougian read aloud the Wheeling Park District's Mission Statement adopted by the Board August 9, 1990 and stated it basically sets the ground rules for everything the Park District does.

Acquisition background The acquisition of Chevy Chase began in October of 1976 when the Park District contacted the owners of Chevy Chase after it became evident that the property was in danger of being sold for a high-density multi-family development. In February 1977 there were

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Chevy Chase Usage Charts were displayed on an overhead projector displaying function size and type, rooms used, and whether used by residents or non-residents for years 1993 and 1994. 93% to 94% of the banquets held were for 300 people or less and 76% to 72% were for 150 or less for the years 1993 and 1994 respectively.

Financial Alternatives Director Bavougian explained potential costs, methods of financing and some of the ramifications of various financing methods.

Installment Contract - Park District signs contract at bank and receives money, the contractors are paid, and the Park District pays back the principle and interest over a period of time by one of the two following methods.

1) P & I paid through Clubhouse revenues. Assuming the issuance of a \$1,500 installment contract at 7% payable over a 15 year period, P & I payments would be approximately \$164,961 per year. A 20 year plan would require payments of \$141,589 per year.

Should an installment contract be issued for \$2,000,000 based on the above variables, payments would approximate \$220,000 and \$189,000 per year.

2) Use of the difference available from Limited Tax Bonds (new term for non-referendum bonds) between the amount committed for P & I payments already committed for installment contracts on the Aquatic and Recreation Centers. If this method is used, there would be no money available for capital improvements throughout the rest of the district.

Alternate Source Bonds - A tax levy would be in place in case an alternate approved source of revenue did not cover payments. If the alternate source does not meet the payments, and the levy not abated, the tax levy would go into effect and that cost would be covered by all the resident taxpayers and tax paying enterprises throughout the Wheeling Park District. If the levy went into effect, it would wipe out the District's Limited Tax Bonding authority (old non-referendum bonds).

Referendum - For Renovation A referendum would be held for a specific amount of money for a specific purpose; i.e. \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 for Chevy Chase renovation. The question would be put before residents of the Wheeling Park District and would have to pass before proceeding. The downside to this is it would concede its non referendum bonding capacity, and all monies for future capital improvements would be lost, as well as not being able to meet payments on existing installment contracts including the Aquatic and Recreation Centers.

Referendum - Tax Rate Increase This would increase the general tax rate. This appears to be the most feasible method to generate the required only to cover P&I payments without jeopardizing existing financial commitments as well as any ongoing or future capital improvements.

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are my feelings, but I'm sure they are shared by the hundreds of people who come for the country western and ballroom dancing. Before I moved to Wheeling I would pass a sign on Milwaukee that said "Wheeling - the village with feeling", I hope it still is."

Shirley Ward McDonnell, E. Center Ave., Wheeling: "I was born and grew up 200 ft. from this property. I ice skated on the lake, I roller skated on the sidewalk. The building is approximately 67 years old. To my knowledge this building is structurally sound. There was a period when the building was not kept up and was a disgrace. If it were mine, I would repair it. Things like heating, air conditioning, heating, plumbing, etc. has improved in 67 years. If you were to build a new building today, without the cost of taking this structure down, which was built during a period of solid construction, I wonder if the new building would last 67 years. ...There are a lot of people in this room that have sentiment for this area. The Park District has done a very fine job in restoring the building. People are proud to say they attend functions here. Please consider what you will do here carefully."

George Kammerer, McHenry, Illinois: "I am a member and commission chairman of the Chicago Round Dance Leaders Society which currently has a membership of 25 dance-teaching couples in the Chicago area including all suburbs as far as Naperville, as far north as the state line and as far west as McHenry and DeKalb. We have 12 associate members, 15 affiliate members and 5 honorary members. We are celebrating our 40th year and tried unsuccessfully to book this facility for the occasion which will probably have 1,000 in attendance. We have our dances here three times a year and bring approximately couples. We finally found a home at Chevy Chase--it has atmosphere. It has something you cannot get anywhere else. We have an open bar at our dances, the food is 100% excellent and the staff is "AA". You can't get a better person than Roger, and his staff to support this facility. We have not had a nicer facility in the last 10 or 12 years. This is the last ballroom that can be rented in the whole northern part of Illinois. Willowbrook is owned and operated by one person and cannot be rented. Years ago I danced at all the ballrooms in the Chicago area. There isn't a place to go anymore for those of us who enjoy our activity."

I am executive vice president of the International Round Dance Organization called "Round-a-Lap" which is made up of members of 1,600 couples who dance in the U.S., Australia, England, Canada, all over the world. We are running out of places to hold our dances everywhere. Public schools will not even rent their gymnasiums to groups. I have been a dance instructor for 25 years and took off this evening to support Roger. Our dances draw people from Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, and all of northern Illinois to this facility. We don't take money, there is no competition allowed. It is strictly recreational. We only pay a nominal fee to cover expenses. If you raze this ballroom, you will be destroying the last ballroom available to the public. Our organization supports a motion that this board does not destroy the last ballroom in Illinois."

Alfreda Enggas, Des Plaines: "This is not only a Wheeling issue. It's an entire Chicagoland area issue. I'm a real estate agent and years ago before Chevy was open to the public, very little was known about Wheeling. This place put Wheeling on the map because this place serves the entire

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and enjoyed the parks. They may have not come to this building per se, but they were very active in the park district and they never got into any trouble. Now it's a different time, if you have kids that are drinking and driving, that a problem. They can come here. They don't have to drink to come here. My friends and I come here Tuesday nights to listen to the good, wholesome music; we don't feel like we have to drink a lot to have a good time. The people are very friendly. We've been here for the Cole Taylor luncheon where people come from far south and are amazed by the beauty of the ballroom and the building. They look forward to coming here. If you want to improve on it that's one thing. But if you take it down, what is going to go up? Brick and glass? You cannot duplicate the workmanship."

Dr. Ian Taylor, Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling: "I have lived in Wheeling for 38 years. Preservation of old buildings is number one on my list. I helped start the Historical Society 25+ years ago. The first thing we did was beat City Hall. They were going to destroy the old Village Hall. We fought City Hall and won. We had the Village Hall moved to Chamber Park, and now it's our museum. When I heard of the thoughts of destroying this place, it irked me, but I waited to see what some of the other people were going to say. I was glad to hear that some of the Wheeling people here were not in favor of destroying it. It would be hard to replace a building like this. Too many old buildings in Wheeling have already been destroyed. As a senior citizen I don't want to see taxes go up, but they will regardless of what is done to this building."

Director Bavougian responded to Dr. Taylor's questions on percentages of use of the room that the District would like to see more bookings regardless of whether the facility was renovated or rebuilt. An alternative question would be whether another banquet facility be put up or would whatever is built be geared to golf course function.

Dr. Taylor stated he thoroughly recommended to the Board that the building not be torn down under any circumstances unless the architects can prove that major problems will be uncovered when renovating. He recommended the audience be given fact notes and figures to look at. Director Bavougian said this could be done.

Ruth Lo Coco, Buckboard Dr., Wheeling: "I lived here for 5 years. I had not been involved with the Park District until a year ago when I began attending the Country Western dances and they have been a tremendous change in my life. I'm healthier, I have a social life, I love it here, I love the people here. I didn't think of the historical value of the building when I came here tonight. I am in favor of keeping these buildings up. Fund raisers would be a great idea!"

James Scalfani, Marquette Pl., Wheeling: "I have lived in Wheeling for 12 years. Before that I lived in upstate New York in a very historical part of the country, and they would never think of doing what is proposed here because they have a respect for history and architecture. Up to this point everyone has spoke of the past. I tend to look at the future. ...whatever is done architecturally compatible with what is here already. ...It really is a landmark in the area. It would be nice to have the theater come back to live. This is an important building and it's the best

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Laurel Anderson, Strong St., Wheeling: "This is something that is going to effect this town for a long, long time. There is no quick fix and you have to think of what is going to happen years down the road too." She requested a copy of the minutes and financial information.

Dennis Toomey, dance instructor, Cary: "There's not another building in the Mid-west like it. If we had a plan, it would pay for itself. ...People come from all over."

President Klatecki: "Whatever happens here, it the Wheeling tax payers who will have to pay."

Thomas Dudan, Schiller Park: "I go to other dances in smoke-filled rooms. I can bring my daughter here on Sunday for family dances. I hardly knew anything about Wheeling before Chevy Chase before coming here three years ago for the dances. Now I am here every Monday and Tuesday night. If you had it five nights a week, I would be here. It's good and wholesome community entertainment...kids are here dancing instead of out drinking. What can you point to in Wheeling for distinction? What's Wheeling going to be like without Chevy Chase. Where there's a will there's a way. Do you want to be the Board remembered as the one that tore down Chevy Chase? Repair it and they will come. Advertise and they will come. I have never heard any advertisements on the radio for Chevy Chase yet dancers come. Imagine if it were advertised! Many places advertise on radio station U.S. 99. I think your community benefits from the dances by bringing in revenues from non-residents.

Each one of the people who came to the podium has made a valid point. You can renovate this place and make it self sufficient so that residents won't have to worry about taxes going up."

President Klatecki: "Since this Board was elected in 1984, the ratio of profits for this building and the golf course has steadily increased. We have not made up our minds, we want community input. ...We are responsible for the voters of Wheeling. We would like to be remembered as the Board that provided the Aquatic and Recreation Centers. We would also like to be remembered as the Board who listened to the citizens...who took chances to do what we felt right based upon what we heard. Some of the comments now are pre-judging our decision."

People from the audience asked how many aquatic centers as opposed to ballrooms are in Illinois. Some said they pay taxes for but do not use the Aquatic Center, only the ballroom, and wouldn't mind if taxes went up for Chevy Chase. . .

Bill Dunbar, Northbrook: "...has banked in Wheeling 30 years, ...flies out of Palwaukee, ...frequently is in Wheeling, ...felt Wheeling has done a lot with the tax dollars , ...comes for dancing, ...Chevy Chase has excellent environment for people's enjoyment--regardless of age, ...fund raisers could help keep taxes down, ...there are people out of the district that would be willing to contribute to the renovation.

Dr. Taylor: suggested charging non-resident dancers more.

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James Scalfani: "Consider making the ballroom as it was years ago, perhaps with a dinner/theater, big name bands, or country western acts that travel around the country. This would generate more than people who are coming here just to dance. Have corporate sponsorships been considered? I have no interest in dancing, only preserving the building."

Director Bavougian: Questioned whether this is a role for a government agency to take. The question needs to be addressed.

Judy Abruscato, Trustee, Village of Wheeling: "As elected officials, we have a public hearing so that you can bring your information. ...As a park board your main interest is what is good for the residents of Wheeling ...we have to look at what is good for 30,000, not what is good for 500 residents. Personally, I would not like the building to come down. People I spoke with today do not want the building to come down, but we know that the confidence we have given the Board will enable you to make the best decision for everyone. We will give you our 100% support for what you need to do. The hardest thing to do is to please 30,000 residents. I thank you for all the work you have done and for what you have brought into our village. You took that step to bring something that compliments the Village. We have confidence that you will do what is good for all of us."

The audience asked what the opinion was of each commissioner.

Commissioner Klumpp: "I have not made a total decision. The ballroom is my favorite part of the facility. But, because of dollars and cents, I don't know if we can save it."

Commissioner Webber: "This is the building that residents love to be associated with, but seldom utilize the facility. This building serves a lot of purposes beside dances: business meetings, Chamber of Commerce, outsiders who rent the facilities, car and antique shows, school functions. It does serve the community; however, the usage is predominantly from non-residents. ...We have to look to the future. We appreciate the revenue the dances have brought in, but its continuance is not guaranteed. We advertise, but most of the business is based on impulse."

Monies on an annual basis have been put into the building to make improvements. Our biggest problem is a philosophy--are we a golf course?, a banquet facility? Do we want something to compliment the banquet facility? Do we need a 56,000 sq. ft. building with a second story which is not used often and is not easily accessible? Due to the American Disability Act, elevators have to be installed, etc. to come into compliance with federal regulations. There are a lot of things to consider. It's not an easy choice; and I am not sure which way I want to go yet. I have a strong desire to utilize this entire building, but major things would have to be done, such as correcting the traffic flow from one end of the building to the other during multiple functions, which now requires one to exit and re-enter the building."

General Discussion

In response to questions from the audience, taxes may have to be raised in order to do any major work to Chevy Chase. Present income from the facility is spent for maintenance only. There is no definite figure for the difference between renovating the building and rebuilding it because it would depend upon what type of facility is rebuilt. The figures that were given in the study were on options of rebuilding a building comparable to the existing one. It gave the Board an avenue to make a determination of what costs would be. The Board must make the decision as to whether to stay in the dance/banquet business and is trying to get input to help make that decision. If the decision is made not to stay in this business, then the building will not be replaced and it is not known at this time what would be built in its place.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Melamed moved, seconded by Commissioner Webber, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karop T. Bavougian
Secretary

Approved this ____ day of _____, 1995
Board of Commissioners
Wheeling Park District

DAILY HERALD, FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1995

Wheeling residents speak out to save historic country club

BY DWAYNE T. WONG
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A record crowd Thursday told Wheeling Park District officials that the Chevy Chase Country Club was a historic building that should be kept standing in the future.

A crowd of about 50 people told the Wheeling Park District board that they should renovate the 78-year-old building at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

"One of the things that keeps Wheeling a village still is Chevy Chase. This is a pulsating, life-affirming community center," said resident Darlene Brill.

Park officials held the advisory meeting to hear opinions of residents and others who use the building to decide its future.

Park commissioners are considering renovating the club at a cost of \$2.76 million, razing it and building a new one for \$2.24 million, or constructing a 500-seat banquet facility for \$2.7 million.

Many in the audience, the largest for a park board meeting in recent memory, were from other communities and use the club for ballroom or country and western dancing.

"By now you realize this isn't just

a Wheeling issue, it's a whole area issue. This building put Wheeling on the map," said Alfreda Enggas of Des Plaines.

Wheeling park commissioners told the audience that they were uncertain what action they would take and no decision had been made.

"We're at the point where the building needs a lot of work. The question is what do we do," said park board President Francine Melamed.

Park officials also said that some sort of tax increase may be needed to fund whatever option they select.

A six-month, \$17,000 study done for the park district noted that the building needed \$2.7 million in repairs to its heating and electrical systems along with other infrastructure work. However, the building is still structurally sound and hosts numerous dances, wedding receptions and other meetings.

Park officials said the club is booked with engagements until next year, and whatever plan is decided upon will not be put into effect before 1997. Park officials indicated they will hold another meeting but didn't set a date.

Thursday, August 10, 1995

WHEELING

S Chevy Chase has history, but will that save it?

By **CHERI BENTRUP**
STAFF WRITER

Many people who enjoy dancing at the Chevy Chase ballroom told park commissioners last week they don't want to see the building razed.

But most of those were not Wheeling residents, who would end up footing the bill if the district decides to undertake expensive renovations.

The Park Board met in a special session Aug. 3 to gather public input on the fate of Chevy Chase Clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

An architectural study completed last year estimated it would cost \$2.76 million to renovate the building and bring it up to code.

Other options for the Park Board are to raze the building and keep the Gable Room to serve golfers, or to raze the building and construct a new 15,000-square-foot banquet facility, expected to cost about \$3 million.

Those attending the meeting, mostly non-residents, commented on the building's history, beauty and memories.

George Kammerer of McHenry, a dance club member, said Chevy Chase has an atmosphere that can't be found anywhere else.

"We come here three times a year, bring approximately 100 couples and have a won-

derful time," Kammerer said. "The food is excellent, the staff is double that. This is the last ballroom in the northern part of Illinois."

Thomas Dudan of Schiller Park said he's a faithful country line dancer at Chevy Chase.

"Do you want to be remembered as the board who took away Chevy Chase?" Dudan asked. "I think your community is benefiting by having Chevy Chase."

Wheeling resident and Plan Commissioner Otis Hedlund said he remembers campaigning for the Park District's 1977 \$3.7 million referendum to purchase the property, and doesn't want to see history destroyed.

"This is a nice, sound building. It's a landmark in the area. It's something everyone recognizes," Hedlund said. "We've got a piece of history here."

Dr. Ian Taylor, a retired Wheeling veterinarian, said too many historical buildings already have been destroyed in the village. "I thoroughly recommend we do not tear this building down under any circumstances," he said.

After a few residents said they don't want their property taxes increased to save Chevy Chase, others suggested the Park District could hold fund-raisers to earn the \$3 million necessary for renovations.

"Whatever happens here
(Continued on page 14)

PIONEER PRESS

■ History

Continued from page 5

it's the Wheeling residents who are going to pay," said Board President Greg Klatecki. "It's a tough decision on our part."

Board commissioners all agreed they are not yet ready to make a decision on the fate of Chevy Chase, but noted it will be a financial decision.

They said the public hearing was an opportunity to listen to residents, who ultimately will pay for any renovation or new construction.

"This is the building people love to be associated with, but they hardly ever utilize it," said Commissioner Tom Weber.

Commissioner Dennis Drake noted that only 15 percent of the events booked at Chevy Chase are from Wheeling residents. "I don't know if I can justify that," he added.

Klatecki said there will probably be at least one more public hearing before the board makes its decision, which he doesn't expect will occur for at least six months.

"We're looking for input from the community," said Commissioner Fran Melamed. "We have no idea what we plan to do."

Your Local

NEWS



Burning down the house

Firefighters wait outside for the go ahead from Capt. Figolah (white helmet) of the Mt. Prospect department during a fire practice Monday on one of the old structures at Chiderely Park. The dummy in the foreground was used as a mock victim.

Monday on one of the old structures at Chiderely Park. The dummy in the foreground was used as a mock victim.

Chevy Chase has history, but will that save it?

By CHERI BENTRUP
STAFF WRITER

Many people who enjoy dancing at the Chevy Chase ballroom told park commissioners last week they don't want to see the building razed.

But most of those were not Wheeling residents, who would end up footing the bill if the district decides to undertake expensive renovations.

The Park Board met in a special session Aug. 3 to gather public input on the fate of Chevy Chase Clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

An architectural study completed last year estimated it would cost \$2.76 million to renovate the building and bring it up to code.

Other options for the Park Board are to raze the building and keep the Gable Room to serve golfers, or to raze the building and construct a new 15,000-square-foot banquet facility, expected to cost about \$3 million.

Those attending the meeting, mostly non-residents, commented on the building's history, beauty and memories.

George Kammerer of McHenry, a dance club member, said Chevy Chase has an atmosphere that can't be found anywhere else.

"We come here three times a year, bring approximately 100 couples and have a won-

derful time," Kammerer said. "The food is excellent, the staff is double that. This is the last ballroom in the northern part of Illinois."

Thomas Dudan of Schiller Park said he's a faithful country line dancer at Chevy Chase.

"Do you want to be remembered as the board who took away Chevy Chase?" Dudan asked. "I think your community is benefiting by having Chevy Chase."

Wheeling resident and Plan Commissioner Ous Hedlund said he remembers campaigning for the Park District's 1977 \$3.7 million referendum to purchase the property, and doesn't want to see history destroyed.

"This is a nice, sound building. It's a landmark in the area. It's something everyone recognizes," Hedlund said. "We've got a piece of history here."

Dr. Ian Taylor, a retired Wheeling veterinarian, said too many historical buildings already have been destroyed in the village. "I thoroughly recommend we do not tear this building down under any circumstances," he said.

After a few residents said they don't want their property taxes increased to save Chevy Chase, others suggested the Park District could hold fund-raisers to earn the \$3 million necessary for renovations.

"Whatever happens here (Continued on page 14)

Clubhouse has survived eight decades

By CHERI BENTRUP
STAFF WRITER

Chase Clubhouse has been standing along Milwaukee Avenue as a Wheeling landmark for so many years, no one seems certain of just how many years it's been.

A publication of the Wheeling His-

torical Society states that the clubhouse, then called the Columbian, was built in 1917 by the Knights of Columbus. Other publications show the completion date of 1928.

Local historian Marvin "Syke" Horcher said businessmen Bill Johnson and a partner named Skidmore bought the clubhouse and golf course

from the Knights of Columbus in the late '20s or early '30s, during the Depression.

"It was quite a place with a private pool, golf course and some little known performers like Bob Hope and Bing Cosby," Horcher joked. "I was just a kid then."

Horcher agrees with rumors that

the Chevy Chase, then called Bon Air, had mob connections in the Prohibition '30s. Johnson was later prosecuted and convicted of income tax evasion, while Skidmore turned state's evidence, he said.

Though he never heard stories of Al Capone visiting Chevy Chase. (Continued on page 14)

History

Continued from page 5

...the Wheeling residents who are going to pay," said Board President Greg Klatecki. "It's a tough decision on our part."

Board commissioners all agreed they are not yet ready to make a decision on the fate of Chevy Chase, but noted it will be a financial decision.

They said the public hearing was an opportunity to listen to the residents, who ultimately will pay for any renovation or new construction.

"This is the building people love to be associated with, but they hardly ever utilize it," said Commissioner Tom Webber.

Commissioner Dennis Drake noted that only 15 percent of the events booked at Chevy Chase are from Wheeling residents. "I don't know if I can justify that," he added.

Klatecki said there will probably be at least one more public hearing before the board makes its decision, which he doesn't expect will occur for at least six months.

"We're looking for input from the community," said Commissioner Fran Melamed. "We have no idea what we plan to do."

Clubhouse

Continued from page 5

Horcher said, "I doubt at that time Johnson could have operated without Al Capone's approval. They bought it with the intention of creating a very fine country club. It cost a lot of money to go there."

Rumors

Park Board President Greg Klatecki said he doesn't know much of the history of the club, but has heard rumors about its mob connections. "We've never verified any of it," Klatecki added.

The Wheeling Park District purchased the building and golf course in 1977 from the Johnson estate, according to Parks Director Karop Bavougian.

Park commissioners are now deciding whether to completely renovate the English Tudor style building for an estimated \$2.76 million or raze it.

They expect to have another public hearing, but no date has been set, Bavougian said.

Because the building is old, the Park Board expects residents to question its official landmark status in an attempt to save the building from the wrecking ball. But being old doesn't necessarily qualify the building for the National Register of Historic Places.

DIGEST

CAMPUS

Local students making the grade

Kevin Hough, a graduate of Wheeling High School, will be attending Illinois College for the fall 1995 semester. Illinois College, a liberal arts school located in Jacksonville, will begin its 167th year with an enrollment of more than 950 students.

Lauren Harrison, of Wheeling, made the honor roll for the fourth quarter at The Willows Academy, an independent college preparatory school for girls in Miles.

Michael J. DeNoma was named to the dean's list for the spring semester at Albion College. DeNoma, who graduated in May, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in art, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. DeNoma of Buffalo Grove and a graduate of Buffalo Grove High School.

Long Grove residents Matthew W. Graham received a bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts and Christine A. Piggott received a bachelor of science degree in management during commencement ceremonies at Purdue University.

Buffalo Grove residents Michelle M. Rosinski received a bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts and Susan G. Truger received a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy and pharmacy science during commencement ceremonies at Purdue University.

Wheeling residents May Sandiego, an education major, received the Illinois International Fellowship Award; and Kevin Stone, an engineering major, received a National Science Foundation Grant from the University of Illinois.

Cathy L. Fine, of Buffalo Grove, has been inducted into the Alpha Delta Omega Honor Society. Fine received a master of science degree in human services from Southern-Louis University in June. Alpha Delta Omega was established in 1988 to honor students and professionals for their commitment to the human services field.

Kara L. Walters, of Prairie View, received a bachelor of science degree during commencement ceremonies at Illinois State University.

Buffalo Grove residents who received degrees during

(Continued on page 15)

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opment of independence, as well as for those attending public school kindergarten—2, 3, or 5 days per week for children who just make or September 1 cut-off. Morning and afternoon classes available, 5 days per week.

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DAILY HERALD
SECTION 5
SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1996

Raze? Renovate? Add? Club's dilemma to be focus of park district open forum

BY DWAYNE T. WONG
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents Thursday again will have an opportunity to tell Wheeling Park District officials what should be done in the future to the Chevy Chase Country Club.

Park commissioners are holding a second meeting at the country club at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. at 7 p.m. to hear what residents would like to see done with the 78-year-old building.

"The intent is to get input. We'd definitely like to hear what the residents have to say," said Karop T. Bavougian, the park district's director of parks and recreation.

Options the park district are considering for the country club includes completely renovating it

for \$2.76 million, razing it and building a new one for \$2.24 million or constructing a new 500-seat banquet facility for \$2.7 million.

Bavougian also said that a 6,000 square-foot golf building with a pro-shop and bar and grill that doesn't have banquet facilities could probably be built for \$750,000.

A six-month, \$17,000 study done for the park district noted the building needed \$2.7 million in repairs to its heating and electrical systems along with other infrastructure work. However, the building is still structurally sound and hosts numerous dances, wedding receptions and other meetings.

Park officials have said they do not have a deadline for making a

decision about the 60,000 square-foot building.

They also have said that nothing will happen with the building before 1997. Bavougian said that if a large number of people attend the meeting, residents will be given the first priority to address the park commissioners.

Park officials have said whatever they decide to do with the building the adjoining 18-hole golf course will remain unchanged.

The country club was rumored to be a former hideout for gangster Al Capone and served as a gambling club in the 1920s.

And while some have said the building is a part of the history of Wheeling's famed "Restaurant Row" area of Milwaukee Avenue, park officials note the club does not have official landmark status.

Residents to talk about Chevy Chase

The Wheeling Park District Board will hold a Public Hearing on the renovation options for Chevy Chase Country Club at 7 tonight, March 14, in the Devonshire Room of Chevy Chase, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. For more information, call 465-2309.

At the last public hearing concerning Chevy Chase, many who spoke were not Wheeling residents. The Park Board has asked Wheeling residents to attend and comment on the future of Chevy Chase, as they will be the ones who will pay for any renovations.

PIONEER PRESS

Images/Neighbors

PARK PLEASERS

The Wheeling Park District Board will hold a Public Hearing on the renovation options for Chevy Chase Country Club at 7 tonight, March 14, in the Devonshire Room of Chevy Chase Country Club. For more information, call 465-2309.

DAILY HERALD, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1996

Residents offer remedies for Chevy Chase clubhouse

By MELANIE BALOG
Daily Herald Correspondent

A group of Wheeling residents wants the Wheeling Park District to preserve the 78-year-old Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse.

About 40 residents recently told park officials their thoughts on what should be done with the building at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

"Chevy Chase is just something special," resident Laurel Anderson

said.

A consultant's study determined the 60,000-square-foot building needs \$2.8 million in renovations.

Other options the study recommended include razing it and building a new 500-seat banquet facility for \$2.7 million, or building a new clubhouse for \$2.2 million.

Park officials also have said that the district could build a 6,000-square-foot golf building without banquet facilities for \$750,000.

"Eventually you reach a point where you can only add so many Band-Aids to one structure," park commissioner Francine Melamed said about possibly renovating the building.

Some residents said Chevy Chase is known throughout the area as a hot spot for country-western and ballroom dancing.

"There's nothing like coming to Chevy Chase on a Wednesday night and seeing a couple of hundred peo-

ple out there living and enjoying themselves," resident Darlene Brill said.

Park officials said the \$800,000 in revenues generated annually from events held at the building, which is structurally sound, won't entirely cover its renovation costs. The difference would have to come from a tax increase, they said.

Karop T. Bavougian, director of parks and recreation, said if voters approved such a tax increase it

would probably add \$20 to the average homeowner's yearly property tax bill.

"Truthfully, the seven of us (park commissioners) would prefer the taxpayer make the decision," park board President Greg Klatecki said.

Park officials have said nothing would happen to the building before 1997.

Wheeling park officials also have said the adjoining 18-hole golf course would remain unchanged.

Our
Local

NEWS

Save Chevy Chase, turnout tells board

By **CHERI BENTRUP**
STAFF WRITER

The handful of Wheeling residents who attended a hearing on the fate of Chevy Chase last week sent a strong message they are willing to pay more taxes to save the building.

But whether that opinion is held by a majority of residents is still very much in question.

The park board held a second meeting last Thursday to help it decide whether to renovate or raze the Chevy Chase clubhouse. If saved, commissioners feel the building would need up to \$2.7 million in renovations within the next few years.

A first meeting was held in August, but most of those who came out to defend the semi-historic structure were users of the clubhouse, not residents of the village.

Thursday's turnout had more residents, but still disappointed commissioners.

"In a community of 30,000, we have roughly 36 people show up," said Board President Greg Klatecki.

Klatecki noted that a notice was published in the winter and spring Park District program brochures which were sent to every home in the district. News releases were also published in local newspapers and the Park District advertised the meeting on its new electronic sign in front of the Recreation Center on Dundee Road.

"I wonder how much more we have to do," Klatecki lamented.

But members of the audience urged the

board not to read the low turnout as a sign of non-interest in the clubhouse.

"I do think you're wrong when you say people are not concerned," said Wheeling resident Laurel Anderson. "People recognize Wheeling with Chevy Chase, like they used to recognize the Union Hotel, which is now gone."

Park District Director Karop Bavougian estimated a \$3 million referendum to renovate the building would cost the "average" homeowner \$30 more in taxes a year. Park district statistics show only 10 to 15 percent of the people who use the clubhouse are Wheeling residents.

Those who attended the meeting said that is a cost they are willing to pay.

"I've talked to my neighbors and even though they don't use this building personally, they don't want to see it torn down," Anderson said.

"It wouldn't be a hidden tax. We can see what's being done with the money," she added.

Wheeling resident Darlene Brill, who ballroom dances at Chevy Chase, agreed that the building must be saved.

"This building has so much history, so much character. Chevy Chase is really important to me, and I'll do whatever I can to keep it around," Brill said.

Board member Fran Melamed spelled out the board's feelings on its choices. She said the building has been "bandaged" significantly since the Park District purchased it in

(Continued on page 21)



Joel Lerner/Pioneer Press

eisberg and 11-year-old Dan-Ann Slivinski during dress rehearsal for Park Productions "Lost in Space" on March 15-17, 22 and 23. Call

Commissioners wrestle with three options

1,000-square-foot banquet hall. This option would cost \$2.2 million.

The third option would cost \$2.76 million and would consist of renovating the entire building.

Park officials, however, can

chased Chevy Chase in 1977, all cosmetic renovations have been paid for by profits from the banquet/food services. No tax money has been used for renovations, Klatecki said.

The memories of purchasing the clubhouse and being

Park Board in 1994, after an architectural firm completed a six-month study of the building at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

In addition to renovations necessary to comply with the Disabilities Act, the study

grades, and many physical improvements such as replacing all 300-some windows, building fire walls and refinishing wooden floors.

Whichever option the Park Board chooses, the Wheeling taxpayers are the ones who

Hearing

Continued from page 5

1977.

"You can only put on so many (bandages) until you ask yourself if we're spending money in our best interest? The question is how many more (bandages) do we want to put on?" Melamed asked. "We need to find out what the community wants."

Klatecki said residents who were unable to attend this hearing can comment on Chevy Chase at the board's regular meeting, held at 7

'In a community of 30,000, we have roughly 36 people show up.'

p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays in the Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road.

"When you make a decision of this magnitude, I think the taxpayers have to make that decision, not people who have a one-night interest in the building" such as country western and ballroom dancers, Klatecki said.

But Klatecki noted there is a cost in waiting too long to make a decision. "The longer we wait, the more it's going to cost. The study is already a year old," he added.

Options

Continued from page 5

Meanwhile, the banquet and food services at Chevy Chase are operating as usual, continuing to accept reservations.

Although the Chevy Chase was built circa 1920s, it is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To be eligible for the list, a building must be of historical, architectural or archeological significance. The Park Board agrees the building is old, but not historically significant.

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Chevy Chase notice may go out in water bills

By **CHERI BENTRUP**
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling Park Board members are on the verge of deciding the fate of Chevy Chase Clubhouse and resident Laurel Anderson wants to ensure that the decision is made with the most input.

Anderson, who has attended two previous hearings by the park board, said she fears many residents are not aware that the clubhouse might be destroyed, despite numerous newspaper articles and notices in the Park District's brochure.

Last week, she convinced village trustees to consider inserting a notice in water and garbage bills to alert residents about Chevy Chase's possible fate. Trustees said they would consider doing so, if the Park Board has no objections.

"I was trying to think of how you get (information) to 30,000 people and realized everyone gets a water bill and a garbage bill. A lot of people really don't know it's going on," Anderson said. "We're trying to notify as many people as possible. A lot of people came out to the meetings, but not many were Wheeling residents.

"Personally, I feel we'd be losing a great asset to this community and I don't want to see it torn down. I'd just like people to know so they have the opportunity to voice their opinion by writing a letter to the Park District," she added. The public also can comment at the Park Board's meetings held at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road.

The park district is trying to decide what to do with the clubhouse. An engineering study completed in fall of

1994 included a lengthy list of necessary renovations, some of which are required because of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The building will eventually need some work just to remain sound, and when the park district begins that work, it will be required to comply with the ADA requirements.

On the list are 300-some new windows, wider doors, handicapped accessible restrooms and elevators. Renovations are expected to cost \$2.76 million.

Another option, tearing down the clubhouse and building a new 15,000-square-foot banquet hall is estimated to cost \$2.9 million. Demolishing all but the Gable Room which serves golfers and building a new 15,000-square-foot banquet hall would cost \$2.9 million.

Park officials say they would need

a referendum, that could cost tax payers about \$30 a year, to save and renovate the clubhouse.

Anderson said the notice would not lobby for one choice or another, but would solicit feedback. "I want to reach the most amount of people in the shortest amount of time," Anderson said. "A lot of people say they don't want any raises in taxes, but this is something they could actually see where their money is going.

Park Board President Greg Klatecki said commissioners are reviewing the idea.

"We didn't say no to her," Klatecki said. "We'll probably say it's OK, but we'll want to review what (the flier) is going to say."

Klatecki said the board welcomes letters from residents about the Chevy Chase.

DAILY HERALD

95, 26 or 27

APRIL, 1996

NEIGHBOR

■ BUFFALO GROVE
■ LONG GROVE
■ WHEELING

SECTION

5

Input sought on Chevy Chase's future

BY BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials know that they have to decide what to do about the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse.

But before deciding the fate of the 78-year-old building that is in need of repair, officials want get more opinions from residents.

So, the district will probably hold a third public hearing on the matter to collect more comments from residents, officials say.

"We want to give the community every opportunity to voice their

opinion," said park Commissioner Francine Melamed. "The decision has to lie in the community."

A study conducted for the district indicated that the building, at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., needs \$2.7 million in repairs to its heating and electrical systems, along with other infrastructure work.

The building, however, is still structurally sound and hosts numerous dances, wedding receptions and other meetings.

Officials have said that nothing will be done to the building before 1997, for when some events have already been booked.

Though no deadlines have been set, officials say a decision can't be delayed for too long. "We know that these problems exist ... but every year (that) goes by, that building needs more repairs and it will cost more and more money," Melamed said. "We can't extend (the decision) forever."

Options the district have considered for the country club include completely renovating it for \$2.76 million, razing it and building a new one for \$2.24 million or constructing a new 500-seat banquet facility for \$2.7 million. Another option would be to build a 6,000-

square-foot golf building with a pro-shop, bar and grill, without banquet facilities, which would cost about \$750,000.

District Director Karop T. Bavougian said two public hearings have been conducted to solicit comment from residents about the issue, with the most recent one held last month.

In those meetings residents have both favored restoring the building and razing it, Bavougian said.

However, more residents have shown an interest in the issue, thus creating the need for another hearing, he added.

DAILY HERALD
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1996

Page 4/Section 1A

CLF

FENCE POST

Save lovely ballroom

The Wheeling Park District is in the process of deciding the "fate of Chevy Chase." The decision is whether to renovate or demolish the existing building. Wheeling residents will have to fund any expenditures for renovation/demolition. There will probably be a tax increase, but in the ballpark of \$20 to \$50 per year, depending on the value of your property. You would see your tax dollars at work in the restoration and preservation of a beautiful, unique, old building with a lot of class, history, nostalgia, ambiance, etc. This building is a big asset for Wheeling. It is good for business as people coming to dance frequent the restaurants, gas stations, etc. This building has the only wooden ballroom dance floor in the far northern Illinois area. It would be a shame to demolish it and put up something brick and glass. The woodwork alone can never be duplicated. It is a warm, intimate, cozy atmosphere even though the main ballroom can accommodate a large number of people. It definitely needs major renovation, for plumbing, electric, heating, air conditioning, handicap accessibility, etc.; but, if we can save the building, it would be a definite asset. If you have never been there, call to see if you can walk through the building. The small rooms accommodate people for meetings, showers, small parties, etc.

Please write the Wheeling Park District Board, 333 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, IL 60090, to give your opinion. Come to a Wheeling Park District meeting, held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Community Recreation Center on Dundee Road, between Wickes Furniture and the Wheeling Village Hall.

I need volunteers to help me save Chevy Chase. For information call me at (847) 537-2593.

Laurel H. Anderson
Wheeling

See page 7.

5-25-96

pt.!

I enjoyed talking with you the other day. I would be glad to help you with the research you

landmark status for Gray Clay. I have phone numbers for National Business Research and Marketing Library.

I have enclosed copies of the May 7 Park District Meeting for you. In May 21 there were 8 residents including myself and a lady from Mt. Prospect. They are receiving some letters, but not nearly enough. If you could talk to your neighbors, friends, business associates, etc

who live in Wheeling or are in Wheeling Park District if you'd be a big help. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Frank Anderson
(847) 537-2593

**WHEELING PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 7, 1996**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois was held in the Board Room of the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Klatecki, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioners present: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake

Commissioners absent: M. Parkinson

Staff present: Karop T. Bavougian, Director; Steve Pohlman, Supt. of Recreation; Jan Buchs, Asst. Supt. of Recreation; Thomas Busby, Supt. of Finance and Personnel; Amy Wachholz, Safety Coordinator; Steve Schiller, Supt. of Golf Services; Mark Harrison, Supt. of Parks and Planning

Present in audience: Earl S. Ebers, Attorney for Wheeling Park District

AGENDA - ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 16, 1996

Commissioner Webber moved, seconded by Commissioner Melamed, to approve the minutes of April 16, 1996. Roll call being taken the following commissioners voted:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, G. Klatecki, D. Drake

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: F. Melamed, B. Mattes

ABSENT: M. Parkinson

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds: None

Programs and Facilities: None

Intergovernmental and Community Relations: None

Minutes of May 7, 1996

Page 2

OLD BUSINESS - None

SINE DIE

President Klatecki declared the 1995-1996 Board Sine Die. He took leave of his office as president and asked that the secretary to the Board of Park Commissioners fulfill his duties.

Call to Order of 1996-1997 Board Secretary Bavougian declared the first meeting of the 1996-1997 Board be called to order.

Roll Call Secretary Bavougian called the roll and the following commissioners were in attendance: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, and D. Drake. Commissioner Parkinson was absent with prior notice given.

Election of President Secretary Bavougian opened nominations for the Office of President of the Board of Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District for the 1996-1997 Board.

Commissioner Melamed nominated Commissioner Klatecki. There being no further nominations, Commissioner Webber moved, seconded by Commissioner Melamed, to close nominations and an unanimous ballot be cast for Greg Klatecki to serve as President of the 1996-1997 Board of Park Commissioners. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

President Klatecki took the chair and assumed the duty of conducting the remainder of the meeting.

Election of Vice President Commissioner Drake nominated Commissioner Mattes. There being no further nominations Commissioner Webber moved, seconded by Commissioner Klumpp, to close nominations and an unanimous ballot be cast for Bill Mattes to serve as Vice-President of the 1996-1997 Board of Park Commissioners. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Appointments - Advisory to Board of Park Commissioners

President Klatecki offered the following appointments for the 1996-1997 session.

Attorney Earl S. Ebers, Jr.

Treasurer Thomas A. Busby

Secretary to Board
of Park Commissioners Karop T. Bavougian

Director of Parks and Recreation . . . Karop T. Bavougian

NWSRA Representative Karop T. Bavougian

Minutes of May 7, 1996
Page 3

Commissioner Drake moved, seconded by Commissioner Webber, that the aforementioned appointments be accepted and ratified for the 1996-1997 year. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Appointments to Committees and Liaisons

President Klatecki recommended the following assignments to Committees and Liaisons.

<u>Board Committees</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Members</u>
Buildings and Grounds Committee	Dennis Drake	Mark Parkinson Tom Webber
Finance Committee	Tom Webber	Bill Mattes Fran Melamed
Programs and Facilities Committee	Bill Mattes	Dennis Drake Cheri Klumpp
Historical Society Liaison	Cheri Klumpp	All Board Members
Intergovernmental and Community Relations	Mark Parkinson	Cheri Klumpp Fran Melamed
Board As A Whole	Greg Klatecki	All Board Members

Commissioner Melamed moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattes, to accept and ratify the committee assignments. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

School District 21 Request - Whitman School

A letter was received addressed to President Klatecki from Arlen Gould asking for the Park District's participation in the acquisition of the 1.9 acres behind Whitman School, part of the Union Hotel/Village T.I.F. project. The acquisition will be made through the Village, who has not yet purchased the subject parcel, but expects to by mid- to late-June. Speaking for the Board, Commissioner Webber did not want to make a commitment until the Board knows exactly what other agencies are committing to, including securing the property and the purchase price. In light of the current lawsuit filed by residents, the Board asked the Director to write to District 21 advising them the Park District would like to participate in the acquisition, but due to the ongoing situation do not wish to commit to a dollar amount at this time.

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Page 4

Commissioner Melamed moved, seconded by Commissioner Webber, that the Wheeling Park District will be a participant in the acquisition on a reasonable basis based upon acquisition costs. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Communicable Disease Policy

Copies of the proposed revised policy, which would replace the one currently in use, were distributed to the Board for review. Supt. Busby stated the new policy is more pertinent to the Park District's operation and would also replace our exposure control plan along with reducing the size by half of the current policy. The revised policy was put together by P.D.R.M.A., an attorney working with P.D.R.M.A. and other park districts, and modified to meet our needs. All employees will go through training once a year.

Safety Coordinator Amy Wachholz answered questions relative to what is considered contaminated and how such items would be disposed of. Questions were also answered relative to shots offered to employees.

Commissioner Klumpp moved, seconded by Commissioner Drake, to approve the amended Communicable Disease Policy as presented.

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake
NAY: None
ABSENT: M. Parkinson

Motion carried.

Director Bavougian thanked Supt. Busby and Amy Wachholz for the time and effort they put into revising the policy. He noted that this date will appear on page 17 of the Policy as the date approved and as amendments are made will be updated accordingly.

Dump Truck Bids

Bids were solicited from three local dealers and advertised. Only one bid was received: Tom Todd Chevrolet. With the trade-in the total cost was \$17,415. Staff recommended the Board approve entering into a purchase agreement.

A brief discussion was held relative to age of the trade-in and the replacement schedule developed a few years ago. Each year the replacement vehicles are upgraded, and this particular vehicle was being replaced at the recommendation of Parks & Planning based on miles and use.

Minutes of May 7, 1996

Page 5

Commissioner Webber moved, seconded by Commissioner Klumpp, to enter into a purchase agreement with Tom Todd Chevrolet for the purchase of a Chevy Cheyenne 2 WD Dump Truck for the amount of \$17,415.

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake

NAY: None

ABSENT: M. Parkinson

Motion carried.

Heritage Park Shelter Bids

Bid Summary and recommendations were submitted by Supt. Harrison for the construction of the two Heritage Park shelters, including the shelters and associated pavements, excavation and masonry. The low bidder for construction, which excluded the separately bid shelter materials, was Reil Construction of Marengo, Illinois. Reil was also doing the work at Childerley and staff was pleased with their workmanship and recommended acceptance of their bid. Discussion was held relative to the wide range of bid prices submitted. Supt. Harrison displayed plans and discussed materials with the Board.

Commissioner Webber moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattes, to accept the low bid from Reil Construction of Marengo, Illinois and enter into a contract for the construction of two Heritage Park shelters, per the bidding documents dated 4/3/96, in the amount of \$47,456, which includes add alternates one and two for the masonry columns and exposed aggregate pavement respectively.

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake

NAY: None

ABSENT: M. Parkinson

Motion carried.

N.I.P.C. Request An annual request was received from Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (N.I.P.C.). N.I.P.C. provides planning services and serves as one of the Clearinghouse Review agencies for state grant approvals.

Commission Mattes moved, seconded by Commission Klumpp, to contribute \$1,298 to N.I.P.C. for the 1996 fiscal year.

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Page 6

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake
NAY: None
ABSENT: M. Parkinson

Motion carried.

FINANCE

Voucher List 5A in the amount of \$330,308.80

Commissioner Webber moved, seconded by Commissioner Klumpp, to approve Voucher List 5A in the amount of \$330,308.80. Questions were raised on the following items: page 5 - Efraim Carlson & Son, Inc. - partial payment for professional service; page 6 - Compsych, employee assistance program - professional service, Supt. Busby noted staff will have a proposal to change to another company at the next meeting; page 10 - L.R.K. Design - advertising folders for Golf and Clubhouse; page 11 - Municipal Well & Pump - filling abandoned wells with non-porous clay at Chevy and Childerley. Commissioner Webber noted that almost half of the District's expenses pertain to Chevy Chase maintenance and Childerley Park.

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake
NAY: None
ABSENT: M. Parkinson

Motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Klumpp reported the Historical Society had their election of officers and Frank Schnaitmann remains president, Lorraine Haben and Marge Allison will be directors and Betty Barry will be the curator for the museum as Sue Knippen has resigned. The installation dinner will be May 22. The Society decided to open the Museum two Sunday afternoons per month and will make and post directional signs in the area.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

President Klatecki requested that all correspondence be placed on file.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Supt. Pohlman reported the Day Camp registration is going very well; first session is full. Staff will be discussing the impact that swim lessons have had on the day camp. The electronic sign has been successful in communicating with residents as far as timeliness in enrollments. The pre-season pass sale ended April 30, and on that day from 5:15 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. there was \$10,000 worth of multiple pass sales--meaning more than one to a family and about \$2,500 worth of individual passes. This was in addition to registrations for other programs. Employment opportunities are still available in the Day Camp area, Aquatic Center staffing is complete.

Supt. Schiller reported the leagues have started, R.T.T.'s are into their season, and golf lessons started this week. The grass should be back to normal by the beginning of June.

Supt. Harrison reported flowers will be planted next week throughout the District and turf mowing has begun. Flowers will be planted around the electronic sign. Director Bavougian and he will be assisting District 21 by taking an advisory role and setting up a workshop session to help students of London Middle School prepare an application for a grant for the development of London/Husky property. The school can apply for between \$50,000 and \$100,000 worth of funds for the development of an outdoor classroom. It is hoped that the school and park district can set up a mutually beneficial development. The masonry on the Chevy maintenance building has been completed. The creek is being excavated for compensatory storage. The walks are being poured at Childerley on the right of way and around the parking lot. Masonry will be started tomorrow and the retention area is being graded.

Attorney Earl Ebers complimented Director Bavougian on his good work and stated it is a pleasure to be associated with this Park District because it is so well run. There have been no significant legal problems, and he did not foresee any in the near future.

Commissioner Webber stated that for the first time in ten years he was unable to attend opening day of baseball, but heard that everything went well. All the facilities look good and the construction at Chevy and Childerley are coming along great. A brief discussion with Supt. Pohlman was held relative to the day camps and upcoming occupancy at Tarkington.

Director Bavougian reported he is working with the Village to clear up the matter of sprinklering the shelters. The plans have been submitted to the Village for review, and they will make an administrative determination whether the shelters are outside the perimeter of their ordinance.

Commissioner Drake reminded Supt. Harrison to keep Childerley on the mowing schedule.

Citizens Laurel Anderson reported she has talked to many people and has had articles published in the Fencepost, and St. Joseph's and another local church's bulletins. Copies of letters from residents written to the Park District have been submitted to board members. The people she has talked to are not just dancers. There were some questions presented to her that she would like the Board to answer. What will happen to the wooden dancefloor if the building is demolished?

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Page 8

Perhaps it could be sold. What would happen to the black walnut carved woodwork? Are there any floor plans or blueprints to show where the electric and plumbing lines and heating ducts are? If a new building is constructed, will it last beyond 60 years? Concerning a referendum, there could be a petition to put it on the ballot of an election or the Board may decide to put it on the ballot.

Young adults (not teenagers) feel they have a unique place to go in Chevy, and there are not many activities offered through the Park District for that age group. Ms. Anderson felt dancers' opinions should not be just ruled out as they bring money to the Village when they use local services. Can an extra fee be charged to the dancers and the money be put toward the renovation? Dancers have indicated they would be willing to do this to save Chevy, a list of those people will be presented at the next meeting. Hopefully some of those people will be at the next meeting.

In reply to several questions on what would happen if the building is demolished: taxes would not go down as tax money is not presently used for Chevy--it pays for itself; the Park District would retain ownership; the golf course would remain; and some other form of a recreational facility may be built in the future. Ms. Anderson asked if Chevy is renovated, would it be changed or would the rooms basically remain the same. President Klatecki replied that because a decision has not been made, these questions have not been considered. Any work would be awarded through bids advertised in the local newspapers and the Dodge Construction News. The architect would also put together a list of contractors that he has worked with or knows of and they would be sent notices of bid.

The question also remains as to whether the Park District should be in the banquet facility business. If Chevy was renovated and rented out, it would take too long to recover the capital investment and would not be a wise use of the taxpayers money. In reply to a question, money was not put aside when Chevy was acquired because there was none--it did not show a profit until 1990. Residents were promised that no tax dollars would be used for the operation or upkeep of that facility. If tax dollars are to be used now, the Board has to be sure it is for the best interest of the community. The main thrust of that referendum passing was not for a recreation center/banquet hall/dancing, but for open space and to keep out a multi-family seven-story apartment complex that would generate a population of 18,000 to 22,000 people. Also, part of that money was used for the purchase of Childerley Park. Discussion followed on past park endeavors.

Ms. Anderson asked whether the Board's decision will be based on the dollar bottom line or will it be based on whether it's an asset for our Village. She felt Chevy is an asset to the Village and an asset that should be preserved. She questioned if the Park District is not in business to make money, what difference does it make if Chevy doesn't make money, as long as it pays for itself.

Discussion followed relative to a referendum specifically earmarking the tax increase to go to Chevy. Based on experience gained from the referendums held for the Community Recreation Center, some Board members felt that a referendum for Chevy would not pass.

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Page 9

Again, the Board stated residents are welcome to offer comments at any of the regular meetings, and there will be another public hearing combined with a regular meeting. She felt the Chevy issue should be publicized by the Chamber of Commerce. Discussion was held relative to publicizing the issue. Ms. Anderson requested the Board notify the Village when another public hearing will be held so that it may be included in the water and refuse bills.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Melamed moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattes, at 8:35 p.m. to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. The motion carried by voice vote.

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

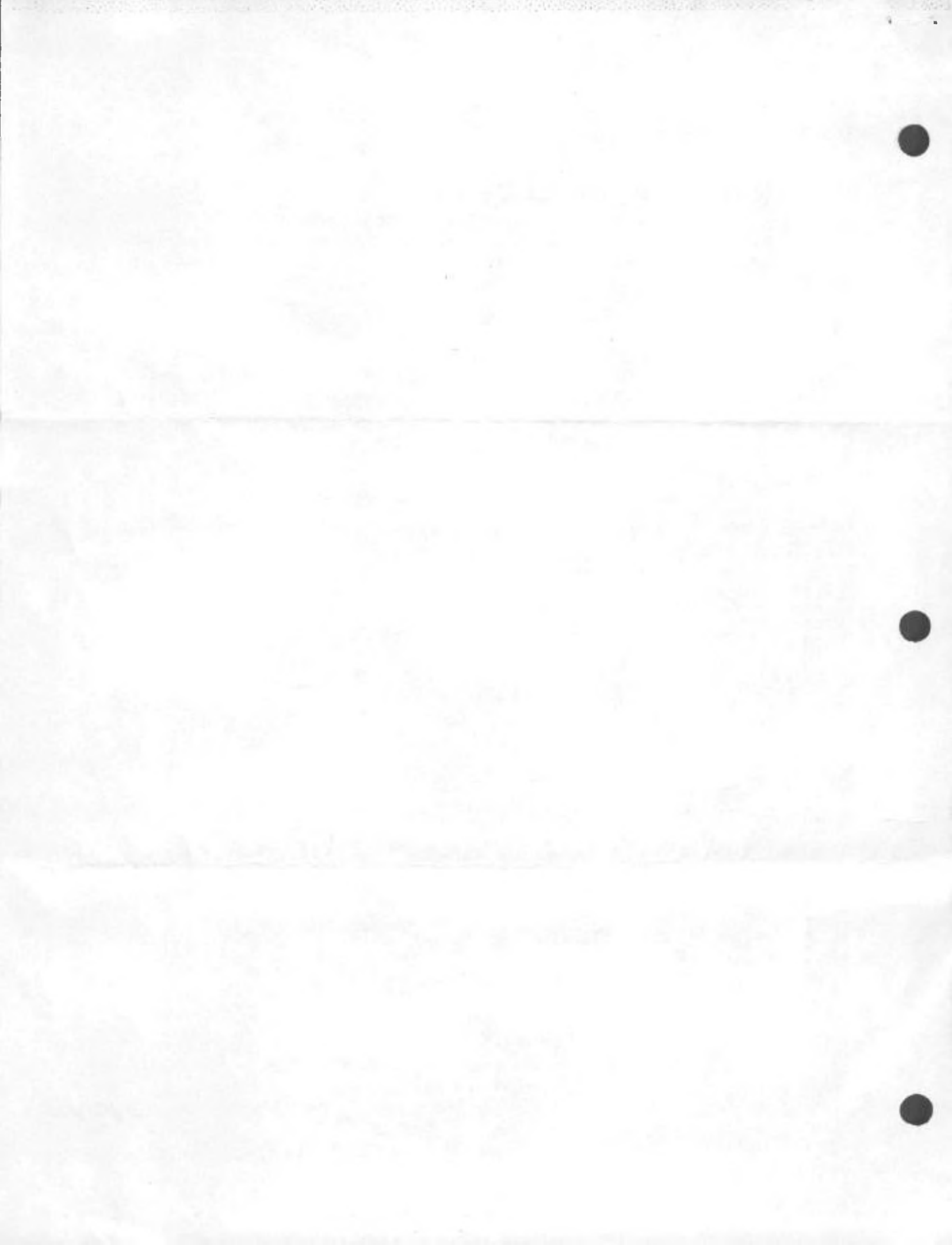
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Melamed moved, seconded by Commissioner Drake, to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karop T. Bavougian
Secretary

Approved this _____ day of _____, 1996
Board of Commissioners
Wheeling Park District



Chevy Chase club could fall to wrecking ball

Due to age and deterioration of the structure, Wheeling Park District officials may have to demolish the Chevy Chase Clubhouse in order to build a new facility.

By CHERI BENTRUP
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling resident Laurel Anderson is spearheading a crusade to save Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

The Wheeling Park District, which owns and operates the clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., is debating whether the building should be renovated at an estimated cost of \$2.76 million or whether it should be demolished and a new golf and banquet facility constructed for \$2.9 million.

"A lot of people still don't know it's in jeopardy," said Anderson, who hopes the circa-1920s building will be spared the wrecking ball.

The building needs many costly structural renovations to bring it up to code and make it more functional as a banquet facility. Also, the building needs to be made handicapped-accessible as required by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

It may seem difficult for residents who drive past the stately building to realize just how much work is needed.

Roger Christensen, superintendent of clubhouse services, said the largest undertaking would be replacing the 300-plus windows in the clubhouse, many of which are suffering from deterioration and rotting sills.

In the main ballroom, the air-conditioning unit cools the air but doesn't remove the humidity. In other places throughout the clubhouse, there is either no air-conditioning or the fans are so loud they disturb meetings and functions.

"The wooden floor (in the ballroom) needs to be replaced. It's been sanded down as far as it can go," Christensen said, adding that the leaky roof and outdated electrical system create other headaches as well.

Most of the problems were caused merely by the building's age, but some can be attributed to lack of proper maintenance before the park district purchased the clubhouse and golf course in 1977.

"The clubhouse is self-supporting. We don't use taxpayers' dollars. We are self-generating and must show a profit, just like a business," said Christensen, explaining that the golf course and clubhouse operations are run as separate entities.

Input sought

Park commissioners are wrestling with the basic question of whether they want to remain in the food business. While they have already held two public meetings about the future of Chevy Chase, they don't want to make a decision without the input of Wheeling residents. Commissioners are hoping such input will come at another public meeting, for which no date has been scheduled.

Unfortunately, most of the people who spoke at the two meetings already held were not Wheeling residents, but instead were outsiders who use the clubhouse mainly for country and ballroom dancing. Regardless of which deci-

sion the commissioners make, Wheeling residents will foot the bill.

"We're the ones who are going to have to pay for any tax increases," Wheeling's Anderson said.

When Anderson tells residents that renovating the clubhouse could increase their taxes \$20 to \$50 a year, most have told her that is a reasonable price to save Chevy Chase. At the last public meeting on Chevy Chase, park officials roughly estimated a \$30 annual tax increase to renovate the clubhouse.

"I'd say the majority of people feel it should be renovated and is worth the expense. No one seems concerned about the taxes that much," she said.

Whether residents want the clubhouse demolished or renovated, Anderson is encouraging them to submit written comments to park commissioners or attend a park board meeting at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Wheeling Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road.

So far, park officials said, about a dozen letters have been received, most of those favoring

renovation. The Park District is accepting reservations for use of the clubhouse into 1997, so action from the board's decision would not be immediate. About 15 percent of the clubhouse's activities are booked by Wheeling residents, according to the Park District.

"They need the opinions of the residents. They can't make a decision for 30,000 people based on a few hundred comments," Anderson said. "They could've very easily just made the decision and

we would've read about it in the newspapers. They didn't do that. They're giving people the opportunity to tell them what we want."

Colorful history

A Park District brochure promoting Chevy Chase says the clubhouse, which was built by the Knights of Columbus, later became an exclusive gambling resort in the '30s featuring famous performers such as Mae West and Vincent Price. It is believed gangster Al Capone also visited the resort.

Although this little bit of lore is known about the clubhouse, that doesn't qualify it as a national landmark.

A potential landmark must meet one of four criterion, such as being linked with an important event or a noteworthy person. The structure's architecture and design also can warrant landmark status.

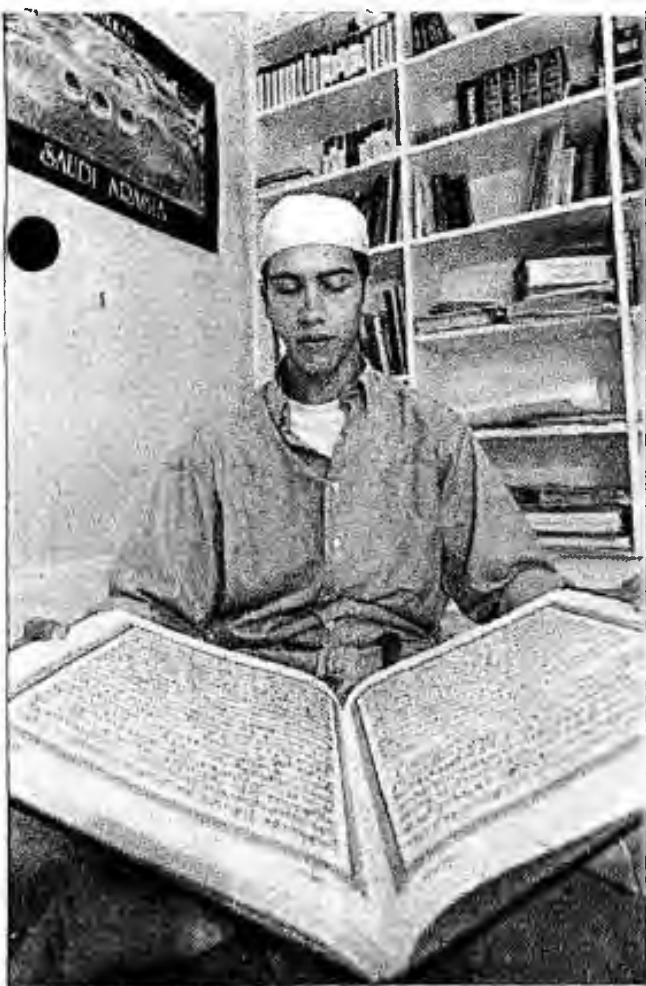
"It would really be a shame to lose it," Anderson said, adding that the clubhouse's activities must bring in customers for other local businesses.

Because most people who use the clubhouse are there for an event that usually includes dining, local restaurants don't see themselves benefiting much from their proximity to Chevy Chase.

"Occasionally you see people walk across (Milwaukee Avenue) for a drink when they're waiting for their event to begin," said Tony Onder, general manager of Harry Caray's restaurant at 933 N. Milwaukee Ave. "It's very negligible," he said of the amount of business Chevy Chase brings to the restaurant.

"They're usually going there for an event and we're more of an every night place where you can have a casual dinner," Onder said.

'I'd say the majority of people feel it should be renovated and is worth the expense. No one seems concerned about the taxes that much.'



Anas Osnan, 18, a Northwestern University junior and president of the Muslim Cultural Students Association campus, reads the Koran in the prayer room of the association's center, where he and five others live.



Tribune file photo

Society marchers rally around the Gen. Logan statue during the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

UFOs are real, said that studies have shown there is no increase in sightings.

"But these movies are very useful, because they continue to ask the big question: Are we alone?" Long said.

Over the following months, Fydrick took two independent reports of strange objects near the same intersection.

"When I get calls of other people seeing craft in the area, it

SEE UFOs, PAGE 2

Fate of Chevy Chase clubhouse up in air

By Jerry Crimmins
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

What is history in Chicago's suburbs, and what is it worth to keep such history alive?

For instance, what is the value to the 30,000 residents of the Wheeling Park District to keep these places in existence:

- A "deluxe gambling house" operated by gangsters in the 1930s that comes with legends of tunnels and hidden rooms?

- A nightclub and theater that featured, among others, Alice Faye, Franchot Tone, Mae West, and Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey?

- A large, chandeliered ballroom that has been the site of thousands of weddings, bar mitzvahs as well as the official ball for Wheeling's 100th birthday?

All three places are the same place, of course: the clubhouse of the Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 Milwaukee Ave.

The issue of value arises because the 70-plus-year-old clubhouse, which is owned by the Park District, has to be either torn down and replaced,

or it needs about \$3 million in renovation.

If torn down, it will probably be replaced by a much smaller golf clubhouse in the \$750,000 to \$1 million range, according to Karop Bavougian, director of Parks and Recreation for the Wheeling Park District.

To gauge community opinion, the Park District has held two public hearings, one last August and one in March of this year.

"Typically, no one shows," said Bavougian.

He corrected himself to say that about 80 people did attend the first public hearing, but 70 were out-of-towners belonging to country-western and ballroom dancing groups who love Chevy Chase's expansive wooden dance floor.

Still, Bavougian and others sense that the clubhouse is more important to the community than the residents are now demonstrating. So the Park District intends to hold a third public hearing in the fall to see what happens.

"The building seems to sym-

SEE CLUBHOUSE, PAGE 3

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, JULY 7, 1996

Inside

Prime pianists

Ramsey Lewis reworks gospel music for the concert hall and Herbie Hancock (right) is melodically inventive at Ravinia.

ArtsWatch, Page 12

Shades of the past

Def Leppard lingers in the sounds of its '80s pop-metal past at the New World Music Theatre in Tinley Park.

ArtsWatch, Page 12



Clubhouse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bolically represent a lot of things for a lot of people who would like to keep it here," said Bavougian.

"It should be preserved so people in the future can enjoy and see what life was like in the past," added Laurel Anderson, a longtime Wheeling resident who is campaigning to save the clubhouse.

The Chevy Chase Country Club building, part of the Chevy Chase Golf Course, also owned by the Park District, is on the west side of Milwaukee Avenue less than a mile north of Lake-Cook Road.

From outside, it is a 2½-story, Tudor-style structure, reddish brick on the first floor, with a white stucco and dark brown wood frame second floor and attic.

Inside the first floor, it is about 50,000 square feet divided into the main ballroom and a variety of wood paneled banquet halls, a bar and a restaurant in the back for members.

On the second floor are a room for bridal preparation, the locker room for women golfers, offices, and—honestly—an indoor driving range.

The clubhouse is still booked 40 times a month, said Cindy Dillon, who is in charge of catering sales. And it's booked into 1997.

Those are the bare facts of its present.

The past is symbolized, in part, by an old panel of plywood. The panel is 8 feet high and 18 inches wide, on which somebody long ago began scribbling the names of actors as they performed there and the dates. Some examples:

Buddy Ebsen, "The Man from Home," 1949; Imogene Coca, "Happy Birthday," and Burgess Meredith, "Harvey," 1950; Hume Cronyn, Jessica Tandy, "The Four Poster," and Joan Blondell, "Come Back Little Sheba," 1951; Mae West, "Come On Up—Ring Twice" 1952; Brian Donlevy, "King of Hearts," and Pat O'Brien, "My Three Angels," 1955.

An ancient money-changing machine on display in the lobby suggests Chevy Chase's wilder days for the party set in the 1930s.

Tribune clippings from that era talk of the site, then called the Bon Air Country Club, and before that the Columbia Country Club, operated as a well-known gambling place by "reputed gambling king" William R. Johnson and William R. Skidmore. Books on Al Capone years in Chicago describe Skidmore as a member of the Capone mob.

The Chicago Daily News once described Johnson this way:

"Mr. Bill Johnson, the chain-store gambling man... who

'This has been a very difficult decision for our board to make. Had this been strictly a business decision, it would have been a done deal. [The clubhouse would be] Gone.'

Karop Bavougian, director of parks and recreation for the Wheeling Park District

began his gambling career modestly in Lawndale and who is now octopusing all over the landscape."

Legends about the Chevy Chase clubhouse say it used to have a tunnel leading from the basement for certain people to escape any raids and a hidden room for secret meetings or to observe gamblers from above.

Roger Christensen, superintendent of clubhouse services, said he hasn't found a tunnel that leads outdoors, but he said a cave-in has blocked part of one room in the basement. He also has found a room with no doors or windows, he said.

The labyrinthine basement has enough tunnels that are known and also has "the stairway that leads nowhere," said Christensen, pointing it out in the gloom.

The first floor is the part familiar to many people.

"A lot of people moved out of the area, yet come back for functions that are held there because it is such a unique place," said Laurel Anderson. "It's warm even though it's big... You walk into the place, and it's inviting. It's comfortable."

Tom Webber, a parks commissioner, said Anderson did propose putting the question of spending \$3 million to save the building to the voters in a referendum.

"To get voters to support that in a referendum, I think would be a very big task. [It's a lot to ask for,]" said Webber.

"This has been a very difficult decision for our board to make," said Bavougian. "Had this been strictly a business decision, it would have been a done deal. [The clubhouse would be] Gone."

But Bavougian said the building has a "common good and value to it." He said even people who do not use it, which may be most Wheeling residents, simply like to know it's there.

House leader missing after b

By Teresa Puente and Steve Kloehn
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

Roger P. McAuliffe, assistant majority leader of the Illinois House, was reported missing and presumed dead after a boating mishap near his vacation home in northern Wisconsin, officials said Saturday.

McAuliffe, the lone Republican in the House from Chicago, was last seen around 5:30 p.m. Friday when he dropped off his grandchildren and son-in-law at a landing near Eagle River, Wis., said Jack Dorgan, a close friend and former aide.

McAuliffe, whose 58th birthday was Saturday, was expected to be heading back to dock the boat, but the boat was found a short time later circling the lake, Dorgan said. There was no sign of McAuliffe, but his hat was found floating in the water, Dorgan said. "We are praying and hopeful," he said.

Late Saturday, Vilas County sheriff's police and private divers called off their search for the evening, but planned to resume it Sunday morning.

Family members were waiting for news at the vacation home.

State Sen. Walter Dudyycz (R-Chicago), assistant Senate majority leader, said Saturday that he was saddened by the possibility McAuliffe could have drowned.

"I am stunned to learn that my political mentor... has disappeared and is presumed dead," Dudyycz said, adding, "His apparent death is a tremendous loss to the community he served—one that will be felt for many years."

"Roger has been a very close friend and confidant for more than 20 years," said Illinois House Speaker Lee Daniels (R-Elmhurst). "We are praying for Roger and his family."

McAuliffe has served in the House since 1973. He represents the 14th District, encompassing Chicago's Northwest Side and several suburbs, including Park Ridge, Rosemont, Norridge and Schiller Park. He formerly represented the 16th District.

A graduate of the Chicago Police Academy, McAuliffe has remained on active duty with the Chicago Police Department, with responsibilities including serving as a youth officer, Dudyycz said.

McAuliffe is known as an advocate for senior citizens, tax caps and fighting crime.

In 1981, he co-sponsored a bill to strengthen the state's drunken-driving law. The legislation was enacted and eliminated the 90-minute wait for suspects to decide whether to take a Breathalyzer test.

Dudyycz called McAuliffe a facilitator who works by consensus, never seeking the spotlight.

He called him "a rare breed of



Rep. Roger P. McAuliffe

elect official who cross party lines and Democrats and Repu. He built bridges i walls."

"Roger told me at t of his last session t came to matters of C though he was assist leader, with a Repul and a Republican would not do anything city," Dudyycz said.

Rather than makin statewide politics, M focused on working



Pedal power: A couple (above) Cities to Chicago AIDS Ride. Jeff Bro after the 1,700 bicyclists arrived at M The cyclists rode about 450 miles on AIDS-related service organizations.

December may be the last chance to speak up for Chevy Chase club

A referendum to generate enough tax money to pay for renovations at the Wheeling Park District's facility also is being considered.

By **CHERI BENTRUP**
STAFF WRITER

December may be the last chance residents have to help the Wheeling Park Board decide what to do with Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

Park commissioners are debating whether to renovate the clubhouse, a project estimated to cost \$2.76 million.

The long list of improvements are new air conditioning, replacing 300-plus windows, installing a new wooden dance floor and handicapped-accessible restrooms.

Another option calls for demolishing the clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., and building a smaller banquet hall. That would cost an estimated \$2.9 million.

Both suggestions would require a successful referendum to increase the Park District's tax rate to generate the revenue to pay for the work.

A third option, razing the clubhouse and leaving the Gable Room or building a new bar/restaurant to serve golfers, could be funded from existing funds in the Park District's budget. How much that would cost depends on what type of facility would be built.

"However, that goes against our philosophy of not letting tax dollars go into the building," Park Director Karop Bavougian said. Since the Park District purchased Chevy Chase in 1977, only profits generated from the golf and banquet facilities have been used for its operation and maintenance.

The Park Board already has held two public hearing, but commissioners are not convinced they have heard from Wheeling residents — the taxpayers who would foot the bill for whatever decision the board makes.

Dec. 3 hearing

Residents are invited to speak to the Park Board at a third public hearing scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 3 in the Devonshire Room of the clubhouse. A major consideration is whether Wheeling residents would support a tax increase to either save the clubhouse or build a new clubhouse.

Though some at the previous hearings have said the clubhouse appears to be in good shape, commissioners said they have taken a "Band-Aid" approach since the Park District purchased the building about 20 years ago — doing just enough to keep the clubhouse open.

Bavougian said the clubhouse is being booked for events through 1998, so any decision the Park Board makes would not be acted upon immediately. However, he said, the Park Board owes it to the public to make a decision.

"We've already had two public meetings about it, but we haven't made any decision," Bavougian said. "A third hearing may or may not give this board more information or a better feeling of the community. The board need to make some determination.

"I think we need to move it along and bring some sort of closure to it, even if we decide not to do anything," Bavougian said.

One obstacle in seeking a referendum is that it would
(Continued on page 16)

PIONEER PRESS

■ Chevy Chase *Continued from page 5*

not include the words "Chevy Chase" in the question to be in compliance with election law, Bavougian said. Instead, it would ask voters to approve a tax rate increase in either the corporate or recreation fund, leaving the Park District with the job of educating the public that the referendum would be used to save Chevy Chase.

Not wanting to ask for a referendum during a presidential election, Bavougian said, the most logical time to attempt a referendum would be in the April 1, 1997, municipal election. The referendum could be placed on the ballot either by a Park Board action or by petitions signed by 10 percent of the registered voters.

January

Either way, the decision to go for a referendum would have to be made by the end of January.

Commissioner Mark Parkinson suggested that a response card be included in the Park District's winter brochure, asking residents who may be unable to attend the

public hearing to write their opinion about Chevy Chase and submit it to the Park District. Those brochures are expected to be mailed to homes Nov. 14.

Bavougian agreed, saying it's a way to relatively ensure that the comments would be coming from taxpayers. The card also could ask residents if they would be willing to work on the referendum campaign.

"We haven't had much participation from the taxpayers," Parkinson said. "I'd like to get a feel of the people out there, the residents.

"I think at the last (public hearing) there was a handful of taxpayers," Parkinson added. Many of those who spoke at the last two public hearing were out-of-town residents who use the ballroom for dancing.

Drive

Prior to making a decision, Park Board President Greg Klatecki said, commissioners should take a drive and see what type of facilities nearby park districts have built in the last five years.

NEIGHBOR

■ BUFFALO GROVE
■ LONG GROVE
■ WHEELING

9/19/96
SECTION

5

C4

Public to have say in clubhouse's fate

By BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

As time passes, the more susceptible the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse is to deterioration.

A 1994 study indicated the 78-year-old building needed \$2.7 million in repairs.

But in the two years that the district has discussed whether the building should be repaired or razed, the cost probably has increased to \$3 million, park board President Greg L. Klatecki said.

Increasing deterioration and

cost are reasons the district wants to decide what to do with Chevy Chase.

But Klatecki says the board doesn't want to make that decision without knowing what the community wants, either through public hearings or a referendum.

"We're talking close to \$3 million," Klatecki said. "We feel that (residents) should be part of the decision too."

The district is holding a third public hearing at 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the clubhouse to receive resi-

dents' opinions.

But Klatecki said it may be possible that the district also get a sense of what the community wants by conducting a referendum in the spring election.

That way, Klatecki said, the people who would pay for the project would have a chance to participate in the decision.

"Then you will get a feel for what the majority of the residents would want to do," Klatecki said. "The taxpayers will pay for whatever we do."

The building at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. needs repairs to its heat-

ing and electrical systems, along with other infrastructure work.

The building is still structurally sound and hosts numerous dances, wedding receptions and other meetings.

Aside from the potential cost of the project, another pressure on the decision is that the clubhouse is a long-standing part of the community, district Director Karop T. Bavougian said.

"The board would like a better feel from people," Bavougian said. "They don't just want to make a snap decision."

NEIGHBOR

BUFFALO GROVE
LONG GROVE
WHEELING

SECTION
5

Like a rock? Clubhouse fate in jeopardy

By BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials will lay out all the community's options about what can be done to the deteriorating clubhouse at Chevy Chase Country Club.

Residents also will be asked what they want done with the club.

The district next month will send residents a survey regarding the fate of the 78-year-old building at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

For two years, officials have been discussing whether to repair

or raze the building, which needs heating and electrical work among other things. The building, the site of dances, wedding receptions and meetings, is structurally sound, officials said.

The costs of the options range from \$1.3 million to \$2.9 million.

Before deciding what to do, officials want to know what residents want done.

"When you have a \$3 million decision to make, the more input you have from citizens who will pay for it the better it will be," said board President Greg L. Klatecki.

Klatecki said he also hopes the survey will encourage people to attend a public hearing on the issue at 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the clubhouse. The district has held two previous public hearings, which few residents attended, officials say.

The survey, which will be included in the district's winter program brochure, details four options the district is considering, said district Director Karop T. Bavougian.

It is expected to cost \$2.76 million to renovate the existing building, while it would cost \$2.9 million to tear it down and build a

new banquet hall and clubhouse, Bavougian said. The district also is considering keeping part of the building — the "Gable Room" restaurant area — and building a new section, a \$2.3 million option.

These three plans, Bavougian said, would require the district to ask voters in a referendum for permission to take out a loan.

Another option under consideration is to raze the clubhouse and build a pro shop and small restaurant, which would cost about \$1.3 million, Bavougian said. The district would use money from its coffers for this project.

Daily Herald Nov. 19, 1996

Parks ask: Repair or raze golf clubhouse?

By Bob McKee
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Keeping Chevy Chase Country Club's clubhouse standing is seen as a way to preserve a bit of Wheeling's history.

The fact that the "Wheeling 2000 and Beyond" project lists renovation of the deteriorating 78-year-old building as a future goal may prompt the Wheeling Park District to attempt to do so.

But since renovation could cost as much as \$2.76 million, the decision would ultimately be up to voters, said park Director Karop T. Bavougian.

"It becomes a question of what people (are) willing to pay," Bavougian said.

The only way that could be done is a referendum.

Saving the clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. was one of many possible ways to improve the community that was outlined in Wheeling 2000.

It took about a year for the group of 100 officials, educators, business and civic leaders and residents to compile the report.

Preserving the clubhouse was suggested as a way to improve the village's image because of its historical value and ability to host large events, said Avi Poster, principal of Tarkington Elementary School.

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**WHEELING PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 1996**



THOMAS VAN ZEYL
Staffing Consultant

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Riverwoods, IL 60015
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The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois was held in the Board Room of the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Klatecki, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioners present: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake, M. Parkinson

Staff present: Karop T. Bavougian, Director; Steve Pohlman, Supt. of Recreation; Jan Buchs, Asst. Supt. of Recreation; Thomas Busby, Supt. of Finance and Personnel; Chris Minick, Senior Accountant; Steve Schiller, Supt. of Golf Services; Roger Christensen, Supt. of Clubhouse Services; Mark Harrison, Supt. of Parks and Planning; Trudy Wakeman, Promotions/Special Events Coordinator; Michelle Bobbora, Special Events Coordinator

Present in audience: Dolly Hein, Patti and Wedge Hancock, Wheeling Historical Society; Paul Philipp, and Mike Kurgan, residents

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 1996

Commissioner Mattes moved, seconded by Commissioner Parkinson to approve the minutes of November 5, 1996.

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake, M. Parkinson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: C. Klumpp

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

OLD BUSINESS

Chevy Chase The latest brochure being mailed this week will offer basically the same information given during the two previous meetings concerning Chevy Chase and will include a survey for residents. The December 3 meeting is being heavily publicized, and it is hoped there will be a good turnout of residents. If a resolution or ordinance is adopted no later than January 27, the referendum could be put on next April's ballot; however, Commissioner Webber felt that may be too aggressive. Putting it on the November ballot is another option. Commissioner Parkinson wanted to clarify, despite rumors, that the Board has made no decision on the fate of Chevy and has been anxious to get input from the residents, but there has been little response. President Klatecki requested copies of all letters sent to the Board regarding Chevy Chase be copied and given to each board member.

An announcement was made at the Wheeling 2000 meeting to encourage attendance, and comments were made supporting the renovation of Chevy Chase. It was noted that not many residents who were not on committees attended.

Dolly Hein commented on how hard it is to get people to attend public meetings and how often people are just not aware of what is going on in Wheeling. As an example, she was surprised to hear one of the Wheeling 2000 committees recommend that a museum be created to preserve the history of Wheeling--the Wheeling Historical Society has been in existence for 27 years. Others complained that the museum is not open enough hours every week, but the reality is there are not enough volunteers now to staff the museum.

Mike Kurgan asked for details of how the Chevy Chase issue was publicized in the new brochure. President Klatecki called attention to newspaper articles and a notice being circulated by Laurel Anderson, a concerned citizen. He stated the Chevy Chase issue is a controversial one and whatever the outcome is some people will not be happy. In reply to Mr. Kurgan's comments relative to the Board's strong campaigning for the Aquatic and Recreation Centers, President Klatecki stated this was done in response to a survey asking what the residents want for the Park District. The top request was for an aquatic center; after that was accomplished, the second highest request, a recreation center, was sought. The Board worked hard for both issues under the guidance of residents. The situation with Chevy Chase is much different in that the Board does not have the same input and support from residents. The Board felt that it has publicized the issue as much as possible; now the community has to make them aware of what they want.

The meeting was recessed from 7:40 p.m. until 7:51 p.m. due to a fire alarm.

Director Bavougian pointed out the contrast in promoting the creation of the Aquatic and Recreation Centers and the fate of Chevy Chase. In the case of the Aquatic and Recreation centers, an organization, "Friends of the Park" was established by citizens to contact and educate the public. At this point the Board has held two public hearings and has presented the facts, but no organized effort by the residents has taken place to promote the issue. Commissioner Klumpp suggested that perhaps because a majority of the residents do not use Chevy Chase that the

interest just isn't there. Perhaps with the issue highlighted in the new brochure and the other publicity there will be a better turnout at the next meeting on December 3.

NEW BUSINESS

Denoyer property Acquisition/Project Agreement-I.D.N.R. Copies of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Project Agreement for the acquisition of the Denoyer Property had been distributed for review. The appraisal of the property is being held off until demolition of the old buildings and abandonment of well and septic tanks are completed as the cost will become part of the acquisition cost.

Commissioner Webber moved to approve the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Project Agreement for the Denoyer Property/Park Acquisition, Project No. OS 97-762. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Drake.

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake, M. Parkinson
NAY: None

Motion carried.

Resolution 96-03 Determination of Funds Estimated to be Raised by Taxes - 1996

Commissioner Drake moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattes, to adopt Resolution 96-03 Determining the Estimate of Taxes to be Levied for the Year 1996 in the amount of \$2,754,125.

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake, M. Parkinson
NAY: None

Motion carried.

Historical Society/Donation Request/Lollipop Lane The annual request for a contribution for Lollipop Lane had been received.

Commissioner Klumpp moved, seconded by Commissioner Parkinson, to approve a \$200 contribution to the Wheeling Historical Society for Lollipop Lane.

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake, M. Parkinson
NAY: None

Motion carried.

Minutes of November 19, 1996

Page 4

Aquatic Center - Review Jan Buchs, Asst. Supt. of Recreation and Michelle Bobbora, Special Events Coordinator prepared the Aquatic Center Annual Report under the direction of Director Bavougian and Supt. Pohlman to give an overview of the past, present and future of the Aquatic Center. The summer of 1996 was an average to below-average summer as it relates to swimming. Naturally, revenue and attendance figures were down from 1995, which had record-breaking heat temperatures. However, 1996 could be a good comparison year to be used as an average when planning future years' financial and promotional approaches.

In staff's opinion, new challenges were presented with the opening of the Des Plaines Aquatic Center, Prospect Heights' new facility and Hoffman Estates entered its second year. Despite these challenges, the Wheeling Aquatic Center had strong attendance based on the poor weather conditions this year. In 1997 staff will market the facility to the customers that have been attained. All individuals who paid daily fees were tracked by zip code. Marketing efforts will be aimed at this same market in order to bring back the customers previously served as opposed to looking to new competitive markets. Although staff feels additional amenities would help attain and retain customers, this would have to be delayed due to the possibility of an addition to the Recreation Center.

In its 4 years of operation the Aquatic Center has been very successful and has earned over \$500,000. Historical attendance records were reviewed. Income from group sales generated a significant portion of operational profit which help to keep fees and charges stable. Percentage of total usage (resident/non-resident/groups) was reviewed and discussed. The Analysis of Operational Revenue/Expenses were reviewed. Operation staff expense increased due to the additional number of days open compared to 1995, additional training through the Ellis Guard Program, the addition of new guard and safety stations and additional staff for groups. Marketing promotions also greatly increased, including two radio remote broadcasts and Mr. Coupon and Entertainment Books that proved to be most successful. Labor costs were increased due to pay rate changes from the time of planning budget to the time of hiring staff due to the increase in market rates.

Revenue for concession operations was down, but not equal to the drop in percentage of attendance; the average spent per visit in 1996 was \$1.10 vs. .95 in 1995. Staff attributes this to food being able to be out on the deck. Redesign of the layout of the concession stand has been included in the new budget in order to service the customer quicker. A proposal will be submitted to the board. This may not be accomplished until the fall of 1997.

As a convenience to patrons, consideration is being given to creating a monthly pay plan for season passes; therefore, people could sign up early in the year and develop a pay plan to satisfy their financial commitment to the District prior to the Aquatic Center opening. This would be offered as a convenience to those who have several children in various programs. Other payment options are also being considered.

Minutes of November 19, 1996

Page 5

Supt. Pohlman reported 125 individuals worked at the Aquatic Center this past summer: 76%, 95 employees, were Wheeling residents. With salaries totaling \$157,839, \$119,958 (76%) was returned to local citizens through salaries. Staff felt this was a major contribution to the community.

Commissioner Webber stated the positive comments received and the way staff is trained are tributes to Jan, Michelle and Trudy and he thanked them.

President Klatecki thanked the Aquatic Center team stating the report reflects more than the Board ever expected when the facility was built.

Childerley Park Dedication Director Bavougian requested a date be set for a re-dedication of Childerley Park for some type of celebration so that it may be publicized in the spring brochure. Discussion was held and it was decided to have the celebration in conjunction with the Easter Egg Hunt held in March.

FINANCE

Treasurer's Report - October 1996

Tom Busby reported the Corporate Fund interest revenue was up greatly due to the maturity of a \$1 million treasury bill; under expenses, Contractual Services - \$20,000 was for the Denoyer lease - monthly bills will be received until the District purchases the property; net income was doing well. Recreation Fund: the net for the Aquatic Center is \$120,000 and not projected to go below \$100,000. The Fitness Center is doing quite well with a net of \$84,000 vs. a budget of \$36,000. Based on those two facilities there is an approximate \$200,000 differential between the actual and budget on a year-to-date budget. The Golf Course Fund is basically in the same condition it has been during the last nine months being about \$276,000 off of projections due to the flooding. For the same reason, the Clubhouse has a differential of \$24,000 between actual and what should have been budgeted, and \$55,000 on a year-to-date basis.

Voucher List 11B in the amount of \$191,031.75

Commissioner Webber moved, seconded by Commissioner Melamed, to approve Voucher List 11B in the amount of \$191,031.75. A question was raised on an item on page 8 - Louis Lanciloti - \$200 Construction Coordinator for theater sets.

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake, M. Parkinson
NAY: None

Motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS Commissioner Klumpp reported the Historical Museum will be closed until further notice due to the flood damage. Lollipop Lane will open December 7. The Society will be getting a budget together and submitting it to the Park District. Ed Lockwood has offered to donate a pipe organ to replace the one at the chapel in Childerley Park.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

President Klatecki requested all written communication be placed on file.

STAFF REPORTS

Recreation: Supt. Pohlman reported the fall play offering was changed from a premier production to "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" in hopes of bringing more families out. The play has just finished and to this point was the most disappointing in the way of attendance. The play and set, however, were professional and very well done. Basketball registration ended November 18, and the number of both boys' and girls' registration was up by approximately 50. "Fitness for a Lifetime Workshop", a two-day workshop, is being held at the Wheeling High School and was coordinated by Jan Arnold. Introductory classes in karate, judo, kickboxing, Ju-Jitsu, and Golf were offered by the Park District; yoga and country line dancing were offered by the High School. Supt. Schiller and his staff conducted 8 periods of golf lessons.

Golf: Supt. Schiller anticipated having the golf course open on Thanksgiving with no charge to the golfers, but requesting donations of can goods and/or clothing. He, Bob Faulkner and Bill Bickley enjoyed giving lessons to Wheeling High School students during the fitness workshop.

Clubhouse: Supt. Christensen reported budget meetings are taking place with discussions of marketing, recreation, administration and the golf course to try to reach goals for 1997.

Parks & Planning: Supt. Harrison highlighted some of the items included in his board report, giving details and up-dated information.

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Board: Commissioner Drake attended and enjoyed "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown", and reported that staff and actors did an excellent job. It was disappointing to not see more people there. Commissioner Klumpp agreed.

Commissioner Mattes complimented Supt. Christensen's staff on behalf of his wife who attended a shower at Chevy Chase.

Commissioner Klumpp thanked everyone involved in obtaining the Denoyer grant. She felt the new doors on the west side of the Recreation building were a great safety improvement.

President Klatecki agreed with Director Bavougian that the budget has certainly grown considerably during the last several years. He felt that the facilities and the way the programs are run makes Wheeling Park District one of the top districts.

Staff: Supt. Busby had distributed copies of the 1997 proposed budget. He noted the 1996 tax rate, payable in 1997 is approximately the same as last year's tax rate. He highlighted the proposed capital budget throughout the Park District and highlighted the Denoyer Property, the Heritage Park Maintenance Center renovation, the Aquatic Center Concession expansion, and renovation of the Pleasant Run Park. A zip code list of non-resident patrons was included. A grant of \$200,000 is anticipated for the Denoyer property along with the purchase. The Corporate Fund is projected to lose \$250,000 due to Denoyer and the internal transfer for the May installment contract for the Aquatic and Recreation Centers. The Fund balance will still be at \$300,000 at the end of 1997. The Recreation Fund does not have a budget for Neptune's Pool in anticipation of the sale to the School District. The Recreation program is approaching \$1 million in revenue and the fund balance in Recreation will be approximately \$1.3 million at the end of 1997 to help offset some future capital projects. The Bond and Interest Fund is projected to lose \$80,000 which was discussed at the bond issue meeting in October and is a planned net loss. The Golf Course Fund is budgeted at approximately 45,000 rounds. Green fees will remain the same, cart rates are projected to increase slightly. The fund balance will be approximately \$280,000 due to the reduction caused by the maintenance facility. The Clubhouse Fund is currently going through a planning process. A mission statement was created and included in the budget book. There will be goal settings and an overall plan which will be discussed during the budget process. The fund balance at the end of 1997 is projected to be \$937,000. The net income strictly on operation is going to be \$197,000, a 15% return. Supt. Busby thanked everyone involved in the process, especially the Finance Department. Anyone with a question was invited to contact the appropriate department head or staff member.

In reply to Commissioner Parkinson's inquiry of the reduced amount of \$262,900 budgeted for the Heritage Park maintenance facility renovation, Supt. Harrison stated the original plans included a lot of reconfiguration and has since been revised to a much simpler plan to allow more flexibility with a savings of \$75,000.

Director Bavougian extended thanks to all the staff who put their time and effort into analyzing budgets for their respective program areas and especially to Supt. Busby who had to coordinate all of it. Board members also extended their thanks.

Citizen: Dolly Hein complimented Laurakathleen Frey and her staff for the good job done on the play. Dolly's whole group always look forward to attending the Wheeling Park Productions. She thanked the Board for approving the donation of \$200 for Lollipop Lane. She also noted that the A.A.R.P. organization is also very happy with the Park District.

Minutes of November 19, 1996

Page 8

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Melamed moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattes, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

Respectfully submitted,

Karop T. Bavougian
Secretary

Approved this _____ day of _____, 1996
Board of Commissioners
Wheeling Park District

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Brian O'Mahoney/Pioneer Press

Nasty Nitro

Wheeling police officer Randy Olsberg and his "partner," Nitro, demonstrate the police dog's training with the help of volunteer vic-

tim Jim Rostron of Lindenhurst during a Citizens Police Academy class last week at the Wheeling Recreation Center.

NOVEMBER 21, 1996

Last call for Chevy Chase
 Residents urged to give input
 on future of historic village club

By **CHERI BENTRUP**
 STAFF WRITER

A December meeting is expected to tell the Wheeling Park Board whether residents are willing to open their wallets to fund renovations for Chevy Chase Clubhouse. If not, it's possible the stately building could be razed.

The Park Board has scheduled a 7 p.m. meeting Tuesday, Dec. 3, in the Devonshire Room of the clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. to hear residents' comments about the building. This will be the third open meeting in two years the Park Board has scheduled to specifically discuss the future of Chevy Chase.

"We've been trying to alert people to the Dec. 3 hearing and get people to come out and show the Park Board how important Chevy Chase is to us," said Wheeling resident Darlene Brill, who has teamed up with resident Laurel Anderson in a crusade to save the 1920s-era clubhouse.

Brill, who participates in ballroom dancing weekly at the clubhouse, said between 200 and 300 dancers show up weekly to glide around Chevy Chase's wooden dance floor.

"There are people who come down from Milwaukee every week. This is really the last dance floor in northern Illinois," said Brill, who has been distributing fliers to notify other dancers of the looming decision.

"I know there's a cost factor involved, but some things you can't measure in dollars.

Some things are precious. I think if we lose this, we lose a lot for Wheeling. It's charming. It's intriguing. It's so rich in history," Brill said. "I just hope residents show up and let the Park Board know how they feel."

The few number of residents who spoke at the two previous meetings left park commissioners uncomfortable making a decision. Though most who spoke wanted the clubhouse spared, they were not Wheeling residents who will end up footing the bill for whatever decision is made.

This third meeting is one last chance to give Wheeling residents their say, whether in favor of renovation or not, and to give the Park Board some direction.

Anderson has been canvassing her neighborhood, finding many residents are unaware that the Park Board has been discussing Chevy Chase's fate for the last two years.

At the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" community meeting on Saturday, Anderson gave a communitywide plea for residents to attend the Dec. 3

hearing. The building could meet several of the goals listed in the "Wheeling: 2000" project, including providing a place for teens and seniors to meet and a location for community fairs.

The clubhouse is being booked for events through 1998, so any decision made would not be acted upon immediately. However, park commissioners have said they owe the public a decision.

(Continued on page 12)

'I know there's a cost factor involved, but some things you can't measure in dollars. Some things are precious.'

**Darlene Brill
 Wheeling resident**

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Week To Serve You Better

Chevy Chase Continued from page 8

The Park Board is considering three options for Chevy Chase, which commissioners say is in dire need of repairs.

To renovate the clubhouse would cost \$2.76 million. New air-conditioning, replacing 300-plus windows, creating handicapped-accessible restrooms and installing a new wooden dance floor are on the long list of improvements.

Another option is to demolish the clubhouse, and build a smaller banquet hall. This option would cost an estimated \$2.9 million. Both of these options would require a successful referendum, which park officials have roughly estimated could raise property taxes \$30 a year.

The Park District has enough funds in its budget for a third option — demolishing the clubhouse and leaving the Gable Room, or building a new bar/restaurant, to serve golfers.

This option, however, goes against the Park District's policy of funneling tax dollars to Chevy Chase. Since the building was purchased by the Park District in 1977, only profits generated from the golf and banquet facilities have been used for clubhouse operations and maintenance.

Commissioners would have to decide by the end of January to place a referendum on the April 1, 1997 ballot. However, a referendum would not include the words "Chevy Chase," so it would be up to the Park District to educate voters about how the increase in the recreation or corporate fund would be used, park officials have said.

The Park District's winter brochure, to be mailed to district residents soon, is expected to include a questionnaire about Chevy Chase and a notification of the Dec. 3 public hearing.

Plan Continued

ances of buildings along large's thoroughfares; remodel Chevy Chase house.

"There are several that have been done many things are already progress," Schultz of 1 commendations. "It's a tion of some pr conversations."

Schultz said many recommendations are ideas, but the report w the village determine most important to resic

"I've gotten a greater of the priorities of the city," Schultz said. "

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LOOKING FOR A HOME?

Park Board seeks resident input on Chevy Chase fate

By CHERI BENTRUP
STAFF WRITER

When the Wheeling Park District purchased Chevy Chase in the 1970s, they did so partly in an effort to save what has become a landmark of sorts in the village.

Today, members of the 1996 Park Board of Commissioners find themselves once again pondering the facility's future. With costly repairs needed to sustain the aged structure, park commissioners are faced with the possibility that historic Chevy Chase may have to fall victim to the wrecking ball.

One of the things that may play into their decision is the fact that few Wheeling residents apparently use the facility.

According to Park District statistics, only 15 percent of the 823 functions at Chevy Chase in 1995 were reserved by village residents. Another concern is that 75 percent of the functions held at Chevy Chase, which has 60,000 square feet of banquet/meeting space, accommodate 150 people or less. That has commissioners wondering whether a smaller building, built specifically for smaller banquets, would better meet residents' needs.

But park commissioners know there is a lot of history and sentiment tied into the 1920s-era clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

"It's far more than a business decision," said Park Director Karop Bavougian.

Park commissioners are expected to make a decision soon on the fate of Chevy Chase and are considering four options:

- renovate the existing clubhouse for \$2.8 million;
- raze the existing clubhouse and rebuild at the same size for \$3 million;
- tear down a major portion of the clubhouse, renovate the Gable Room for golf course service and build a

500-seat banquet for \$2.3 million; or

■ tear down the clubhouse and build a small golf clubhouse for \$1.3 million.

Any of the first three options would require a successful referendum that Bavougian said could be placed on the April or November 1997 ballot. Passage of the referendum would raise property tax bills from an estimated \$16.38 a year for homeowners with a current \$1,500 tax bill to \$50.50 a year for those with \$4,500 tax bills. Those figures also are noted on the questionnaire.

Residents are encouraged to attend a 7 p.m. public hearing on the clubhouse's fate at Dec. 3 in the Devonshire Room of the clubhouse. The Park Board has held two previous public meetings, but many of those who spoke were not Wheeling residents. The upcoming meeting is yet another attempt to generate public input.

To ensure that each district resident is notified about the meeting and the issue, the Park District included a questionnaire about Chevy Chase in its winter brochure, which should have arrived in residents' mailboxes early this week.

"We've tried to give as much information as we could on the survey," said Bavougian.

The survey asks residents to indicate their use of Chevy Chase, their attendance at Chevy Chase events and whether the building should be spared the wrecking ball.

The Park District purchased Chevy Chase with \$3.5 million from a successful referendum in 1977 to prevent the clubhouse from being razed. Development proposals at the time suggested building high-rise apartments on the 106-acre site that would house 18,000 to 20,000 residents.

"If the Park Board had not

(Continued on page 13)

■ Park

Continued from page 5

purchased the building, it would've been lost then," said Commissioner Cheri Klumpp.

Bavougian is hopeful many residents will take time to respond to the survey and drop it off at the Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, by Friday, Nov. 29.

"This is a decision that affects everybody, and it's important for people to respond," Bavougian said. "It also lays the groundwork for us if it goes to referendum."

For a referendum to be placed on the April ballot, the Park Board would pass a resolution to that effect by Jan. 27, Bavougian said. The question also could be placed on the ballot at the request of residents who circulate petitions among the community and collect signatures from 10 percent of the registered voters in the district.

A decision by the Park Board concerning a referendum in April could be made as early as the night of the public hearing, Dec. 3, or at any future meeting prior to Jan. 27. The board meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month in the Recreation Center.

The clubhouse is being booked for events into 1998, and Bavougian said the Park District intends to honor those commitments.

"Part of what we need to do is develop a time table," he said.

A committee report from the village's "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" strategic improvement plan project requested that Chevy Chase be saved. Also, dancers who use the facility have asked that the clubhouse be renovated.

Some questions have been raised as to whether the clubhouse could be used for senior and youth activities, but Bavougian said the building is designed for banquets and meetings, not for recreational activities. Board President Greg Klatecki also noted that teens who don't drive would not have access to the facility.

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■ Teachers

Continued from page 10

but District 23 provide transportation for the program to make it easier for students to participate. The summer school programs have both enrichment and remedial classes.

District 21 also has a half-day Saturday school at Robert Frost Elementary School that allows students to use computers and the gym if they read independently for 30 minutes or are read to for 30 minutes. Fifty to 150 students participate regularly, Gerry said.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1996

55 off any salon service of \$15 or more. Valid at any salon with this coupon only.

Saving suburbs' history — by hook or by crook

The words "history" and "suburb" sound like mutually exclusive terms.

You hear the word "history," you think Plymouth Rock.
You hear the word "suburb," you think Plymouth Voyager.

"We don't hear from the suburbs too much," concedes David Newton, the assistant National Register Coordinator for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

But the suburbs do have history, and a few dedicated people who work to preserve it.

"Why get rid of everything old?" ponders Marilyn Pedersen, coordinator of the 123-year-old Clayson House Museum in Palatine.

The transient nature of suburban life can encourage a mindset of "tear it down and make a parking lot out of it," Pedersen says.

But sometimes, as in the case of the Clayson House at 224 E. Palatine St., history holds on.

And sometimes history mysteriously comes back by way of United Parcel Service in a couple of boxes erroneously labeled "live plants."

"I recognized it the minute (the boxes were opened and) I saw it," Pedersen says. "This is my staircase from 20 years ago being returned anonymously."

An unsigned confession explained how the thief stole the century-old banister in 1976 in a desperate attempt to save a piece of Clayson House history from the wrecking ball.

A wonderfully noble story with the exception "that it's not true," says Pedersen, who notes there were no plans to raze the house and the thief struck after the house became protected public property. "But let's give him the benefit of the doubt."

Since it would cost too much to reinstall the intricate, urn-like newel post and spindles in the house, which now boasts other antique staircase, the banister will go in the carriage house next door, which is being renovated into an old fire house.

The bottom line, concludes Pedersen, is that a wonderful hunk of history is preserved.

But fanning the flames of preservation is hard work,



says Laurel Anderson, a Wheeling woman who is trying to light a fire under the populace to truly save another piece of suburban history from the wrecking ball.

"This is our last chance to save Chevy Chase Clubhouse," says Anderson, who is urging folks to attend a public hearing at 7 tonight in the Devonshire Room of the Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling.

"Unless we make a strong showing, Wheeling will lose a facility that serves hundreds of people every week in a historic, welcoming atmosphere that lends character to our village," Anderson says.

"I found a lot of people who don't want to see it taken down," she notes optimistically. "A lot of them had their proms there, their weddings there."

(And a few no doubt lost money there back in the '40s when it was an illicit gambling den. But that's history, too.)
With its grand ballroom and small side rooms, the 78-year-old clubhouse can host 1,000 people and still seem "warm, intimate, cozy," Anderson says. But not as is.

"It definitely needs major renovation for plumbing, electric, heating, air conditioning, handicap accessibility, etc.," Anderson admits. But she suggests it might cost taxpayers as much to build a new club as it would to restore the one they've got.

And preserving history is money well spent, says Anderson, who still recalls her first visit — on a date in the early '50s.

"I had never been to a place like that before. It was special," she says. "It wasn't like just going to the movies and getting a hot dog later..."

"We can't just throw it away because it's old," she says.

And unfortunately, it's too big for a noble thief to swipe.

Daily Herald

12-4-96

Wheeling voters to determine fate of Chevy Chase clubhouse

By BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

About 300 people sent Wheeling Park District commissioners a clear message Tuesday night that they want the deteriorating Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse saved.

Now it is up to them and the rest of the community to do it.

The park board Tuesday night unanimously agreed to put on April 1 ballots a referendum to raise enough taxes to renovate the 78-year-old building at 1000 N. Mil-

waukee Ave.

The board is considering asking residents' permission to raise the 58-cent tax rate 10 cents per every \$100 of assessed property valuation. The owner of a \$150,000 home would have paid about \$46 more than the approximate \$270 they paid in taxes last year.

The decision came after a public hearing in which the resounding sentiment from the people was that they wanted the building salvaged — a \$2.76 million project. The district also has considered the possibility of razing the structure.

"When we called this meeting we wanted a clear message," board President Greg Klatecki said to the crowd jammed in the clubhouse's Devonshire banquet room. "But I do believe we have it. ... You want Chevy Chase saved."

But what will be a major issue for the community to ponder came from Commissioner Bill Mattes: "The question is if you will support a referendum."

The park district for two years has been pondering the fate of the building, which needs heating and electrical work, among other things.

The building is still structurally sound, officials say. Residents such as Linda Reading said she would pay the extra taxes to hang on to what she called an important piece of the village's history.

"People want to keep hold of the past," said Reading, a 31-year resident. "I plead with this board, you have a unique opportunity to hang on to it."

The district has until Jan. 27 to approve and file a referendum question with the Cook County Clerk for it to appear on spring ballots.

CHEVY CHASE CLUBHOUSE QUESTIONNAIRE

In 1994 the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners contracted for a study to evaluate the 70-year-old Chevy Chase Clubhouse. The facility requires major renovation to heating, cooling and electrical systems, roof, windows, and plumbing, as well as mandated handicap accessibility laws. Any renovation, or upgrades to the facility, would require meeting all established building codes and laws. Although the future of Chevy Chase is up for consideration, banquet operations are committed through 1998. **A public hearing will be held December 3, 1996, 7:00 p.m., at Chevy Chase for the Board to receive resident comments and opinions.** The Park District Board is currently considering the following four options:

Options	Estimated Cost
1. Renovate Existing Clubhouse	\$2,800,000
2. Tear down existing Clubhouse rebuild at the same size.	\$3,000,000
3. Tear down major portion of Clubhouse and renovate Gable Room and build a new 500 seat banquet facility.	\$2,300,000
4. Tear down Clubhouse and build a small Golf Clubhouse.	\$1,300,000

Whatever decision is made will **affect all of us**. The Park District Board of Commissioners truly wants, and appreciates, your input. Please take the time to express your thoughts. **Please complete the below survey and return/mail to the Community Recreation Center no later than November 29, 1996.**

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT
Board of Commissioners

.....

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- In the past 5 years I have booked a function at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse. Yes ___ No
- In the past 5 years I, or my family members, have attended a function at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse. Yes No ___
- I think the Chevy Chase Clubhouse, a facility of the Wheeling Park District, is important to me and should be saved. Yes No ___

To accomplish Options 1,2 or 3 would require funding from a referendum approved tax rate increase. Option 4 would not require a referendum approved tax rate increase.

In order to better understand what impact a referendum approved tax rate increase might have on you personally, the following information is provided for illustration. Use the chart to estimate the impact of a referendum approved tax rate increase for Options 1, 2 or 3.

Current Annual Tax Bill	Approximate Additional Cost Increase	
	Per Year	Per Month
\$1,500	\$16.83	\$1.40
\$2,000	\$22.45	\$1.87
\$2,500	\$28.06	\$2.34
\$3,000	\$33.68	\$2.81
\$3,500	\$39.28	\$3.27
\$4,000	\$44.90	\$3.74
\$4,500	\$50.50	\$4.21

QUESTIONS:

- Would you be in favor of saving Chevy Chase Clubhouse, in its current configuration, with a referendum approved tax rate increase? Yes No ___
- Would you be in favor of tearing down the existing Chevy Chase Clubhouse and rebuilding with a facility of similar size and function with a referendum approved tax rate increase? Yes ___ No
- Would you be in favor of tearing down the Main Ballroom, Devonshire and Wayside Rooms, renovate the Gable Room and construct a new banquet facility to seat 500 people with a referendum approved tax rate increase? Yes ___ No
- Would you be in favor of tearing down the existing Chevy Chase Clubhouse and rebuilding a facility much smaller for golf needs, **without banquet facilities or the need for a referendum approved tax rate increase?** Yes ___ No

.....

Thank you for taking the time to provide the Park Board of Commissioners with your thoughts and opinions. Please mail this questionnaire to the Wheeling Park District, 333 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, IL 60090-2768 or drop it off at the Community Recreation Center no later than Friday, November 29, 1996.

REMEMBER: Public Hearing on Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be held December 3, 1996, 7:00 p.m., Devonshire Room, Chevy Chase Clubhouse. Resident comments and questions are encouraged!

This may be our LAST CHANCE to save the

Chevy Chase Country Club!

One by one, buildings that reflect Wheeling's history are being torn down. The Chevy Chase Country Club is one of the last of these buildings.

Construction began in 1920. Its history includes floor shows, dance bands, summer theater, theater in the round, a swimming pool and gambling. For a more complete history, check out the article in the display case in the banquet hall's lobby. See for yourself how lovely this building is.

***Please attend the public hearing on Tuesday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m.
in the Devonshire Room at
the Chevy Chase Country Club,
1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue.***

Unless we make a strong showing, Wheeling will lose a facility that serves hundreds of people every week in a historic, welcoming atmosphere that lends character to our village.

The park district will make a decision based on our input!

Spread the word and encourage your neighbors to attend the public hearing.

If you'd like to help distribute flyers, please call Laurel Anderson at 847/537-2593.

Your Voice Counts!

WINTER 1996-97



WHEELING PARK DISTRICT

Activities

Winter Carnival	11	Youth Athletics	24-30
Performing Arts ...	18, 19	Chevy Chase Questionnaire ...	41



Chevy Chase Country Club
Chevy Chase Public Hearing
Tuesday, December 3, 1996
Devonshire Room

WELCOME

Board of Park Commissioners



Greg Klatecki
President



Bill Mattes
Vice-President



Dennis Drake
Commissioner



Cheri Klumpp
Commissioner



Fran Melamed
Commissioner



Mark Parkinson
Commissioner



Tom Webber
Commissioner

Dear Residents,

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Wheeling Park District! As we wind down our 35th year and enter into a new decade of fun, we hope that 1996 has been a great year for all residents. **Our next Public Hearing for Chevy Chase Country Club will be on Tuesday, December 3, 7 PM at Chevy Chase.** The board is currently gathering information and is open to your suggestions and concerns about Chevy. Bookings for 1998 are currently being taken, so-don't hesitate to book your event today.

The winter brings us many activities such as Winter Break Camps for kids during the holidays, Winter Carnival, and new this year is monthly Family Entertainment at the Community Recreation Center. "the Party's Here" is the middle school evening night out for your 6, 7, or 8th graders. We have four planned for your kids to burn off energy by dancing, shooting hoops or playing a few contests. What a better time than now to start your New Year's Resolution with a fitness Center membership. Why not give it as a present for the holidays! We have gift certificates for trips, programs, aquatics, and fitness, with no size requirements!

On behalf of the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners and staff, I'd like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and New Year!

Greg Klatecki
President, Board of Commissioners

STAFF

Director of Parks and Recreation Karop T. Bavougian, CLP
 Superintendent of Recreation Steve Pohlman, CLP
 Superintendent of Clubhouse Services Roger Christensen
 Superintendent of Golf Services Steve Schiller
 Superintendent of Finance and Personnel Thomas Busby
 Superintendent of Parks & Planning Mark Harrison, RLA
 Asst. Supt. of Parks & Planning Mitch Cohen
 Asst. Supt. of Recreation Jan Buchs
 Asst. Supt. of Clubhouse Keith Morgan
 Greens Superintendent Tom McDonald
 Safety Coordinator Amy Rivas
 Fitness/Athletics Coordinator Jan Arnold
 Aquatics/Special Events Coordinator Michelle Bobbora
 Recreation Supervisor Marv Call
 Athletic Supervisor Brien Halterman
 Preschool/Tot Coordinator Colleen Farrell
 Recreation Coordinator Laurakathleen Frey
 Recreation Coordinator Cindy Schaar
 Promotions/Special Events Coordinator . . . Trudy Wakeman, CLP

**WHEELING PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 1996**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District. Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois was held in the Devonshire Room of Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Klatecki, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioners present: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake, M. Parkinson

Staff present: Karop T. Bavougian, Director; Steve Pohlman, Supt. of Recreation; Thomas Busby, Supt. of Finance and Personnel; Steve Schiller, Supt. of Golf Services; Roger Christensen, Supt. of Clubhouse Services; Mark Harrison, Supt. of Parks and Planning; Trudy Wakeman, Promotions/Special Events Coordinator

Present in audience: Cheri Bentrup, reporter, Wheeling Countryside; Bob McKee, reporter, Wheeling Herald; and well over 200 people attended the meeting. A partial list in the form of a sign-in sheet is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

AGENDA - ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 19, 1996

Commissioner Parkinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Webber, to approve the minutes of November 19, 1996. Roll call being taken the following commissioners voted:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake, M. Parkinson
NAY: None

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

FINANCE

Voucher List 12A in the amount of \$223,590.07

Commissioner Webber moved, seconded by Commissioner Klumpp, to approve Voucher List 12A in the amount of \$223,590.07.

On the roll call the vote was as follows:

AYE: C. Klumpp, T. Webber, F. Melamed, G. Klatecki, B. Mattes, D. Drake, M. Parkinson

NAY: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING - CHEVY CHASE

This hearing was held for the purpose of obtaining residents' opinions and comments relative to the renovation or demolition of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners President Klatecki expressed their gratitude for the large number of people attending this meeting and seeing their concern with the decision the Board has to make. He asked citizens wishing to address the Board to please identify themselves, give their addresses and state whether they are a resident of Wheeling. The meeting was then opened to hear citizens' comments.

The following are excerpts from remarks made from citizens from the audience:

Jeanne Selander, Village of Wheeling Trustee: "Our society today tends to be a throw-away society and I do think what we have here is something beautiful. I realize there are many improvements that need to be made and I support the decision to renovate...not to reduce its size, but keep it as it is. I would willing to help achieve that goal if that is the direction the Board would like to take. I have been asked to speak on behalf of President Schultz and Trustee Hartman, who are also in favor of renovating Chevy Chase, and also for my husband, who disagrees with me."

Stuart Shapiro, Wheeling: "I am a resident, but I am also a board member of the Chicago and Northeastern Association of Health Underwriters who has held their annual Healthcare Expo here for the last ten years in addition to their monthly meetings. We are the second largest organization within the National Association of Health Underwriters. We pack almost 1,000 people into this room. This year we ran a survey of the vendors and the attendees of this year's expo. Everybody commented that they would like to see a bigger, renovated structure and do not want to see this building torn down and neither do I. We are proud to have our expos here in this village and in this facility and are booked here for 1997 and 1998. Hopefully the Board will vote to keep this building, renovate it, bring us a better facility, but not lose what we have.

I also served on the Economic Development Committee of Wheeling 2000. One of the recommendations of our committee was to have a hotel and banquet facility somewhere on this end of town. I believe that this is our banquet facility, and I don't want to see it go away. It's an important part of this community and of us as residents. Please renovate and give us a more modern facility, but don't tear it down."

Andy Stein, Wheeling: "I also do not want to see the Chevy Chase Clubhouse torn down, and I don't believe that it really has to. I don't want to see \$3 million spent to renovate it. I have done some checking in the Americans with Disabilities Act, and have found two exemptions that the Park Board can apply for in order to keep from having to do the massive renovations: the first being under Section 12.204 Architectural Relief Act--while this building is not an actual historical landmark and not even recognized by the state, there is a provision within the Act that allows for a *locality* to determine it as a *locally historical place*. We are within the Vernon Township area so it might need to be a joint effort with Wheeling Township to declare this a locally historical place in order to qualify for that part of the act. Another area of the act, Section 12.111 calls for reasonable accommodations to be made for a municipality where an undue hardship would be created by the amount of expenses it would take to make the renovations necessary. In terms of employment, it allows for job restructuring if the employee cannot make it to another floor because they are disabled, it allows for reasonable accommodation; the same goes for public access. When you're talking about \$3 million, it's worth going before the Board to ask for that sort of exemption. Also, if the chimney at the back of the Wayside Room is removed, there is a colony of perhaps thousands of bats, please look into relocating that colony. My home is across the street and those bats are going to be looking for a new place to live if the facility is torn down. The majority of the use is from people outside of the district; I don't know if I want to subsidize that from my real estate taxes. My question to the board is instead of raising real estate taxes, can it be funded out of the profits from the golf course and the facility itself. I appreciate living across the street from it. I appreciate looking at it, and I'm not sure I would want to see a facility like they have in Vernon Hills. I support anything that can be done to save it and go before whatever board it has to for the American Disabilities Act to see if we can get that exemption."

Connie Vitner, Wheeling resident since 1979: "I prefer not tearing it down. In the summer of 1983 our daughter Cheri was able to participate with her group in filming a spoof of Twilight Zone in the back halls and rooms of Chevy Chase. I can still remember the giggling of the fifth graders that just had a ball doing it. Unfortunately our daughter was killed in 1984 by a drunk driver so she can't be here to defend it, but I can still remember the joy whenever I come here. We have also attended the Wheeling High School Madrigal Dinners held here and were delighted in how beautifully it was decorated. The wonderful ambiance provided adds greatly to the hard-working high school performers. It amazes me that there is any question about saving the building with its historical relation with Wheeling and that it's booked until 1998. Surely with its improvements should come even more demand for its use. Let's look at this as an investment not only as part of our history, but also as an investment in the future as a self-supporting and profit-making facility as was done with the golf course."

Minutes of December 3, 1996

Page 4

Jerome Chudnow, Wheeling, new resident: "My finance has been a 27 year resident. I come from Chicago. All my life I have heard of Chevy Chase. It was always a premier place to go to. I'm a member of the Chicago Windy City Jitterbug Club; we have dances here. My recommendation is that you renovate this building. A new hotel and banquet facilities were mentioned earlier. Maybe you should consider having someone build a hotel adjoining Chevy Chase. I went to the last Wheeling 2000 meeting and volunteered for four committees. I am interested in Wheeling and hope you are the same."

George Hieber, 36 year resident: "My daughter held a reception at Chevy Chase. I am also the chairman of the Appearance Committee in Wheeling. The architecture of this building is fantastic. I would like to see it renovated. What would you get to replace it. To the residents it is a landmark."

Laurel Anderson, Wheeling: "I would like to thank everybody that came out tonight to support this beautiful building. Someone gave us the challenge at one of the meetings to see if we could fill a room. I think we've filled the room. A lot of people are here tonight that don't live in Wheeling. I know you want input from Wheeling residents, but just the fact that they took the time to come here and support this building has to mean something. I talked with an architect this evening. His credentials are that he was Professor of Architecture, University of Illinois, Chicago; Professor of Architecture, Notre Dame, Indiana; Professor of Architecture in Rome, Italy. He is one of the top 40 architects under the age of 40 that was named by the Architectural League of New York, who name the top 40 architects once every 10 years. This is a young person, and he has been to Chevy Chase. He has said that he would be glad to come to a board meeting if necessary. There are things in this building that will never be duplicated. There are things in this building that the architectural field would hate to lose. From his own words, "Buildings that are built today are made to last maybe 50 years. Buildings that were built from the 1900's to the 1940's were built to last 200 years." Structuralwise, I think this building is well, well worth renovation. I have talked to a lot of people in town, and they all feel it is well worth renovation. We want it renovated, but not to a point where you cannot recognize it anymore. I know it is a hard decision for the board to make, but I think we have to think beyond the dollar. We have to think about our history and our future. High schoolers have asked me if it was alright for students to voice their opinion because the building is used by the High School. If you tear down the building, you tear down a good image of what Wheeling is. Chevy Chase was a prestigious place and I'm sure it can be that again. We talk about a facility for youth, for seniors--why don't we use what we have. I don't want to see taxes go up, I'm retired, but I would rather see my dollars go into something like this rather than hidden taxes where I don't know where it's going."

President Klatecki asked for a show of hands of how many people in the audience where Wheeling residents. The vast majority were residents.

Tom Martin, Wheeling, 11 year resident: "I am a member of the Wheeling Lions Club, past president, current treasurer. The Lions Club use this facility for many activities and would love to see the place stay the way it is. Renovation is great if you can maintain *ambiance*--that's the

Minutes of December 3, 1996

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magic word. When you walk into a place with ambiance, it just makes you feel good to be in it; and this whole facility has been that way for many years. I am part of two family-owned taverns in Chicago: one is over 60 years old, one over 50. These places have ambiance and in the time we owned them we have made them mechanically sound, but have not changed the character of what they have been for many, many years. People come in and marvel, saying it looks the same, but it just sparkles--you have made it better without tearing it up. That's what we have to keep in mind. Keep the character and ambiance the same, and don't destroy it because it is so important to many, many people."

Philip Stutz, Wheeling: "I can't say that I represent the entire high school, but I do know I represent the Fine Arts Department. This weekend we will be having our 26th Annual Madrigal Dinner. Having been involved in this for the last 25 years of the dinners, a great deal of success and the neatness of the dinner is due to the surroundings we have here and the beautiful ambiance that is created in the ballroom. I've been to other high school dinners that were excellent that were done in a banquet room at a typical hotel and there is just something missing. On behalf of those involved in the Madrigal Dinner, we would certainly hate to see Chevy Chase change very much. We would like to see it brought up to standard. It has provided memories for thousands of people over the years. As a taxpayer I would be happy to pay whatever price would be necessary to keep it this way."

Judy Abruscato, Village of Wheeling Trustee: "Thirty years of enjoyment. Memories of weddings, memories of the first fund raiser for the Village of Wheeling, memories of driving from Chicago as a young girl to come to Chevy Chase for the dances. Memories of the past will continue in the future. Hopefully your decision will make it possible to continue the dreams of the past to bring the dreams of the future. I also have memories of my son as President of the Park Board. I hope in your decision that you will keep in mind that many memories have lingered for us and the many memories we want to bring to those who would love to see Chevy Chase stay just the way it is."

Virginia Sherwood, Wheeling, 8 year resident: "I am a senior commissioner in the Village and on the Board of Directors of Lexington Commons. The word is *continuity*. I didn't know that Chevy Chase was the old Bon Aire Country Club until two years ago. One of my fondest memories is June 1939 driving out from east Rogers Park in Chicago with a date and my father with his customers to Arlington Park and then coming here to hear a rising young singer named Tony Martin, who was just starting out. I don't know about the rest of the older people, but I am so tired of making phone calls, hitting computers narrating a voice, I feel like I am lost. The continuity and beauty of the place, even though I don't dance or play golf anymore, I would be very willing to contribute to keep this place going. But don't change it too much--leave it the way it is."

Frank Schnaitman, Wheeling: "I am President of the Wheeling Historical Society and am speaking on behalf of myself and the Society. At our November meeting I was asked to send a letter to the Board indicating our feelings about keeping Chevy Chase Clubhouse as it is--not tear it down. I was on the Board at the Park when Chevy Chase was purchased and I felt very

Minutes of December 3, 1996

Page 6

strongly about keeping the clubhouse as it is since it was the people of Wheeling who wanted to keep Chevy Chase and not have apartment buildings put on the property, but to keep it as open space. A lot of time and money has been spent in maintaining the property as it is now. The building has a lot of character and should not be torn down. The Society would like to keep it just the way it is."

Jim Falkiner, Wheeling, 30 year resident: "I grew up in this town, own a house here, had my wedding reception in the main ballroom, and my brother and sister had their wedding receptions here. I use the golf course throughout the summer, spring and fall. I don't use this facility as much as I would like to. People who use this building may not be residents, but they come to Wheeling and use our restaurants, stores, and spend their money here. This is a profit-making building for the Park District. The golf course is self supporting. It takes pressure off taxes to keep the high school pool going because it is *not* making money. The new water park is a venture which we did not know if it would make money or not, fortunately it is. A new maintenance facility was just built on this property that services all Park District vehicles and equipment. The cost was \$1 million with no tax money used. It was paid for from a fund that was set up from year-to-year profits. That is what we should consider with this building--it makes money for us. Let's be realistic; if we can, let's go ahead and do it. Let's renovate it and keep all the other communities coming into Wheeling, spending their money and enjoying themselves, coming away from it with a real positive attitude about this town. I'm looking to stay here. I'm raising my kids in this town. A lot of my neighbors feel the same way. Let's renovate it. Let's keep it the way it is. From the outside, from the inside, it looks great. Nowhere can you find a dancefloor like that in the neighboring room. That's what we take pride in. Let's keep it!"

Thomas Vanzile, resident: "I'm a relatively new resident, but have known of Chevy Chase for a long time. My cousin travels 60 miles here from South Holland every Tuesday night to go dancing on one of the largest dancefloors in the entire midwest. I enjoy the spirit of community at Chevy. If you rehab and spend money as an investment in a building with this character, this age, this stature and grandeur, the return you get will be more than just financial, it will be something we can truly be proud of. This village needs to utilize this building--market it, have concerts here, dinner theater, hold business expos, to gain recognition; the Village will gain recognition also. We're concerned with the Wheeling 2000 plan and taking this village into the future. Renovating this building, we should "go back to the future".

Elizabeth Severson, Arlington Heights, Wheeling High School student: "We do our Madrigal Dinner here every year, and it would be really hard for us if you should close. We don't have anywhere else to go. It's important to us to have our dinners here at Chevy Chase".

Anita Chernak, Wheeling: "As a student at Wheeling High School and a member of the Madrigal singers, I feel that Chevy Chase is a huge part of the richness and culture that Wheeling might have and if we change it, it takes away part of our history and part of the community atmosphere that we have. The Madrigal Dinner is a big community event and if it is moved, would not be

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the same. Everyone enjoys the way Chevy Chase is now, don't change it. There are not many young people here tonight, but there are many involved with Chevy Chase who want to see it stay open."

Lee Vale, Wheeling, Wheeling High School student: "The Madrigal Dinner is one of the best community events there is."

Ed Malik, Wheeling: "I am sure the purpose of this meeting is the budget. If it can pay for itself and can maintain this facility - fine. If we have to scale it down - fine too. Please don't short change our children. Let's keep everything and move forward within our budget."

Mike Kurgan, Wheeling: "The words *character, charisma, uniqueness* are being used a lot. With all the new construction going on, you need something like this. I have been to numerous events here. For the most part, everybody is making a statement about rehabbing Chevy Chase."

Lorraine Haben, Wheeling, life-long resident: "In 1930, with my father driving, we used to deliver meat here when it was the Bon Aire. In my teens I was a waitress here. The swimming pool is gone now, but it was the only pool around here. The gambling hall is gone. But through this all, the character of the building has remained the same. Who can forget Wheeling's 100th Birthday held here. I came to your very first meeting and at that time was undecided. Now, *don't you dare tear it down.*"

Patricia Robbins, Wheeling, Wheeling JayCee member: "The JayCees use this facility every month. Growing up on the Northshore, Wheeling did not get much respect, but when I tell people our organization meets at Chevy Chase, they think of it as a prestigious place. Residents want to see Chevy renovated, but the question is "How many people want to see their tax dollars used for this renovation". That's what the Board needs to know." The show of hands was overwhelming.

Linda Reading, Wheeling, 31 year resident: "I raised my children here through the public schools. I belong to the Wheeling Historical Society. I have many friends who have been on various park boards, village trustees. We had a business in town and have many memories of functions we have come to at Chevy Chase. I am also an amateur archeologist and a member of the A.I.A. and the I.A.A.A. of Illinois and through the years of being active in digging for artifacts, I have found that people want to keep a hold of the past. The past is important, it's something everyone wants to have a part of. It's a lot easier to hang onto the past when it's still with us than to have to dig it up out of the ground or paperwork after it's buried. I plead with this Board. You have a unique opportunity here--hang on to it. It's our past, it's our present and it's our future place in the world. Don't destroy it like other things have been destroyed, please."

Dr. Ian Taylor, Wheeling, 40 year resident: "I am one of the founders of the Historical Society. This is a big change from the first meeting we had a year and a half ago when I walked out so angry I almost had a heart attack! Laurel Anderson, who I didn't know before this, has done a tremendous job as an individual, and I hope the Board and everybody in this room appreciates

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the number of hours she has put into this on her own. It was a nice gesture of the 3X Copy Center in town to donate the printing of the flyers. I ask that Laurel be given another round of applause." Laurel added that flyers were also donated by the Convenient Printing Co., Wheeling.

Dr. Wayne Gilbert, Wheeling, 35 year resident: "We are in an historic position. We talked about ambiance, the beauty. We're talking about part of the spirit of this community. This building is part of the basic foundation that brought people here and made them stay. It would be criminal to tear it down. My background is walking the streets to get Harper College going, helped the founders of the Historical Society. I worked with a lady that you should remember and what she did: my buddy Lorraine Lark. I think she's here tonight too. So not only are the people here tonight watching what you do, you've got the people who love this community too."

Steven Telow, Wheeling: "Chevy Chase is a landmark, 3/4 of a century old, an architectural wonder, unique, a working antique, is always making money (I think), is of a foregone period, from Frank Sinatra to Al Capone to illegal gambling, it was all here. It's a relic, it's ancient, a survivor of the past, it has growing pains: old electrical wiring, old plumbing from a period past, non-handicapped accessible. This Board is the same slate I ran against as a commissioner candidate. They are a good ole boys club, 6-0 every time they vote. Not so long ago we citizens wanted a referendum for building a park. 1,600 signatures were gathered for it to be put on the ballot. This board turned it down, voted against us and went to vote bonding. \$5 million was spent on the Aquatic Center. It is open 2 months, closed 10 months. Open an ice skating rink that would be open 365 days a year. That's how to make a profit. This board is planning to spend \$4 million to build a new Chevy Chase." Mr. Telow enumerated some of the costs and felt it would only cost \$1 million and did not trust the board spending his tax dollars. "Tax payers have to monitor the Board."

President Klatecki responded that had the Board had plans for Chevy Chase, they would have had one meeting and would have voted. "We were elected to represent the Wheeling Park District's best interests. It was not necessary to go to referendum to build the pool. A survey was sent out, and the Board vowed that whatever was number one on that list, we would do because we had the money to do it. It was clear that number one was an outdoor pool. Number 2 was a recreation center. Listening to the people who elected us, we built you a pool. We had to go to referendum, not to build the rec center, but to put equipment in it and staff it. We love to see all the people here tonight to hear your opinions before we make a decision. If we wanted to make a decision earlier, you would not be here tonight, it would be over."

David Phillips, Wheeling, 26 year resident: "I served on the Infrastructure Committee for the Wheeling 2000 where discussions were held with both old and new residents who wanted to get involved with what is going on in Wheeling. Infrastructure is a foundation upon which a community is built. What you are hearing tonight is about the culture of Wheeling and the things that are important to us. This facility has been publicly owned and operated for the last two decades, but it's roots go deep into the past of our community. It is far more than a brick and mortar decision." He stated he does not use many of the Park District facilities, but he is glad we have them. "Many of the activities at Chevy have been discontinued, most likely because they

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were not profitable. Part of the opportunity for a community to use a facility has to come back to the types of things like the Fish Fries where people can gather as a community. I don't have much of a chance to dance or golf but would like to use the facility. I appreciate the Board bringing this issue before the voters." Mr. Phillips donated \$10 to the cause.

Gary Hittleman, Wheeling: "The Board is going to make a decision whether to have a referendum. It is up to the community to support it or not. The Village of Wheeling is proposing a 5.6% increase in their tax levy which they can do automatically if unopposed. On the other hand, in order to support Chevy, we have to go out to our friends and neighbors to save this place."

Paul Kline, Plainfield, Illinois: "I am a member of the Chicagoland Round Dance Leader Society. We use your facility three times a year. You have an opportunity that we lost. With a tornado, Plainfield lost historical buildings, the high school and 29 people. I hope the words and feelings coming from this room influence you to keep that wonderful place that you have."

Warren Sunde, Prospect Heights: "My daughters went to Wheeling High School, and we have gone to so many events here. We are involved in western dancing now. Your dance floor puts Julie's to shame. I wish we had something like this in Prospect Heights. We spend our money here at restaurants, gas stations, and stores. Please don't lose this place, we love it here."

Lee Hanson, Wheeling: "I work for a park district. While my usual interest is in natural history, I am also very interested in cultural history so I too would like to see Chevy Chase renovated. It would be terribly unfortunate to allow the architectural heritage of Wheeling to be destroyed. It has educational value and speaks of the past of our community. On an environmental angle, renovation requires far less energy and material than demolition and building from scratch. My husband and I would be willing to share in the financial burden of the renovation of this building."

Connie Vitner, Wheeling: "...the amount of taxes paid will be offset by increasing the value of property. Don't always think of the bottom line, but think of the future. The more recognition this community has, the better the chances are of selling property quickly and at a better price."

John Pestka, Grayslake, Illinois: "I was at your last meeting. Some buildings are destined to be saved. There was a building in St. Louis that was saved. Today it is the biggest tourist attraction in St. Louis--the old Union Station." Mr. Pestka read off a partial list of names from a book from the Illinois Preservation Department, Springfield, that were saved through concerned citizens. He thought Wheeling Chevy Chase Country Club should also be in that book.

Mary Mozal, Wheeling: "How many signatures will it require for you to make the decision to save the country club, because I will go out and get them."

President Klatecki: "It was obvious the residents were giving the Board a clear message. The Board did not know what to do, but in reality the voters would make the final decision. This

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Board has a history of listening. We feel we have done something for this community that raised us more than one level. When we called this third meeting, we were hoping for a clear message, and we do believe we hear it. You want Chevy Chase saved. I'm hearing that many of you would be willing to work for a referendum."

Commissioner Parkinson stated he will support whatever the voters want the Board to do and is willing to support a referendum. It was noted that it was not necessary for a petition to be circulated for signatures. Commissioner Mattes added that the question is *whether the residents will support a referendum*.

Commissioner Parkinson moved, seconded by Commissioner Drake, to have a referendum. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Responding to a question, President Klatecki noted that the wording on the referendum will not include the words "Chevy Chase" because of state laws. Staff will have to be directed to prepare the referendum. Director Bavougian stated an ordinance would have to be placed by the Board authorizing the question and then approved and filed with the County Clerk by January 27 before an April election. The wording would be much the same as it was with the Recreation Center, where the Recreation Center was not named. An increase will be requested for the Corporate or Recreation Fund with the understanding it would be used to pay the debt for those renovations. The District has separate funds, and in order to go to a referendum an increase for a specific fund has to be made so that the wording names the fund with the increase. Volunteers will be needed to go door to door to inform the voters and make sure they go out to vote. Responding to a question, President Klatecki stated volunteers cannot state the money from the referendum will be used strictly for Chevy Chase and not used for anything else.

A question was raised from the audience relative to fund raising from non-residents. It was suggested that such funds could be used by the referendum committee to operate.

Commissioner Melamed moved, seconded by Commissioner Webber, to direct staff to prepare an ordinance for approval to establish a referendum in April. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Shapiro stated Chicago & Northeastern Illinois Association of Health Underwriters will have their meeting at Chevy next week, and he will seek a donation for the effort. Also, he stated he will be running as an independent candidate for Trustee in the Village of Wheeling in the April election and offered to put any referendum literature in with his that will be passed out door to door.

President Klatecki asked those willing to work on the referendum committee to please sign the volunteer sheet before they leave. He invited the audience to the next regular board meeting to be held on December 17 at the Community Recreation Center.

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Andrew Stein asked the Board to still consider any legal opportunities with the American Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act to please see what exemptions we would get to keep the cost down as he felt the Park District has some options.

Andrew Vargo, Wheeling, 28 year resident. asked how the referendum will be explained by the volunteers. President Klatecki said a meeting will be arranged and a central phone number will be set up for people to call in their questions.

President Klatecki declared the public hearing portion of the meeting closed.

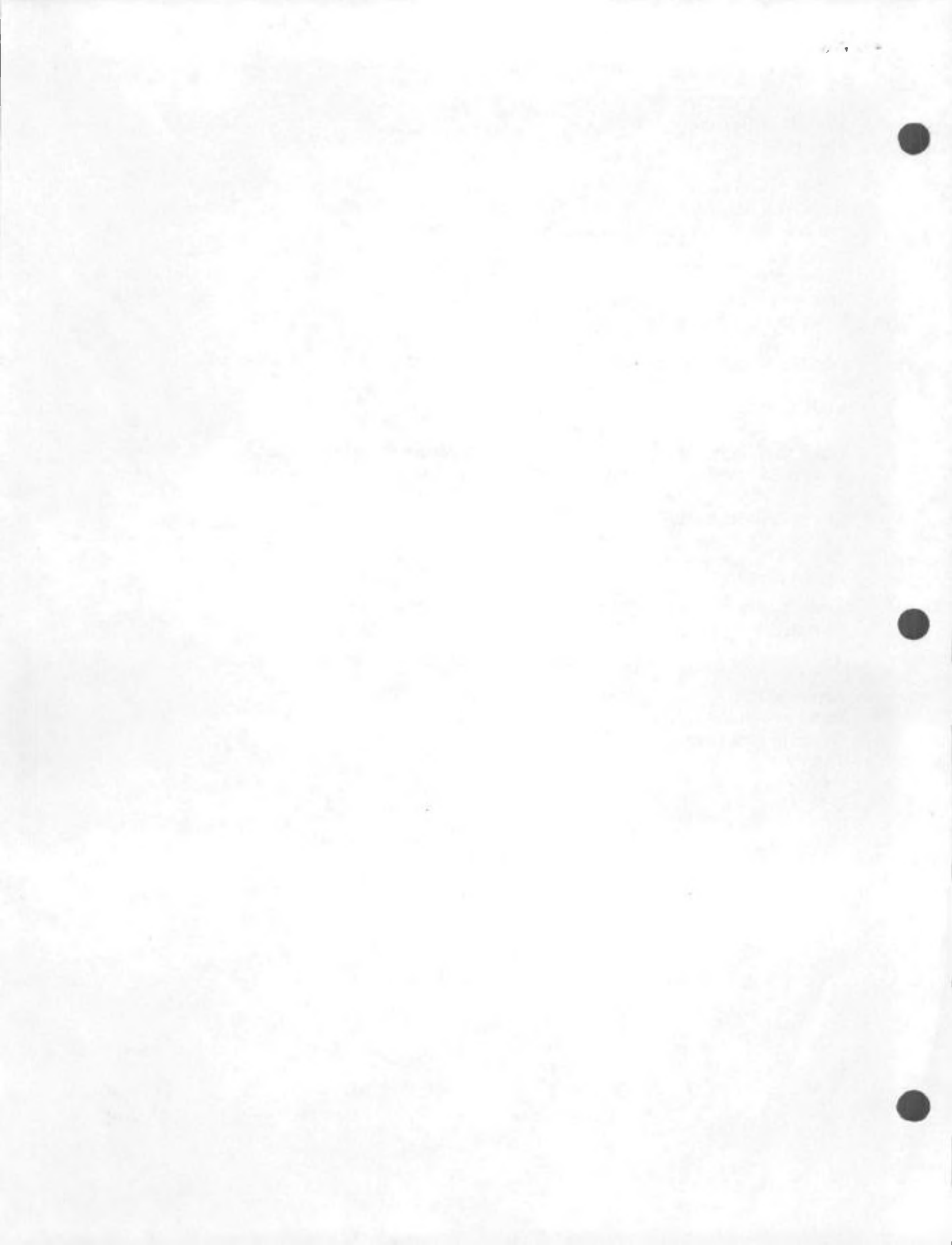
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Mattes moved, seconded by Commissioner Webber, to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Karop T. Bavougian
Secretary

Approved this _____ day of _____, 1996
Board of Commissioners
Wheeling Park District



'This is a tough issue because it goes deeper than a business decision.'

Tom Webber,
park commissioner



Voters to take a swing at clubhouse remodeling

Chevy Chase building needs \$3 million in repairs

By Allison E. Beatty
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

The Wheeling Park District plans to ask voters in April for funds to renovate Chevy Chase Country Club.

About 200 residents packed Tuesday night's public hearing on renovating the clubhouse as Park District commissioners voted unanimously to prepare a binding initiative asking voters for a tax increase to pay for the renovations.

A formal vote on the prepared initiative is slated for Dec. 17.

Those who spoke at the hearing voiced support for restoring the 70-year-old structure. Many said they would support a tax increase to fund an estimated \$3 million in repairs.

"You have a unique opportunity here—hold on to it," said Linda Reading, a 31-year resident, who urged the Wheeling

Park District Board of Commissioners to help renovate the structure.

Park Commissioner Tom Webber said the board faces a difficult decision partly because many of the people who use the facility are not Park District residents and would not pay for its repair.

"This is a tough issue because it goes deeper than a business decision," he said.

The board has yet to decide the amount of the tax increase that the initiative would include.

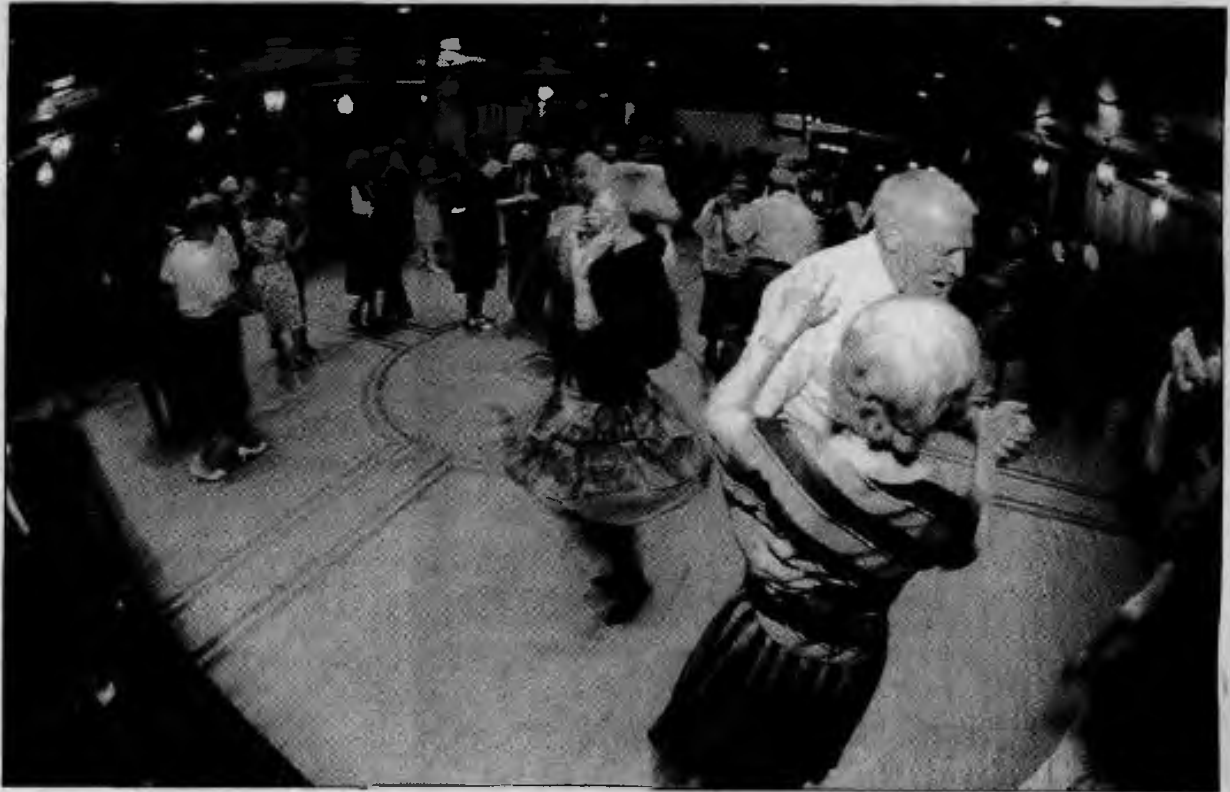
The fate of the stately clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., has been discussed for two years. The building is in need of an estimated \$3 million in structural, electrical, plumbing and other repairs, according to park officials.

At issue is whether to tear down and rebuild the structure, or spend the money

SEE VOTERS, PAGE 9



Rogelio Gutierrez prepares for a dance Tuesday in the ballroom, which once drew Hollywood performers and Capone mobsters.



Tribune file photo

Dancers step to big-band music at the Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling.

Voters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to renovate it. The building is part of the Chevy Chase Golf Course, on the west side of Milwaukee Avenue less than a mile north of Lake-Cook Road. Both are owned by the Wheeling Park District.

Proponents of restoration point to the building's history as a dance hall, nightclub and theater that featured such stars as Mae West, Buddy Ebsen and Imogene Coca.

In the 1930s the site, for a time called the Bon Air Country Club, operated as a gambling den frequented by members of the Al Capone mob. In more recent years, Chevy Chase has been a venue for weddings and bar mitzvahs.

"I've been going since the 1950s," said Laurel Anderson, a Wheeling resident who has spear-

headed a movement to save the clubhouse. "It was a prestigious place to go."

The club still attracts crowds from all over the Chicago area and into Wisconsin for ballroom dancing. Banquets and other events have been booked into 1998, Anderson said.

The 2½-story, Tudor-style structure has reddish brick on the first floor, white stucco and a dark brown wood frame second floor and an attic.

The first floor has about 50,000 square feet of ballroom and banquet facilities and a bar and restaurant for golfers. The second floor includes a room for bridal preparation, offices and an indoor driving range.

Anderson and fellow resident Darlene Brill have distributed about 5,000 fliers in recent weeks to drum up support among area residents to save the building.

"This is something that's going to affect our entire community, because it's part of the commu-

nity," Anderson said. "There are things in that building that cannot be duplicated in a new building."

If the Park District decides to renovate, the cost likely would fall on taxpayers, who would have to approve a referendum issue to raise construction funds. Anderson said that cost has been estimated at \$30 per year in higher property taxes for the typical homeowner.

"Taxes are always going up for one thing or another," she said. "A lot of times, they're hidden taxes. This way, you would see your tax dollars at work."

If the building is torn down, it would probably be replaced by a much smaller clubhouse that would cost \$750,000 to \$1 million, according to Karop Bavougian, director of parks and recreation.

Tuesday's public meeting was the third held since August 1995 as Park District officials try to gauge community opinion on the issue.



Chevy Chase fate up to voters

By CHERI BENTRUP
STAFF WRITER

It appears the easy part is over, and the hard work is about to begin.

Wheeling residents successfully convinced the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners that they want to save Chevy Chase Clubhouse from the wrecking ball. But now residents are needed to make sure an April 1 referendum succeeds.

Board members voted unanimously after a public hearing Dec. 3 to place a referendum on the spring ballot, asking residents to approve a tax rate increase to pay for \$2.8 million in renovations at Chevy Chase, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

This was the third public hearing the Park Board hosted to decide the fate of Chevy Chase.

Before settling on an option calling for almost \$3 million in clubhouse renovations, the Park Board also was considering other options for the facility as well.

They tossed about razing the clubhouse and rebuilding it at the same size or smaller. They also pondered tearing down everything except the Gable Room and building a small banquet hall for \$2.3 million. They even wrestled with tearing down the clubhouse and building a



The lines were long as residents filed into a public hearing held last week on the future of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

small golf clubhouse for \$1.3 million.

The first two hearings were not very well attended, and many of those who spoke were not Wheeling residents, who would be paying for the renovations through their tax dollars. But last

week, an estimated 200 people, many of whom identified themselves as residents, packed the Devonshire Room of the clubhouse to capacity and pleaded with the Board to save the historical clubhouse.

"We want it renovated, but we don't want it remodeled to a point where we don't recognize it anymore," said resident Laurel Anderson, who started a grass-roots effort to notify people of last week's public hearing. "This building is used by a lot of people. If you tear it down, you're tearing down a very good image of what Wheeling is."

Frank Schnaitmann, president of the Wheeling Historical Society and a member of the Park Board when the park district purchased Chevy Chase in the late '70s, also asked that the building be spared.

"It was the people of Wheeling who wanted to keep Chevy Chase and not build apartments on this land. The building, to me, has a lot of character and should not be torn down. On behalf of the Society, we'd like you

to keep it just the way it is."

Wheeling High School's madrigal singers, who use Chevy Chase's ballroom each December to stage their madrigal dinner, appeared before the
(Continued on page 13)

Chevy Chase *Continued from page 5*

Board in full costume. "This (dinner) is a big community event and everyone enjoys this place as it is now," one of the students said. "There may not be as many students here as you would like to see, but many of us are involved in the community. Many of us are involved in Chevy Chase, and many of us would like to see it stay open."

"We want it renovated, but we don't want it remodeled to a point where we don't recognize it anymore."

Resident Laurel Anderson

About 90 minutes of listening to comments from the residents, Board President Greg Klatecki said the board had no choice but to ask for a referendum on the April ballot.

"It's obvious you're making a clear decision. When we called this third meeting, we were hoping for a clear mes-

sage, and if I may speak for my fellow Board members, I think we hear it — you want Chevy Chase saved and many of you would be willing to work for a referendum to save it. I don't see what else we can do," Klatecki said.

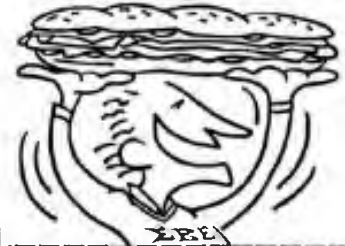
Klatecki cautioned that the referendum, when drafted by park staff, will not include the words "Chevy Chase," in accordance with state law. Instead, it will ask for a tax rate increase in one of the park district's funds.

Therefore, it will be up to a group of volunteers to go door to door explaining the referendum and its necessity to their neighbors, he said.

Park Director Karop Bavougiian said he is still working to determine what increase will be requested, but he said the tax rate should not increase by more than 10 cents. In 1995, the park district's tax rate was 55.8 cents per \$100 of assessed property value.

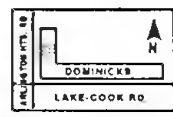
The Park Board must approve the referendum ordinance by Jan. 27 to have it placed on the April 1 ballot. The Board's next meeting is at 7 p.m. Dec. 17 in the Wheeling Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road.

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■ **1996** Continued from page 9

helped the Library Board with a successful referendum to build an addition to the library.

Wheeling trustees approve a telecommunications tax to go into effect Oct. 1. The tax is expected to generate \$500,000 of revenue a year for the village. The 5 percent tax applies to all telephone calls, faxes, cellular phones, pagers, commuter lines and any other communications that are transmitted similarly.

Village Manager Craig Anderson says the tax is yet another source of income for the village and one which many surrounding suburbs already have enacted. Five percent is the maximum tax the state allows a municipality to enact on telecommunications services.

Janet D'Argo, who served as Wheeling's village clerk from 1985 to 1989, is again appointed to the position by Village President Sheila Schultz. D'Argo will complete the term vacated by Jeanne Selander, when she was appointed to fill a trustee vacancy left by the resignation of Bob Todd.

The clerk's position is up for election in the April 1997 municipal elections.

September

Village trustees hire the public relations firm of Siles & Walsh for another six months at a cost of \$12,000 to promote a positive image of the village. The firm was first hired six months earlier. When Siles & Walsh was hired earlier in the year, Trustees Bob Heer and Patrick Horcher voted against the hiring, but the board votes unanimously when extending their contract for another six months.

Challenges to the testing procedure for promotion within the Wheeling Police Department are answered, and the test scores will stand, the village's Board of Fire and Police Commissioners decide. Four officers who took the test in hopes of being promoted to sergeants challenged certain portions of the test.

Among the complaints were that assessors were not adequately trained to grade the officers; there was a lack of systematic scoring within the process; and instructions on some portions were not clear. As sergeants, officers move into a supervisory position, receive a higher salary and are given more responsibility.

A 25-year-old Wheeling man is awarded \$1.8 million in damages four years after his car was rear-ended by a United Parcel Service truck in Northfield. Steven Froh broke his neck in the September 1992 accident when the 5.5-ton truck struck his compact car on Willow Road. Because of an agreement among both parties' attorneys, Froh will receive a maximum of \$1.5 million.

October

On the verge of celebrating their 10-year anniversary as co-owners of Palwaukee Municipal Airport, village officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights express interest in rewriting the intergovernmental agreement that governs the airport. Prospect Heights officials are upset to learn that Wheeling extended a water main to provide service to the new control tower and a new Priestler hangar at the airport. Prospect Heights officials say they were not notified the main was being installed.

Less than a year after it opened, C.K. Finer Foods closes its doors at 550 W. Dundee Road in Lynn Plaza. The grocery store replaced a Dominick's store that left in Feb. 1995. Dominick's had served Wheeling residents for 22 years, but company officials said the building

was just too small to house their current needs.

With much anticipation, Crawdaddy Bayou restaurant at 412 N. Milwaukee Ave., opens its doors, bringing a slice of Louisiana cooking to the northwest suburbs. Owners say their restaurant will fit in well with Wheeling's famed Restaurant Row. In addition to authentic Cajun food, the restaurant offers a full-service bar, gift shop of Cajun specialty items and a small theater where customers can view a movie about life on the bayou while waiting for their tables.

November

The suburbs are typically a suburban stronghold, but Democrats do surprisingly well in the Nov. 5 elections. In Wheeling Township, Bill Clinton beats Republican Bob Dole in the president's race and Dick Durbin is elected U.S. senator over Al Salvi. Democrats Lauren Beth Gash and Terry Link also win in Wheeling Township for state House and Senate, respectively.

Chevy Chase Clubhouse is decorated for a celebration as Village President Sheila Schultz reads the final report of the yearlong "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" strategic improvement project. The report offers suggestions about what can make Wheeling a better place in which to live. A year ago, residents volunteered for the various committees that included economic development, infrastructure, community service, government, education, community diversity and image.

Schultz says the suggestions would be forwarded to the appropriate government bodies. She expects the village will begin implementing some of the plan's suggestions in early 1997.

Catholics are joined by people of all faiths in mourning the death of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. The Rev. Fred Brandstrader of St. Joseph parish in Wheeling says his parishioners are feeling a sincere loss over the Cardinal's death. Brandstrader says he lost a friend and a role model.

December

The Wheeling Park Board agrees to place a referendum on the April 1997 ballot to fund an estimated \$3 million in renovations to Chevy Chase Clubhouse. About 200 people pack the Devonshire Room of the clubhouse Dec. 3, telling park commissioners they want the clubhouse saved. The park district was considering razing the building and building just a restaurant for golfers, or a smaller banquet facility that would better suit the district's needs.

Village President Sheila Schultz announces plans to run for a fifth term in the April 1997 municipal elections. A first, Schultz announces she will not form a slate of candidates. Greg Klatecki, president of the Wheeling Park Board, soon after announces his plan to challenge Schultz for the presidency.

Klatecki, a teacher at Holmes Middle School in Wheeling, says residents have been encouraging him to run for the village president position for the last two years. In the spring, Klakecki will finish his second term on the Wheeling Park Board.

Residents also come forward to run for the three open trustee spots on the Village Board. Bill Rogers, a Palwaukee Airport commissioner and former village trustee, announces his candidacy, along with insurance broker Stuart Shapiro, attorney William Spangenberg and real-estate professional Trevor Lehmann.

Spokesman

Wheeling High School
900 South Elmhurst Road
Wheeling, Illinois 60090
Volume 33, Number 6
Friday, January 17, 1997



Madrigal Dinner. One of the many events hosted at Chevy Chase. Turnabout is another big event that WHS holds at Chevy Chase. (Photo by Elizabeth Severson)

Chevy Chase scheduled for renovation, Wheeling citizens voice their opinions

by Elizabeth Severson
Managing Editor

A referendum for renovating the Chevy Chase clubhouse will be voted on during the April 1 general elections. The Wheeling Park District board scheduled the referendum at the Dec. 5 board meeting.

"There were three meetings on Chevy Chase and more people showed up at each one. The referendum is needed because a consensus of people is needed to raise tax money," Greg Klatecki, board president, said.

If passed, the referendum will raise taxes 7.5 percent for the renovations that will take place over the next 10 years. Students who are residents of Wheeling who wish to vote in the April 1 election must register at Village Hall by March 1. Registration requires 18 years of age, and two forms of identification, one with a current address.

Wheeling's Village Hall is located at 255 W. Dundee Rd, across from the Wheeling post office.

"I think it's good that anybody who reaches the vot-

ing age should take advantage of the privilege they have to vote. Students should look into it and vote for conscience, one way or the other. I think it would be good to get everybody out to vote, then we could have a total feeling from the community rather than just the few who did vote," Philip Stutz, Fine and Performing Arts coordinator, said.

On Dec. 5, concerned citizens spoke in favor of renovating the existing building due to the historical importance of the building.

"The number of people were there—I don't know if it was a surprise—but they'd always said come and express your opinions and your feelings. The outpouring from the community, should we say, was a big happy surprise for me," Mr. Stutz said.

"The Madrigals attended the board meeting after a concert at the Cunio Mansion. I was surprised at the amount of people at the meeting. A few of the other Madrigals and I spoke in favor of renovating the clubhouse," Jimmy Jay, junior, said.

'Turnabout' brings new meaning to students.

Daily Herald

5
K PUBLICATIONS — 125th Year, No. 103

Saturday, January 25, 1997

Chevy Chase renovation backers begin sales pitch

By BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The real work in determining the fate of the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse begins today.

Wheeling residents who want \$2.76 million in renovations done to the 78-year-old local landmark will gather there to plan how to persuade the village the effort is worth higher taxes.

"It takes a lot of manpower to get the word spread," said Wheeling park district board member Francine Melamed. "Officially, it starts (today)."

The park district, at the behest of residents, placed on the April 1 ballot a referendum to ask voters' permission to raise its tax rate — now 58 cents per \$100 assessed property valuation — by another 7½ cents. The owner of a home with a market value of \$125,000 would pay about \$29 more than the approximately \$220 they paid last year.

At today's meeting, which starts at 9 a.m. at the clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., volunteers will decide how they will go about selling the referendum. That will probably

mean knocking on doors, holding community meetings and making phone calls.

The volunteers also will get a lesson of what exactly the referendum entails so they can answer residents' questions, such as how much money saving the clubhouse could cost them.

"They want to know what their money is going for," said Laurel Anderson, a supporter of saving the clubhouse. "You have to have a reason to tell them why this is important."

Though the structure is sound, deterioration through the years has created a need for improvements to the electrical and heating systems and other repairs.

But the district is well aware that convincing people to pay more taxes isn't always easy. For instance, it took two times before voters in 1992 approved a referendum to raise enough taxes to furnish and staff the park district's Community Center at 333 W. Dundee Road.

Officials say one difference between the first and second attempts was an increased amount of door knocking and other work.

Your
Local

NEWS

Supporters gear up for Chevy Chase

By CHERI BENTRUP
STAFF WRITER

Volunteers have started organizing the referendum campaign to renovate Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

Voters in the Wheeling Park District will decide April 1 whether to spend \$2.8 million to renovate the 1920s-era clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. The park district purchased the building and golf course in 1977 after a successful referendum.

Residents who vote in favor of saving the clubhouse will be agreeing to spend an additional 7.5 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation to the park district's corporate fund, generating \$1.2 million.

The current tax rate is 58 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed value. The park district estimates that a homeowner with a \$3,000 tax bill will pay an additional \$25.26 if the referendum is approved.

Thirty-five people attended the "Friends of Chevy" organizational meeting Saturday to learn more specifics about the referendum and how the campaign will be operated. It's now up to the volunteers to get the word out and to persuade people to go to the polls April 1.

"The park district can inform, but we can't persuade" someone how to vote, said Trudy Wakeman, promotions director for the park district. Therefore, a strong number of volunteers are needed to discuss the upcoming referendum with other residents.

All those who are interested in volunteering and were unable to attend Saturday's meeting can call the park district at (847) 465-3333 to be put in contact with the referendum committee, Wakeman said. The next

Friends of Chevy meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Feb. 8 at Chevy Chase.

Among volunteers' duties will be handing out literature to inform residents of the proposed tax increase and knocking on their neighbors' doors in search of favorable votes for the referendum.

One stumbling block for volunteers is to educate voters that the referendum will benefit Chevy Chase's renovation. In accordance with state law, the referendum will ask for a tax rate increase in one of the park district funds, but it will not include the words "Chevy Chase."

For Saturday's meeting, the park district invited those who attended the Dec. 3 public hearing on Chevy Chase, an estimated 200 people. At that hearing, the Park Board voted unanimously to seek a referendum in the April election.

That was the third public hearing the Park Board had concerning Chevy Chase before making its decision to seek the tax increase. The two previous hearings were not well-attended by residents, whose tax dollars would be spent regardless of which option the Park Board chose for Chevy Chase.

Besides renovating the clubhouse, the Park Board considered several other options. They included razing the clubhouse and rebuilding it at the same size for \$3 million; tearing down everything except the Gable Room and building a small banquet hall for \$2.3 million; or tearing down the entire clubhouse and building a small golf clubhouse for \$1.3 million.

At the Dec. 3 public hearing, Park Board President Greg Klatchki said the strong showing of residents gave the board no other option than to seek a referendum to renovate the clubhouse.



WHEELING COUNTRYSIDE

February 6, 1997

The Wheeling Countryside wants your news.

*Here's who to contact
and how to get in
touch with them.*

Mail all
correspondence to:
Wheeling Countryside
291 N. Dinton Ave

• Sports	Kevin Reiterman 317-3590
• Food	Betty Nicolai 486-7345
• Arts and entertainment	Martin Bartels 797-5102

WEEKLY DIGEST

Chevy meeting planned for Saturday

"Friends of Chevy Chase," a volunteer community group working on the Chevy Chase Clubhouse referendum campaign, will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. The public is invited.

At the meeting, committees will discuss their work plans to ensure successful passage of the referendum to renovate the 1920s-era clubhouse. Residents will vote on the referendum April 1.

Those who cannot attend Saturday's meeting, but want to participate on a committee, can write to "Friends of Chevy Chase," P.O. Box 682, Wheeling 60090.

PIONEER PRESS
THURS, FEB. 20, 1997
Save
FEB. 20, 1997
the club

Wheeling/ How often do we have a chance to vote and have it mean something?

Wheeling Park District is submitting a referendum April 1 to renovate Chevy Chase. The decision to renovate or demolish the existing building is up to the Wheeling Park District voters. While it will increase our park district tax, we will be able to see our tax dollars at work in the restoration and preservation of a beautiful, unique, old building with a lot of class, history, nostalgia and ambience.

This building is a big asset for Wheeling, bringing a lot of people together. It is good for business: People coming to dance frequent the restaurants, gas stations and other businesses. This building has the only wood ballroom dance floor in the far northern Illinois area. It would be a shame to demolish it and put up something brick and glass. The woodwork alone can never be duplicated. It is a warm, intimate, cozy atmosphere, even though the main ballroom can accommodate a large amount of people.

Although it needs major renovations for plumbing, wiring, heating, air conditioning and handicap accessibility, if we can save the building, it would be a definite asset to Wheeling and the surrounding area. If you have never been there, walk through the building. The small rooms accommodate fewer people for meetings, showers and small parties. All the rooms

are intimate and warm.

This beautiful building has great potential for more use in the future. It can be a money maker for the community as a whole. Please join us in the effort to save this building by casting your yes vote on April 1.

Help us preserve and renovate this beautiful building, to preserve its heritage for our children and grandchildren.

We need volunteers to help save Chevy Chase by contacting neighbors, friends and business associates in Wheeling and asking them to vote yes on this referendum. If you can help pass out flyers and make phone calls, please call me at (847) 537-2593. Funds are being collected in any amount to help defray costs of getting the word out. Thanks for your support! Any donations to help "Friends of Chevy Chase" can be sent to: Friends of Chevy Chase, P.O. Box 682, Wheeling, IL 60090.
Laurel H. Anderson, Friends of Chevy Chase chairperson

State mandates squeeze county

Chicago/ As you and your readers may know, Cook County performs a variety of services to the public, largely in the public safety and health care areas. But like many other counties throughout the state and nation, Cook County's responsibilities are growing while its funding remains static. Now more than ever, this is caused by an increasing number of mandates imposed by state government that forces the

LETTERS

county to expend its resources without financial support.

Moreover, local administrators are not at the table when these new laws and responsibilities are developed, which means these changes are made without input regarding their impact at the local level.

As mandated by the state, Cook County government is required to operate the county's criminal justice system. Cook County runs the largest jail complex and the largest unified court system in the country. We provide sheriff's personnel to protect our unincorporated areas and courthouses countywide, prosecutors to try defendants and public defenders to represent indigent suspects. We've added 183 prosecutors since 1987 and doubled the state's attorney's budget.

Cook County spends at least \$800 million a year on state-mandated costs, two-thirds of which are for criminal justice. By contrast, the state provides only about \$300 million to cover those costs.

That leaves county taxpayers responsible for the remaining half-billion dollars in state mandates. And the state regularly tacks on millions more in unfunded mandates.

Here are a few examples:

■ Requiring the county to come up with \$13 million more for residential placement of troubled youth;

■ Mandating juveniles be tried as adults for certain crimes but providing no pretrial funds to hold them in our juvenile center, often for over a year instead of the usual couple of months; and

■ A potentially costly new mandate to pay more for appeals court cases and another mandate to provide free lawyers for deadbeat parents in child support cases.

In addition, increased penalties for some felony convictions have prompted suspects to seek trial rather than plead guilty, leading to longer stretches in County Jail for those awaiting trial.

But these are only a few examples that deal with public safety. Another costly mandate imposed only on Cook County is the unnecessary Property Tax Appeals Board, which duplicates existing tax reviews, (and) will cost \$3 million to run in 1997 and may delay \$7 billion in revenues to 800 local taxing districts.

As the state continues to shift greater burdens on the county regarding public safety and other services, it's reasonable to ask that Illinois lawmakers share state tax dollars with Cook County. Working together, with all parties at the table, will help ensure that the concerns of all taxpayers are addressed.

**John H. Stroger Jr.
President,
Cook County Board
of Commissioners**

Public safety needs protection

Chicago/ Last November, Illinois voters sent a strong message. They wanted public officials concerned about the health and safety of children and families. They wanted leaders who would stand up and fight for

reasonable gun violence prevention measures.

This year, the General Assembly should remember this message and oppose any misguided efforts to allow the carrying of concealed handguns. After all, nearly eight in 10 registered voters disagreed with Senate candidate Al Salvi's support of concealed handguns.

Our leaders should instead focus on the growing problem of children and gun violence. In 1994 alone, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, 402 Illinois children died from gun violence. This amounts to a classroom of kids every three weeks. It also means that at the end of today we will have lost at least another child.

Our leaders have the responsibility and public support to do everything within their power to protect children from gun violence. They can enact sensible policy which guards children from unsecured guns and their easy availability. They can also authorize the tracing of guns used in crime against children and hold people financially accountable who supply guns to kids.

Too many of our children are dying; and we, as a community of leaders and citizens, need to accept collective responsibility for their death and injury. We also need to decide that protecting children from gun violence is as important as protecting them from hair-eating Cabbage Patch dolls and excessively powerful air bags.

**Dan Kotowski
Executive Director
Illinois Council Against**

C4

LOCAL REPORT

Wheeling Park District revives Chevy Chase by scheduling concert

By BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling will host a concert by singer B.J. Thomas next month, the first major entertainment event there in 35 years.

The news is welcome to supporters of the April 1 referendum, which would raise money to renovate the historic building. Supporters hope that the concert will help voters see the building's many possibilities.

"Utilize it the way it used to be utilized when people used it more," said resident Juanita Sachs, one of the Wheeling residents who supports plans to save the 78-year-old building.

Thomas, who recorded "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head" and other pop, country and gospel hits, will do two shows in the clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. Performances will be at 7 and 10 p.m. March 29. Tickets will cost \$22 and \$25.

Wheeling Park District board Vice President Bill Mattes said holding the concert in the 600-seat ballroom is a way to put the building to use when it would otherwise be closed.

Mattes said a similar show hasn't been held at Chevy Chase during the past 35 years.

He added other concerts may be held in the future if the Thomas show is successful.

"We've got to start somewhere," Mattes said. He said getting support for the referendum isn't the concert's intent — but hopes people might be spurred to support the referendum if the show is successful.

Voters will be asked to raise taxes to pay for \$2.76 million in repairs. Park officials say the building is structurally sound but heating and electrical improvements are needed.

Residents will be asked to raise the district's tax rate — currently 58 cents per every \$100 of assessed property valuation — by another 7½ cents. The owner of a home with a market value of \$125,000 would pay about \$29 more than the approximately \$220 they paid last year.

Such events as the Thomas concert used to be the usual fare at the elegant Chevy Chase, says Sachs. People commonly attended dances and heard big band music there. And Sachs says people would realize the value of keeping the building around if it were used like it was in the past.

"(It would be popular again) if they went back to things like they did a number of years ago ... it was loaded," Sachs said.



Richard Bajjalieh/Pioneer Press

Wheeling Village Health Officer Michael Boyle unpacks in his new office. Boyle was one of 14 employees from the village's Community Development Department to move from Village Hall to the former Wickes Furniture store.

Furniture store at 351 W. Dundee Road. The move is an effort to free up some space in Village Hall.

Phone numbers for the Community Development Department have remained the same, and calls were being routed as of Friday afternoon to the new offices.

"When the phones shifted over in the afternoon, we got out of the other offices," said Mike Klitzke, community development director.

About four customers easily found their way to the new offices that afternoon, he said. Signs are posted in Village Hall notifying residents and developers of the move.

Also, road signs have been posted at the intersection of Northgate Parkway and Dundee Road to direct customers to Wickes. Another sign on Northgate directs drivers to the office's entrance in the rear of the furniture store, Klitzke said.

The Community Development Department handles questions about planning and zoning and issues permits for new construction,

Klitzke said. "The only reason they'd have to go to Village Hall is if they have to deal with another department or pay a water bill or something."

The vacated Community Development Department won't be empty for long. The department left behind its desks and furniture for representatives of the Wheeling Police Department, who will move in once some renovations are made.

Police Chief Michael Haeger was expected to go before trustees at Monday's Village Board meeting to seek approval for hiring an architectural firm to draw renovation plans for the former Community Development Department.

The cost of architectural services is not to exceed \$7,650, which the Police Department has available, Haeger said in a memo to trustees.

The Police Department expects to move its records department and administrative offices into the new space once renovations are completed.

Confronting Chevy Chase's future

What if vote fails?

By **CHERI BENTRUP**
STAFF WRITER

All six candidates for the Wheeling Park Board are optimistic that the referendum to renovate Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be approved by voters April 1.

If it fails, however, each candidate realizes that the next step may be the most difficult of all.

Incumbents Mark Parkinson, Fran Melamed and Tom Webber agree that if the referendum is not successful, the life span of the Tudor-style clubhouse is limited.

"It has to come down if it's not approved," said Parkinson. "We all

know there is sentimental attachment to Chevy. But we also need to look at it from a business sense."

The Park Board had been debating the fate of the 1920s-era clubhouse for nearly two years before residents turned out for a December 1996 public hearing, asking that a referendum be placed on the April ballot.

"It was wonderful to see that kind of outpouring," Melamed said. "At least the decision isn't all ours now. I support the referendum and will work to try to get it passed."

Park commissioners in December 1994 received an architectural report stating that it would cost an estimated \$2.76 million to renovate Chevy Chase and bring it into compliance with the American With Disabilities Act, as well as with other code requirements.

Other options discussed included razing the clubhouse and building a small banquet hall or a facility to

serve the needs of golfers at the Chevy Chase course.

The failure of the referendum would allow the Park Board to concentrate on serving the golfers, who provide a growing amount of revenue each year.

"It all depends on the answer coming from the voters," Melamed said. "I would have to look at an alternative plan, primarily to serve the golf course."

"If it fails, and if it fails big, there will be no Chevy Chase (clubhouse)."

Melamed said she also would consider going for a second referendum if the community demanded it.

Webber agreed that he was pleased with the public's turnout at the December public meeting when commissioners decided to seek a referendum.

"I'm very proud of the direction the board's taken," he said. "We had that third hearing because we felt we

didn't have the pulse of the community to make a decision. The response was proactive in that Chevy Chase means something to the community."

Audience members were told that only about 12 percent of Wheeling residents use the building, although they would be the ones footing the bill for the necessary renovations.

"However, they still supported the referendum because of their emotional tie to the facility," Webber said. "If it gets slammed hard, I'm of the opinion it would be futile to go back a second time."

Instead, Webber said, the Park Board would tear down the main clubhouse and build a smaller clubhouse for the golf course and a banquet facility primarily to accommodate corporate golf outings. He envisions that building would be about a third of the size of the current building.

(Continued on page 13)

Clavy

Continued from page 5

The three newcomers said they have not heard from the Park Board what would happen to Chevy Chase if the referendum is unsuccessful. But if elected, all would be willing to give the referendum a second try if it fails the first time around.

Mike Kurgan said he doesn't feel the Park District has released enough information about the necessary renovations and costs involved for residents to make an informed decision.

"I think Chevy Chase is very important, but our decisions need to be based on more facts," Kurgan said.

If the referendum fails, Kurgan said, he would be in favor of going to voters a second time and getting more information on the costs involved in the renovation.

"If I win, my vote is to get more information on both ends," he said.

Paul Philipp said he would prefer to see the park district continue to maintain the clubhouse if the referendum fails.

"If it fails, there is only one solution," Philipp said. "We need to operate it Band-Aid style. But, if the wrecking ball becomes necessary down the line, there is nothing we can do about it."

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Volunteers push for Chevy Chase vote

By **CHERI BENTRUP**
STAFF WRITER

Local volunteers have less than four weeks to convince residents to vote in favor of saving and renovating Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

Friends of Chevy Chase, a volunteer organization raising awareness and support for the referendum, is gearing up its campaign to save the 1920s-era clubhouse. The clubhouse, owned by the Wheeling Park District, is in need of an estimated \$2.8 million in repairs.

Laurel Anderson, chairman of the Friends group, said volunteers held a campaign kick-off meeting March 1 at the clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. Fliers and window signs were distributed at that meeting and more committee assignments were made, she said.

"Phone campaigns will start the first two weeks of March, and we're still looking for more volunteers for that," Anderson said.

The major obstacle the committee faces is to inform residents that the tax increase will be used to renovate the aging clubhouse, although election law prohibits the

words "Chevy Chase" from appearing on the April 1 ballot.

Voters are being asked in a referendum whether to increase their property taxes by 7.5 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation to the Wheeling Park District's corporate fund, generating \$1.2 million for renovations.

The current tax rate is 58 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation. A homeowner with a \$3,000 tax bill would pay an additional \$25.26 if the referendum is approved.

"It's really hard to convince someone to raise their taxes, but in the long run I think it'll benefit the community," Anderson said. "I understand a lot of people in the community don't use the clubhouse, but it is good for the town. It brings people here.

"People identify Chevy Chase with Wheeling. It's good for the community not only for what it's been in the past, but for what it can be in the future. If it wasn't here, it would be a loss to the community."

In addition to the phone campaign, Anderson plans to have volunteers walking door to door this month, handing out fliers and talking to residents about the upcoming referendum.

The committee also is having buttons produced encouraging support of Chevy Chase. Committee members plan to ask employees in the service industries, such as beauticians, waiters and waitresses, to wear the buttons when they work, she said.

"It's amazing the number of people I've talked to who don't know it's in jeopardy. They (park commissioners) have been talking about this for two years," Anderson added.

"It's up to the community to come out and vote," Anderson added.

Residents who want to volunteer to work on the referendum campaign, or are willing to post a window sign, can call the Wheeling Park District at (847) 465-3333.

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WALLPAPER



■ Chevy

Continued from page 5

The three newcomers said they have not heard from the Park Board what would happen if Chevy Chase is not

Northwest this week

A DIGEST OF COMING EVENTS, COMPILED BY JERRY CRIMMINS

WHEELING



Tribune file photo

The Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse was a casino in the '30s before becoming a theater where stars performed.

Dance to fund voter campaign to save Chevy Chase clubhouse

A dance will be held to raise money for a campaign to save the historic clubhouse of the Chevy Chase Country Club.

On April 1, Wheeling voters will be asked whether they want to finance a proposed \$3 million renovation of the clubhouse, owned by the Wheeling Park District. If the referendum proposal fails, the building, which was a gambling casino in the 1930s before becoming a theater where big-name stars performed, and which still is a famous ballroom and banquet hall, will probably be torn down.

The dance, sponsored by Friends of Chevy Chase, is intended to raise money for the campaign to get the referendum question approved.

9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday, Chevy Chase Country Club Grand Ballroom, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. Donation \$5.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-53

CHEVY CHASE CLUBHOUSE RENOVATION

WHEREAS, the Chevy Chase Clubhouse is a building closely linked to the Wheeling community; and

WHEREAS, the Chevy Chase Clubhouse was acquired in 1978 after voter authorization by a margin of 4 to 1; and

WHEREAS, that initial referendum was solely directed at preservation and protection of the Chevy Chase property from development which could have had an adverse impact on storm water management and traffic movement; and

WHEREAS, the advanced age of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse now requires substantial renovation, including general repair, energy conservation improvements, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance measures, and aesthetic enhancements; and

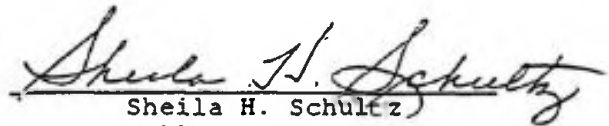
WHEREAS, in response to citizens' requests to preserve and protect the Chevy Chase Clubhouse, the Wheeling Park District has placed a related referendum question on the April 1, 1997 Consolidated Election Ballot.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WHEELING, COUNTIES OF COOK AND LAKE, STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Chevy Chase Clubhouse be preserved and protected, and that the referendum be supported.


Trustee HEER moved, seconded by Trustee HARTMAN, that Resolution No. 97-53 be adopted.

Trustee Abruscato <u>AYE</u>	Trustee Horcher <u>AYE</u>
Trustee Hartman <u>AYE</u>	Trustee Selander <u>AYE</u>
Trustee Heer <u>AYE</u>	Trustee Wisinski <u>AYE</u>

ADOPTED this 17th day of MARCH, 1997, by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Wheeling, Illinois.


Sheila H. Schultz
Village President

ATTEST:


Janet M. D'Argo
Village Clerk



TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1997

Northwest overnight

A DIGEST OF LATE NEWS REPORTS, COMPILED BY JERRY CRIMMINS

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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Residents turn out to oppose proposed Palatine Road widening

The state's plan to widen Palatine Road to six lanes from four means singling out Arlington Heights to carry, on a "wide, ugly expanse of concrete," a burden of east-west traffic that other communities refuse to carry, village trustee Norman Breyer said Monday night.

The Village Board discussed road widening at Monday night's meeting attended by about 50 residents.

Homeowners along the route and other residents have registered strong opposition and have proposed an alternate plan that would create a four-lane, boulevard-parkway in the same stretch.

Village Trustee Dwight Walton said Monday night the IDOT plan would move traffic two to three minutes faster along that stretch of Palatine Road, but he also said a six-lane highway would defeat any village plans to beautify the community.

"I have a great concern for the children of my neighborhood," said Mary Ellen Howell, who lives in the Arlington Terrace subdivision on Palatine Road.

She said she is worried about children getting safely to the three schools at Schoenbeck and Palatine Roads in the area to be widened.

Ann Titus

CRYSTAL LAKE

School board seeks information, help on sex abuse cases

The president of the Crystal Lake District 47 Board of Education, Diane Johnson, urged 85 parents, teachers and students Monday night to bring any information they have about incidents of alleged sexual abuse to the district.

It was the first school board meeting since two teachers from North Middle School were arrested on charges of child sexual abuse last month.

"The allegations have caused us all to check our judgment regarding people our children come in contact with," Johnson said.

"We parents are asking questions," she said. "Some questions have explainable answers; some are not as easy to explain. Abuse can only happen if the secret is kept. Please, if you hear things, bring the information to us. We promise as a district we will act on them."

Nancy Scalero said parents "are calling for zero tolerance against predators, who prey on the minds, souls and bodies of children."

Maryan Koehler

WHEELING

Trustees endorse tax-hike proposal for Chevy Chase

The Wheeling Village Board Monday night unanimously endorsed the Wheeling Park District's ballot proposal to spend \$2.7 million to renovate the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse.

Laurel Anderson, chairperson of the Friends of Chevy Chase, thanked the board and said, "I really think that this is an issue that our community can get behind and preserve this wonderful building."

Village President Sheila Schultz cited the recent study of Wheeling residents, "2000 and Beyond," when she said that preservation of the clubhouse was in keeping with residents' desires.

According to the Friends of Chevy Chase, a homeowner with a current annual property tax bill of \$2,000 would see an increase of \$16.84 if the referendum question is approved.

The clubhouse was used as a gambling casino and nightclub, and a theater, and is now a ballroom and banquet hall. The Park District acquired it in 1977.

Tony Perri

**WHEELING
AROUND
TOWN**

**MARCY
STILLMAN**



Friends of Chevy giving their all

Hello! I got that spring-like feeling as I've been "Wheeling Around Town." Here's what's happening.

The Friends of Chevy Chase is an organization of citizens that is concerned about the future of the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse.

Laurel Anderson of Wheeling is the chairwoman for this dedicated group. These people are supporting a referendum on April 1 to renovate this historical building.

On March 1, the campaign began by having callers, walkers and promoters canvass the community, informing park district residents of the referendum and asking for support.

The Wheeling Park District runs and operates the Chevy Chase Country Club. There is an estimated \$3 million worth of upgrades, ADA codes and overall rehab needed. Through various public hearings, the Board of Commissioners, with overwhelming public support, submitted the referendum to be placed on the ballot. On April 1, residents will be asked for a small increase in their current park district corporate tax to fund the renovation project. To keep this historical 1920s-era building as a part of Wheeling's history, Wheeling Park District residents must vote "yes."

To help defray printing and postage costs, you may make a donation to: Friends of Chevy Chase, P.O. Box 682, Wheeling, IL 60090. Volunteers are also needed to distribute flyers and to make phone calls.

For more information, you may call Laurel Anderson at (847) 537-2593.

Here are some facts that I learned about Chevy Chase that I would like to share with you: Did you know that . . . The construction of the Tudor-style building began in the 1920s; there have been several owners; the original building plans cannot be found; especially during Prohibition, all kinds of people, including the North Shore society types, drove long distances to enjoy this facility; that gambling

casinos, supper clubs, theater in the round and dancing to live bands were the forms of entertainment; and that the visitors to the site included Al Capone, Mae West, Imogene Coca, Vincent Price, Robert Q. Lewis, Buddy Ebsen and Joan Caulfield?

At the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, a display case filled with some interesting pieces that were found during cleaning may be viewed. You will have the opportunity to see china, crystal, summer theater posters, a change-maker used in the casino, a seltzer bottle and old tickets. A taste of Wheeling history for all to experience!

Chevy Chase fate a matter of sentiment

By BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The question whether taxpayers should each pay nearly \$30 more to keep the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse probably won't be a financial decision.

It will be one made from the heart.

"It is an emotional issue," said Thomas R. Webber, a member of the Wheeling Park District board. "Do you like knowing it is there? That is the issue. The majority of residents don't use it."

The heritage and memories have seemingly been the salient issue in Tuesday's referendum on whether taxes should be increased so the park district can make about \$2.76 million in renovations to the English Tudor building at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

A deteriorating ballroom, antiquated wiring and windows and other areas that need improving are spurring the district in a referendum to ask voters' permission to increase its tax rate.

The rate — now 58 cents per every \$100 of assessed property valuation — would increase by another 7.5 cents. This means the owner of a \$125,000 home would pay about \$29 more than the approximately \$220 they paid to the district last year.

Illustrating the idea that the vote is an emotional decision — not a business one — is the fact that only about 15 percent of the 50,000 people who use the building are Wheeling residents.

But to residents, "it's important to know it is here," said district Director Karop T. Bavougian. "It's been a focal point."

However, Bavougian said, the renovation may provide the district with a financial benefit because people are more likely to want to rent a hall that doesn't have buckets catching water from a leaky roof, smells musty or displays Chevy's other signs of deterioration.

"When you have a nicer facility to rent out, it is easier to rent," said Francine Melamed, a park board member, who, like Webber, is run-

DAILY HERALD

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1997

CLUB: Candidates wait to hear residents

Continued from Page 1

ning for re-election.

The clubhouse, which rang up \$1.25 million in sales and a \$125,000 profit last year, uses the money it earns to support itself, Bavougian said. But it is possible that revenue could be used to help fund other district programs if the clubhouse did well enough, he added.

The district, if the referendum passes, intends this summer to begin working on plans and start construction as soon as the end of the 1998 golf season.

Based on the \$3.9 million the district expects to collect this year, the increase would add an estimated \$528,000, Bavougian said.

This additional money would enable the district to make the necessary improvements, Bavougian said. Though surplus money could possibly be used for other district improvements, he said officials are not looking to bolster coffers with the tax increase.

The district has told the community that if the referendum

fails it plans to demolish the clubhouse and build a smaller one to primarily accommodate golfers.

But Kenneth R. Kent is one of the six candidates running for four, 4-year seats who would want to conduct another referendum if Tuesday's fails by a narrow margin.

Although they would also want to conduct another referendum if Tuesday's lost narrowly, Melamed and Webber are among the candidates who would follow the district's original plan to raze the clubhouse.

"It would tell me people would not want to renovate it," Melamed said.

But if the question loses by a large margin, candidate R. Michael Kurgan said he would want to look closely at why it did before making a decision to raze the clubhouse.

Candidate Paul G. Philipp would also not want to automatically demolish the clubhouse if the referendum fails. He would want to review the possibility of soliciting corporate sponsors to help pay for improvements.

CHEVY CHASE CLUBHOUSE REFERENDUM

APRIL 1, 1997

"IT'S YOUR ~~VOTE~~ CHOICE"
YES/NO

Due to the overwhelming outcry to **save and renovate** the Chevy Chase Clubhouse, during the Public Hearing of December 3, 1996, the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners have authorized placing on the April 1, 1997 ballot a referenda question for a tax rate increase of .075% which would be used to **save and renovate the Chevy Chase Clubhouse!**

OPTIONS:

The Park District Board considered four options of which three would require a tax rate increase. Of the four options requiring a tax rate increase the overwhelming choice of those attending the Public Hearing and replying to the Chevy Chase Questionnaire was to **save and renovate the Chevy Chase Clubhouse.**

If the Tax Rate Referenda Passes: Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be maintained and renovated.

If the Tax Rate Referenda Fails: Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be torn down and a much smaller golf clubhouse will be built without banquet facilities or the need for a tax rate increase.

<i>Donations</i> P.O. Box 682 Wheeling, IL 60090	<i>\$5,000 - admin. expenses</i>
<i>Photo area - PHOTO to come!</i>	
<i>Sandy Wademan 465-7760</i>	

Monday 6:30 Rec. dr. - confirm.

HOW WILL THE REFERENDUM QUESTION APPEAR ON THE BALLOT?

The ballot question wording is dictated by the State of Illinois Park District Code, which does **not allow** the words "Chevy Chase Clubhouse" to be placed on the ballot. The ballot to approve the **saving and renovating of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse** will read as follows:

Shall the Wheeling Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois be authorized to levy and collect an additional tax of .075% for all corporate purposes as provided in Section 5-3 of "The Park District Code"?	YES	
	NO	

- (a) The approximate amount of taxes extended for corporate purposes under the maximum rate now in force in said Park District is the sum of \$705,250.
- (b) The approximate amount of taxes extendible for corporate purposes under the proposed rate is the sum of \$1,234,187.

"FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE"

COST:

The Park District Board originally considered asking for a .10% tax rate increase in the Corporate Fund to accomplish renovation of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse. The Park District Board has prudently reviewed the costs of renovation and has reduced its original consideration by 25%. The tax rate increase request will be for .075%.

What Will A .075% Tax Rate Increase In The Corporate Fund Mean To Your Tax Bill?

Current Annual Tax Bill	Approximate Additional Cost Increase		
	Per Year	Per Month	Per Day
\$1,500	\$12.63	\$1.05	4 cents
\$2,000	\$16.84	\$1.40	5 cents
\$2,500	\$21.05	\$1.75	6 cents
\$3,000	\$25.26	\$2.11	7 cents
\$3,500	\$29.46	\$2.46	8 cents
\$4,000	\$33.68	\$2.81	9 cents
\$4,500	\$37.88	\$3.16	10 cents

FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE

FUNDING OF CHEVY CHASE RENOVATION

LOAN AMT. \$3,000,000

LENGTH 10 YEARS

INTEREST 7.5%

ANNUAL PYMT \$437,058

FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE

Referendum Passage Committees
April 1997

ADMINISTRATION FUND RAISING

Dave Phillips, Steve Pollman

Goals:

- * Ensure passage
- * Recruit a minimum of 150 volunteers
- * Raise \$5,000

Tasks:

1. Oversee and review work of all sub-committees.
2. Meet with all sub-committee leaders every two weeks.
3. Set meeting schedule for entire campaign period by February 8.
4. Set and distribute agenda for each meeting.
5. Solicit endorsements from P.T.O.s, Village, School Districts, political candidates, etc.
6. Train other committees as needed.
7. File all necessary reports with State of Illinois.
8. Coordinate financial needs of committees.
9. Keep financial accounting of money.
10. Make contact with potential donors.
11. Supervise \$2-per-name supporting newspaper advertisement, and enlist aid of other committees.
12. Meet at least once a week.

FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE

Referendum Passage Committees
April 1997

PHONE CALLING

Alan Benedetto

Goals:

- * Identify a minimum of 3,500 "Yes" votes

Tasks:

1. Breakdown calling by precincts.
2. List "Yes" vote name, phone and intended time of voting (morning or evening).
3. Organize and staff (with volunteers) command central telephone banks.

FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE

Referendum Passage Committees
April 1997

P. R. AND PROMOTION

Goals:

- * Support all sub-committees with materials
- * Develop new slogan
- * Design and print all literature and materials

Tasks:

1. Buttons or similar specialty promotions
2. Contact newspapers for editorial support; write and mail news releases.
3. Develop and distribute targeted flyers (information).
4. Mount "Letters to the Editor" writing campaign.
5. Send meeting notices to members of Friends of Chevy Chase
6. Draft schedule for distribution of all promotional materials.
7. One committee member to attend each of the other committee meetings (identify one liaison per committee).
8. Set up displays in Park District buildings and elsewhere.
9. Meet at least once a week.

FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE

Referendum Passage Committees
April 1997

PRECINCT ORGANIZATION

Lee Hansen

Goals:

- * Register 100 or more new "Yes" votes
- * Monitor election day turnout
- * Direct election day activity of Friends of Chevy Chase

Tasks:

1. Gather all information regarding rules and methods for voting.
2. Set up voter registration drive.
3. Arrange for absentee ballots for "Yes" college and out-of-town registered residents.
4. Identify most important precincts (most voter turnout).
5. Recruit and assign poll watchers; obtain credentials for all poll watchers.
6. Poll watchers to check each precinct twice per day: 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
7. Relay poll information to Command Center for follow-up calls.
8. Assign one poll watcher at end of day (6:45 p.m.) to get results and to bring results back to Command Center.
9. Provide transportation to polls for those "Yes" votes who need transportation.
10. Work hand-in-hand with Phone Calling Committee.
11. Meet at least once a week.

FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE

Referendum Passage Committees April 1997

SPEAKERS/FORUMS/WALKERS

Goals:

- * Hold at least twelve forums throughout the Park District
- * Contact 10,000 households (including apt, PUD, single)
- * Identify "Yes" votes and record for Precinct Committee

Tasks:

1. Distribute flyers and other informational material
2. Train speakers and walkers to answer questions and provide accurate information.
3. Place posters in all Wheeling businesses and gathering places.
4. Distribute lawn signs in precincts.
5. Recruit speakers for forums and make assignments.
6. Identify and recruit army of walkers.
7. Hold entire committee gathering at least once to share information and solve shared problems.
8. Book forum meetings.
9. Meet at least once a week.



Friends of Chevy Chase

P. O. Box 682

Wheeling, Illinois 60090



February 26, 1997

Dear Friend of Chevy Chase,

The Wheeling Park District, owner of the Chevy Chase Country Club, is holding a referendum on the April 1, 1997 consolidated general election to obtain voter authorization to fund the renovation of the Chevy Chase clubhouse. We have formed "Friends of Chevy Chase" to advocate in favor of the referendum. The park district can spend no money to advocate a position: legally, it can only inform and educate residents about the issue.

The Friends of Chevy Chase is accepting contributions to finance the referendum campaign soliciting voter support. We estimate that \$5,000 will be necessary, primarily for postage, brochure printing and signage.

We hope that you, as a friend of Chevy Chase, will support the referendum with a donation. Please send your contribution to:

Friends of Chevy Chase
P. O. Box 682
Wheeling, Illinois 60090

Thank you for your donation.

Sincerely,

Laurel Anderson
Chairperson, Friends of Chevy Chase



*Vote YES on
April 1 to save
Chevy Chase!*





Friends of Chevy Chase

*P. O. Box 682
Wheeling, Illinois 60090*

Telephone Script

RESPONSE	SCRIPT
	Hello, this is (name). I'm with the Friends of Chevy Chase. I'm calling to ask if you plan to vote "yes" for the tax referendum to renovate the Chevy Chase Country Club. (RECORD RESPONSE.)
IF YES	<p>Can we count on others in your household to vote "yes" also? (RECORD RESPONSE on the precinct sheet.)</p> <p>Will you be voting in the morning or in the afternoon? (RECORD RESPONSE, including names of other voters.)</p> <p>Be aware that the ballot will not use the words "Chevy Chase"; the tax referendum on the ballot is for Chevy Chase even though the name is not mentioned.</p>
IF NO	Thank you for your time.
IF UNDECIDED	Would you like me to send you some information in the mail? (MARK NAME AND PRECINCT for mail follow-up on a separate sheet of paper and give it to Gail or Tom.)

RESPONSE	SCRIPT
FOR QUESTIONS YOU CAN'T ANSWER	If you can't answer voter's questions, offer the park district number: 465-3333.
IF UNFAMILIAR WITH ISSUE	<p>The issue is whether to renovate or tear down Chevy Chase. It's a historical building dating back to the '20s.</p> <p>If the referendum passes to save Chevy Chase, the park district portion of your tax bill will go up <i>a very small amount</i>. If you can tell me what your tax bill is, I can give you an idea of what it would cost you per year. If not, for example, a tax bill of \$3000 would mean an increase of \$25.26 per year.</p> <p>If this referendum doesn't pass, THE BUILDING WILL BE TORN DOWN!</p> <p>Do you have any questions?</p>
IF APPROPRIATE	Thank you for your time and support. Please spread the word and encourage your friends and neighbors to vote as well. Every vote is important and can make the difference between keeping and losing this building.

Questions and Answers

Q: Why should I care about Chevy Chase? Does Wheeling really need a ballroom and banquet hall? Why should I pay for a facility I don't use? Why not just "cut back" on the building so it costs less?

A: Chevy Chase makes Wheeling unique. It's part of our identity. Chevy Chase gives Wheeling a positive image, bringing people to our village. People come to enjoy its history and charm. It's a real landmark. The location is great, too: it's at a major intersection, easy to find (Milwaukee and Lake Cook).

The clubhouse is a great place for banquets, meetings and dancing. As a matter of fact, it's been voted as having "the best dance floor in the northwest suburbs." Chevy Chase provides old-time elegance in a high-tech world. It gives us an edge over what neighboring suburbs have to offer.

Q: Can't Chevy Chase be renovated without a tax increase? Why not just increase usage fees to raise money for renovation?

A: NO! A tax rate increase is the only feasible way to fund the capital expenses we need to renovate Chevy Chase. Chevy Chase generates enough revenue to pay for ongoing operating costs, but not enough for the major capital improvements needed.

User fees for banquets (including food) are based on the competitive market. To raise user fees to cover the cost of the major capital improvements would price Chevy Chase out of the market. This would discourage people from using the facility.

Q: What will it cost me? Will my taxes go up?

A: There will be a slight increase in the **park district portion** of your taxes. If you tell me what your tax bill is, I'll give you an idea of what your increase would be.

Current annual tax bill is:	Approximate additional park district tax increase:			Equivalent to: (PER YEAR)
	Yearly	Monthly	Daily	
\$1,500	\$12.63	\$1.05	\$.04	1 large pizza
\$2,000	\$16.84	\$1.40	\$.05	1 lg. pizza w/ 2 soft drinks
\$2,500	\$21.05	\$1.75	\$.06	2 movie tickets, sm. popcorn, soft drink
\$3,000	\$25.26	\$2.11	\$.07	2 movie tickets, lg. popcorn, 2 soft drinks
\$3,500	\$29.46	\$2.46	\$.08	10 video rentals
\$4,000	\$33.68	\$2.81	\$.09	4 movie tickets, 1 lg. popcorn, 4 soft drinks
\$4,500	\$37.88	\$3.16	\$.10	dinner for 2 at nice restaurant

Q: What happens if the tax referendum fails?

A: Chevy Chase will be torn down and Wheeling will lose one of its last historic buildings.

Q: How do I know my money will be spent on renovating Chevy Chase?

A: We, as Wheeling Park District residents, elect and direct the park district board. We are committed to this renovation and sent that message to the board at the December 3 meeting. About 300 people showed up to let the board know how important Chevy Chase is to us and to Wheeling.

Q: What's wrong with the building? Why can't it be left as it is?

A: The building needs to be brought up to code: this means replacing wiring, windows, heating and air conditioning systems, the floor and other areas. It also needs to meet the requirements of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Q: Who uses Chevy Chase besides golfers?

A: Chevy Chase provides facilities for banquets, meetings, dances, weddings. The Wheeling High School madrigal group meets here for its dinners; Rotary, the Jaycees, the Lions club, community service groups, businesses, company holiday functions, auctions and craft shows — Chevy Chase serves all these groups.

Q: Who can vote?

A: All registered voters within the Wheeling Park District can vote, even if they're not Wheeling residents. Check your voter's registration card or tax bill. Park district boundaries and Wheeling boundaries are not the same.

Q: What happens after the 10-year debt?

A: The park district intends to use any funds generated after the renovation debt expires for future capital improvements throughout the park district. This would include park renovation, playground development and/or renovation, upgrading park facilities and/or land acquisition. The park district will not use these funds for operational costs or salaries.

Future park district boards will decide whether to discontinue the tax or use these funds for capital improvements throughout the park district.

Q: Is the referendum binding?

A: Yes!

Can we count on your support? Would you like to help spread the word about the referendum?

The park district will send a spring brochure which will have the exact wording of the referendum.

Thank you for your time and support.



Friends of Chevy Chase

P. O. Box 682

Wheeling, Illinois 60090

Questions and Answers

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A: Yes!



Friends of Chevy Chase

P. O. Box 682

Wheeling, Illinois 60090

PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE

Laurel Anderson - 847-537-2593

The *Friends of Chevy Chase* is an organization of concerned citizens to support a referendum on April 1 to renovate the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse. This group is chaired by Laurel Anderson of Wheeling, who is dedicated to getting the message to the voters. On Saturday, March 1, the kickoff campaign to get the word out began. Callers, walkers and promoters will be canvassing the community. They will inform park district residents of the referendum and ask for their support.

The Chevy Chase Country Club is owned and operated by the Wheeling Park District. Currently, there is an estimated 3 million dollars' worth of upgrades, ADA codes and overall rehab needed. Through various public hearings, the Board of Commissioners, with overwhelming public support, submitted the referendum for placement on the ballot. On April 1, residents will be asked for a small increase in their current park district corporate tax to fund the renovation project. To keep this historical 1920 building as a part of Wheeling's history, Wheeling Park District residents must vote "Yes."

Page 2

Friends of Chevy Chase

Laurel Anderson 847/537-2593

Help save this beautiful Wheeling landmark. Send your donation to defray printing and postage costs to: *Friends of Chevy Chase*, P.O. Box 682, Wheeling, IL 60090, or call Laurel Anderson at 847-537-2593 for more information.

-- END --



Friends of Chevy Chase
 P. O. Box 682
 Wheeling, Illinois 60090



Four Ways You Can Help Save the Chevy Chase Country Club!
 1000 North Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, Illinois

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES, FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW AND SEND THIS FORM TO: **FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE, P. O. BOX 682, WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090.** IF YOU SEND A DONATION, BE SURE TO KEEP THE BOTTOM PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS.

- I am a Wheeling Park District resident and plan to VOTE YES in the April 1 referendum. I'll encourage my friends and neighbors to vote as well.
- I would like to distribute flyers, make phone calls or help in another way.
- I would like to give you the names of friends who would like to help.
- I would like to help defray costs for postage, brochure printing and signage.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

Telephone Number () _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE."

I support the effort to save the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling, Illinois. My contribution of \$ _____ will help defray costs incurred by the Friends of Chevy Chase in this effort.

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Date _____

Thank you for your support.

Poly Vu
 AVERY™



Friends of Chevy Chase

P. O. Box 682

Wheeling, Illinois 60090



Las siguientes son las cuatro maneras para poder salvar el edificio "Chevy Chase."

1000 North Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, Illinois

Chevy Chase es un sitio donde se puede celebrar todo tipo de funciones como bodas y cumpleaños.

También se ofrecen bailes con orquesta y bailes para las familias y sus niños.

FAVOR DE PONER CONTRASEÑA EN LA CAJA INDICADA. DESPUÉS ESCRIBA LA INFORMACIÓN DE ABAJO EN LOS ESPACIOS Y MANDE ESTE FORMULARIO A: FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE, P. O. BOX 682, WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090. SI MANDA UNA DONACIÓN, GUARDE LA PARTE DE ABAJO DE ESTE FORMULARIO PARA SUS ARCHIVOS.

- Soy un residente del Distrito del Parque de Wheeling y pienso **VOTAR SÍ (YES)** en el "referendum" el primero de abril. Animaré a mis vecinos y amigos para que voten también.
- Me gustaría distribuir folletos, hacer llamadas o ayudar en otra manera.
- Me gustaría darles los nombres de amigos que quisieran ayudar.
- Me gustaría ayudarles con los gastos del correo y del impreso de los folletos.

FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR CLARAMENTE EN LETRA DE MOLDE.

Nombre _____

Dirección _____

Ciudad _____

Estado _____

Código Postal _____

Incluido está mi donación de \$ _____

Número de teléfono () _____

FAVOR DE ESCRIBIR EL CHEQUE A "FRIENDS OF CHEVY CHASE."

Apoyo el esfuerzo de salvar el Chevy Chase en Wheeling, Illinois. Mi contribución de \$ _____ ayudará con los gastos hechos por los Friends of Chevy Chase en este esfuerzo.

Fecha _____

Gracias por su apoyo.

WE COUNTRY WESTERN DANCERS ARE JUST
HOWLING FOR YOU TO MOSEY ON DOWN TO OUR
BAKE SALE

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
& MONDAY, MARCH 3**

**7:00-11:00 P.M.
AT CHEVY CHASE
1000 NORTH MILWAUKEE AVENUE, WHEELING**

PROCEEDS FROM THIS SALE WILL HELP DEFRAY COSTS
IN PUBLICIZING THE APRIL 1 REFERENDUM TO SAVE
CHEVY CHASE.

BUY SOME HOME-BAKED GOODS AND BE SURE TO VOTE
YES ON APRIL 1!

CALL TANNY, 259-4637, TO DONATE BAKED
GOODS.



Friends of Chevy Chase
presents
A BENEFIT DANCE

Thursday, March 13, 1997

**Chevy Chase Country Club
Grand Ballroom
1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Wheeling**

**Ballroom & Round
Dancing
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Country Western
Dancing
9:00 - 11:00 p.m.**

**RAFFLES!
TAKE A CHANCE AND WIN A DINNER
FOR TWO AT ONE OF MANY LOCAL
RESTAURANTS!**

**Cash Bar
Doors open at 6:30**

Proceeds to benefit the campaign to save Chevy Chase

Donation: \$5 per person

Friends of Chevy Chase

.....
Benefit Dance March 13, 1997

Don Roth's in Wheeling

Dinner for Two, Including Cocktails

Maximum \$50.00 Value

History and Mystery at Chevy Chase

April 1 Referendum

On April 1, 1997, Wheeling residents will have the opportunity to save or lose forever a beautiful Wheeling landmark with a colorful history. The referendum will ask if you are willing to pay a small additional tax to save and renovate the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse.

History

Construction of the Tudor-style building began in the 1920s. There have been several owners; no one has been able to find the original building plans. Throughout its history, especially during Prohibition, people (including North Shore society) drove long distances to enjoy the entertainment offered in the clubhouse. This included gambling casinos, supper clubs, theater in the round and dancing to live bands.

Visitors and entertainers include Al Capone, Mae West, Imogene Coca, Vincent Price, Robert Q. Lewis, Buddy Ebsen and Joan Caulfield.

Mystery

If you'd like to see some of the relics unearthed during cleaning, take a look at the display case in the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road. You'll find china and crystal, summer theater posters, a change-maker used in the casino, a seltzer bottle and old tickets.

When you visit the clubhouse itself at 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue, don't miss the coats of arms lining the barroom walls. Next to the barroom is the old gambling hall, a barred cashier's window still waiting for the next gambler. Look up at the chandeliers and lamps that help give the enormous ballroom, built in 1934, its cozy feeling. Try out a few steps on the dance floor and stand on the circular revolving mini-stage in the center.

Backstage are dressing rooms used by the entertainers. A 1986 newspaper article described an unusual feature: "A four-foot-wide vent at the top left corner of the stage becomes the focus of mystery and speculation. It is the only entrance to a room with no windows and no doors. Reportedly, club owners watched gambling proceedings through this inconspicuous opening. It is also believed to be a room underworld patrons might have found a safe place for conferences or other activities."

When viewing storage areas with six-inch thick doors, some made of solid iron, detectives among us might deduce that some extremely valuable commodities passed through this building, perhaps large amounts of cash. What would you make of an enclosed darkened stairway with seven visible stairs leading to a concrete wall?

Today

In 1977, the park district acquired the club, which now offers facilities for many types of events. A couple of nights a week, don your jeans and cowboy boots and "git along" with other country western dancers. If you prefer suits and flowing gowns, stop in for ballroom dancing to live bands. Want to just watch or listen? How about a Rodgers and Hammerstein concert, or B. J. Thomas in person? Perhaps you'd just like to "do lunch" with your club or community group. Whatever your social needs, Chevy Chase can accommodate them.

It's Your Choice

Help us hold on to this wonderful facility. Remember that if this building is torn down, it's gone forever. A referendum can be lost by one vote. Don't let that vote be yours. **If you'd like more information, please call Laurel Anderson, 847/537-2593.**

Friends of Chevy Chase

P. O. Box 682

Wheeling, Illinois 60090



February 22, 1997

Dear Friend of Chevy Chase,

The Wheeling Park District, owner of the Chevy Chase Country Club, is holding a referendum on the April 1, 1997 consolidated general election to obtain voter authorization to fund the renovation of the Chevy Chase clubhouse. We have formed "Friends of Chevy Chase" to advocate in favor of the referendum. The park district can spend no money to advocate a position: legally, it can only inform and educate residents about the issue.

One of the ways the Friends of Chevy Chase is raising money to cover printing and postage costs is through a benefit dance on March 13. We would like to raffle dinners for two at Wheeling restaurants to encourage Wheeling residents to attend this dance. Would you help us in this effort by donating two dinners?

We hope that you, as a friend of Chevy Chase, will support the referendum with a donation and your vote.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laurel Anderson
Chairperson, Friends of Chevy Chase



Chevy Chase...
Wheeling's Heartbeat of History

Vote on April 1
in the referendum to save
Chevy Chase!

PLEASE NOTE:

The ballot question wording is dictated by the State of Illinois Park District Code, which does not allow the words "Chevy Chase Clubhouse" to be placed on the ballot. The ballot *to approve the saving and renovating of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse* will read as follows:

Shall the Wheeling Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois be authorized to levy and collect an additional tax of .075% for all corporate purposes as provided in Section 5-3 of "The Park District Code"?

If the referendum passes, the Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be maintained and renovated. If not, it will be torn down and replaced with a much smaller golf clubhouse without banquet facilities or the need for a tax rate increase.

For additional information, call Laurel Anderson at 537-2593.



Chevy Chase...
Wheeling's Heartbeat of History

¡Vote el 1° abril
en el referendum para salvar
Chevy Chase!

POR FAVOR FIJESE:

La redacción sobre la cuestión de votación es dictada por el Código del Distrito de Parques del Estado de Illinois, el cual no permite que las palabras "Chevy Chase Clubhouse" sean puestas en la votación. La votación para aprobar la salvación y renovación del Chevy Chase Clubhouse dice lo siguiente:

“¿Debería el Distrito de Parques de Wheeling, Condados de Cook y Lake, Illinois, ser autorizado a recaudar y coleccionar un impuesto adicional de .075% para todos propósitos corporativos como proveído en Sección 5-3 del “Código del Distrito de Parques”?”

Si el referendum es aprobado, el “Chevy Chase Clubhouse” será conservado y renovado. **De lo contrario**, será demolido y reemplazado por un club de golf más pequeño sin facilidades de banquetes o la necesidad de imponer un aumento con un nuevo impuesto.

Para más información, llame a Laurel Anderson al número de teléfono 537-2593.



***Vote “YES” to save Chevy Chase!
Punch 246.***

Shall the Wheeling Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois be authorized to levy and collect an additional tax of .075% for all corporate purposes as provided in Section 5-3 of “The Park District Code”?

If the referendum **PASSES**, the Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be **SAVED** and renovated. If it **FAILS**, it will be **TORN DOWN** and replaced with a small golf clubhouse without banquet facilities.



*Vote “YES” to save Chevy Chase!
Punch 246.*

Shall the Wheeling Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois be authorized to levy and collect an additional tax of .075% for all corporate purposes as provided in Section 5-3 of “The Park District Code”?

If the referendum **PASSES**, the Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be **SAVED** and renovated. If it **FAILS**, it will be **TORN DOWN** and replaced with a small golf clubhouse without banquet facilities.

DAILY HERALD - March 27, 1997

Wheeling parks referendum

Voters in the Wheeling Park District will be asked Tuesday whether they'll support a small increase in the district's tax rate in order to save a community landmark.

More specifically, voters are asked to OK a tax rate increase of .075 percent, which would raise enough money over 10 years to cover Chevy Chase Clubhouse renovation.

Although the district has owned Chevy Chase only since 1977, the building has a storied history dating back much further. Built in the 1920s, it was a Prohibition-era hot spot whose entertainment fare included, at various times, theater, dinner, dancing and casino gambling.

Under the park district's ownership, the distinctive Tudor facility is used for proms, receptions, banquets, service club functions and parties large and small. Weekly dances — ballroom and country — draw large crowds.

The clubhouse pays for itself — generating revenue above expenses of \$100,000 to \$150,000 annually — but it does not bring in enough money to pay for the extensive renovation work a 65-year-old building demands.

Lacking other funds to pay for renovation, park board members say they'll tear the building down and replace it with a smaller clubhouse if the referendum fails.

That could be done without a tax increase, but it would erase a unique landmark that has meant much to Wheeling residents over the years — and still should.

The tax increase would amount to an additional \$21.05 a year for someone whose property tax bill is now \$2,500. That's a reasonable price to pay to save a piece of history that doubles as a pretty good place to throw a party. The Daily Herald recommends a YES vote.

**SAVE CHEVY
CHASE:
PUNCH 246!**

**CHEVY CHASE "YES" VOTE
ENDORSED BY ALL
CANDIDATES FOR VILLAGE
OFFICE AND PARK BOARD, AS
WELL AS THE PIONEER PRESS
AND THE DAILY HERALD!**

PIONEER PRESS - March 13, 1997

A vote for Chevy Chase

Wheeling Park District residents have a unique opportunity April 1 to save a piece of history when they cast their votes on a referendum question to save the Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

We feel voters should cast their "Yes" votes for many reasons.

In an age when local landmarks fall to the wrecking ball with increased regularity, it is refreshing to see that park district officials are giving residents the choice to preserve the facility. If they choose not to, park district officials say, it is safe to bet that the 1920s-era facility will fall. That would be a shame.

While the clubhouse is still structurally sound, it needs extensive rehabilitation to meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other renovations for the facility's utilities are also needed. And the estimated \$2.7 million in work will make the facility much more user-friendly.

It is true that only a fraction of Wheeling Park District residents — about 15 percent —

use the clubhouse on a regular basis. But other groups, as well as residents from surrounding towns that find the facility attractive for weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs and other social gatherings, bring valuable revenues into the park district.

Some may question the validity of pouring money into the clubhouse and not the golf course itself, which needs extensive irrigation and flood-control work. But park district officials also are committed to improving that attraction as well.

With that said, it only seems natural that residents would benefit from preservation of both the clubhouse and the golf course.

Park district officials estimate that the tax increase, a 7.5-cent boost per \$100 of assessed valuation, will cover the cost of renovation and will bring the historically colorful Chevy Chase into the 21st century. We agree and feel voters should do all they can to convince their friends of the same.

CHEVY CHASE CLUBHOUSE REFERENDUM

APRIL 1, 1997

VOTE "YES"

Due to the overwhelming outcry to save and renovate the Chevy Chase Clubhouse during the Public Hearing of December 3, 1996, the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners has authorized placing on the April 1, 1997 ballot a referendum question for a tax rate increase of .075% which would be used to save and renovate the Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

OPTIONS:

The Park District Board considered four options, of which three would require a tax rate increase. Of the four options requiring a tax rate increase, the overwhelming choice of those attending the Public Hearing and replying to the Chevy Chase questionnaire was to save and renovate the Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

If the Tax Rate Referendum Passes: Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be maintained and renovated.

If the Tax Rate Referendum Fails: Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be torn down and a smaller golf clubhouse will be built without banquet facilities or the need for a tax rate increase.

COST:

The Park District Board originally considered asking for a .10% tax rate increase in the Corporate Fund to accomplish renovation of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse. The Park District Board has prudently reviewed the costs of renovation and has reduced its original consideration by 25%. The tax rate increase request will be for .075%.

What Will A .075% Tax Rate Increase In The Corporate Fund Mean To Your Tax Bill?

Current Annual Tax Bill	Approximate Additional Cost Increase		
	Per Year	Per Month	Per Day
\$1,500	\$12.63	\$1.05	4 cents
\$2,000	\$16.84	\$1.40	5 cents
\$2,500	\$21.05	\$1.75	6 cents
\$3,000	\$25.26	\$2.11	7 cents
\$3,500	\$29.46	\$2.46	8 cents
\$4,000	\$33.68	\$2.81	9 cents
\$4,500	\$37.88	\$3.16	10 cents

HOW WILL THE REFERENDUM QUESTION APPEAR ON THE BALLOT?

The ballot question wording is dictated by the State of Illinois Park District Code, which does not allow the words "Chevy Chase Clubhouse" to be placed on the ballot. The ballot to approve the saving and renovating of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse will read as follows:

Shall the Wheeling Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois be authorized to levy and collect an additional tax of .075% for all corporate purposes as provided in Section 5-3 of the "Park District Code"?	YES	
	NO	

- (a) The approximate amount of taxes extended for corporate purposes under the maximum rate now in force in said Park District is the sum of \$705,250.
- (b) The approximate amount of taxes extendible for corporate purposes under the proposed rate is the sum of \$1,234,187.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY POSTING THIS IN YOUR WINDOW



*Vote YES on
April 1 to save
Chevy Chase!*



**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON APRIL 1.
PUNCH 246 TO SAVE CHEVY CHASE.
IF YOU NEED A RIDE,
CALL WEDGE HANCOCK AT 537-1450.**

■ More local news on Pages 6, 7, 8 and 9 and in Neighbor

Nostalgia drives campaign to save club

BY BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Chevy Chase Country Club was the place to be in the 1950s.

Teenagers like Laurel Anderson used to drive from as far away as Chicago on the weekends to dance in the Wheeling clubhouse where gangster Al Capone was rumored to have hung out in his day.

"It was a special thing to go out there," said Anderson, who is now 58 and lives in Wheeling. "It wasn't like going out to a movie and having a hot dog. ... It was prestigious."

And the fact the 78-year-old building housed so many memories was one of the reasons why the Wheeling Park District bought it in 1977. The town would rather spend the \$3.5 million than let the clubhouse be replaced with houses.

"It's just looked on with a lot of nostalgia," said Frank Schnaitmann, a park board member back then and president of the Wheeling Historical Society. "Once the old buildings go you don't get them back."

Along with those years of memories came deterioration that will cost \$2.76 million to repair.

Voters on April 1 ballots will answer the question of if they want to raise their taxes to save the building at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. Park district commissioners earlier this month decided to conduct the referendum.

Tuesday night, they unanimously



A dining room at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling is decorated for the holidays. Voters will decide April 1 if they want to raise their taxes to save the building.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Black*

approved \$220 they paid last year.

Park board Vice President Bill Mattes said the referendum question is expected to be finalized next month so that it can be filed with the Cook County clerk.

Convincing taxpayers that the money that would be taken out of their pockets is worth it will be the job of Anderson and other residents who hold the building near to their hearts.

Anderson said she doesn't want to pay more taxes any more than the next person. But she views the

is not unlike the many under way in communities statewide to preserve history, said David Blanchette, spokesman for the Illinois Historical Preservation Agency.

And it's community support that decides whether the log cabin, barn, or in Bloomington, a DC-3, is preserved, he added.

"Historic resources are dwindling every day," Blanchette said.

The main deterrent to preserving history, Blanchette says, is money.

This will also be the most diffi-

from this tax increase."

The park board and some residents experienced this the last time the district asked voters for a tax increase, when it needed additional money to furnish and staff the Community Center that was built in 1992.

Voters in November 1991 first rejected the proposal to increase the district's tax rate from 7 and a half cents to 17 and half cents, said district Director Karop T. Bavougian.

The measure lost by 62 votes — 1,046 to 1,108.

But the request was approved the following spring by a 171-vote margin — 2,670 to 2,499, he added.

One difference between the first and second referendums was the effort, Klatecki said.

The residents who supported the referendum knocked on more doors and continuously encouraged people who favored the request to go to the polls on Election Day.

"It's phone calls, it's knocking on doors, it's educating people," said Mark Parkinson, who worked to support the referendum before being elected to the park board.

Though the challenge will be there, getting this referendum passed is not expected to be as difficult as the last one, district officials say.

Residents requested that a referendum be held for Chevy Chase, where the last one was proposed by the district.

And another clear difference in

SPEAKERS COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 1997

Forums:

Mark Twain School	Mar. 12	7:00 p.m.
Neighborhood Watch Group		
Arlington Club	Mar. 13	7:30 p.m.
(1 candidate at a time)		
Wheeling High School	Mar. 20	7:00 p.m.
Tahoe Village	Mar. 25	7:30 p.m.

Radio

Radio show WCBR 92.7 Mar. 28 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Half of phone calls will be taken during the show

Radio Sta. WJMK - Free announcement
Cheri Klumpp has given info. to Trudy Wakeman

Other

AARP Meeting Mar. 24 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Senior Art Club (Dolly Hein) -----
Trudy Wakeman will make info. available

Addolorata Villa Mar. 11
15 min. presentation at their residents meeting

Senior Center (Nancy Jansen) Mar. 17 Luncheon
St. Patrick's Day Luncheon - Cleared w/Village
OK if informational only

Comm. Consol. School Dist. 21 & High School Dist. 214
Both considering passing a resolution in favor of saving Chevy

Village of Wheeling -----
"Friends" should request passing a similar resolution
(Jeanne Selander?)

P.T.O. Meeting Mar. 11
Cheri Klumpp will "mention" Chevy

Historical Society Feb. 26

Other Info.

Walkers Committee meeting Sat., March 1 at 9:00 a.m.
literature & plans of action to be presented at this meeting
March 8 target date to begin walking

Chairpersons from every committee will be meeting Feb. 22 at 9:00
a.m. and every Saturday thereafter.

C4

LOCAL REPORT

Wheeling rethinks historical status for Chevy Chase

BY BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents are having some second thoughts about getting the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse named as a historical landmark.

At first they thought it would be a way to save the 78-year-old building at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. But their thoughts have changed since the Wheeling Park District this month agreed to place on the April 1 ballot a referendum to renovate the building.

The concern is if Chevy Chase is entered on the National Register of Historical Places it would cost taxpayers twice as much as the estimated \$2.76 million to renovate.

"It wouldn't be worth having the landmark status," said Laurel Anderson, one of several residents who is delaying the pitch to get the clubhouse on the register.

Anderson and several other residents during the past year — primarily in recent months — have inquired of the Illinois Historical Preservation Agency what it would take to get the clubhouse on the register, said David New-

ton, the state's assistant national register coordinator.

"There's a number of people who like this building," Newton said.

Newton said residents had intended to nominate the building to become one of the more than 1,200 landmarks statewide to be on the list. Aside from being more than 50 years old, the building has to be proven to be of historical and architectural significance.

But along with the prestige and some protection a landmark has from being razed, such status also would require any renovations to be done according to the original condition. For instance, if new windows are installed, they would have to be custom made to match the original ones, which would be more costly than buying stock windows, said park board President Greg Klatecki.

"It has to be exactly the way it was when it (was) built," Klatecki said. "The price is doubled up."

Anderson said residents considered getting the clubhouse on the register when it was uncertain what the park board would do with the building.

Save Chevy Chase

How often do we have a chance to vote and have it mean something?

Wheeling Park District is submitting a referendum April 1 to renovate Chevy Chase. The decision to renovate or demolish the existing building is up to the Wheeling Park District voters. While it will increase our park district tax, we will be able to see our tax dollars at work in the restoration and preservation of a beautiful, unique, old building with a lot of class, history, nostalgia and ambiance.

This building is a big asset for Wheeling, bringing a lot of people together. It is good for business—people coming to dance and frequent the restaurants, gas stations and other businesses. This building has the only wood ballroom dance floor in the far Northern Illinois area. It would be a shame to demolish it and put up something brick and glass. The woodwork alone can never be duplicated.

Although it needs major renovation, for plumbing, wiring, heating, air conditioning and handicapped accessibility, if we can save the building, it would be a definite asset to Wheeling and the surrounding area.

If you have never been there, walk through the building. The small rooms accommodate fewer people for meetings and small parties. This beautiful building has great potential for more use in the future. It can be a money maker for the community as a whole.

Please join us in the effort to save this building by casting your yes vote on April 1. Help us preserve and renovate this beautiful building.

We need volunteers to help save Chevy Chase by contacting neighbors, friends and business associates in Wheeling and asking them to vote yes on this referendum. If you can help, please call me at (847) 537-2593. Funds are being collected to help defray costs of getting the word out. Thanks for your support!

Any donations can be sent to: Friends of Chevy Chase, P.O. Box 682, Wheeling, IL 60090.

Lauren H. Anderson
Chairperson
Friends of Chevy Chase
Wheeling

12/3 4/96

Poly Vu
AVERY

FENCE POST

Lovely Chevy Chase

I believe that the Chevy Chase Clubhouse is the most prominent landmark in all of Wheeling. It is a beautiful building with a long and rich history. Chevy Chase is one of the cornerstones of our community, and for miles around people know Wheeling because of Chevy Chase. It is the home of ballroom dancing, country-western dancing, community meetings, the weddings of our residents, functions for our high school, and it brings others to Wheeling for various other gatherings. To preserve this heart of our community, a referendum will take place in Wheeling on April 1 in order to raise money for severely needed renovations. Since Chevy Chase is owned by the Wheeling Park District, the referendum will read, "Shall the Wheeling Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois be authorized to levy and collect an additional tax of .075 percent for all corporate purposes as provided in Section 5-3 of 'The Park District Code?'" By the State of Illinois Park District Code, the words Chevy Chase Clubhouse cannot be in the wording on the ballot. Please be assured that this small additional tax will strictly be used solely to save and renovate Chevy Chase. I urge Wheeling voters to vote "yes" for this referendum, for if it does not pass, Chevy Chase will be torn down, and a huge part of Wheeling history will be gone forever. If you would like to help us publicize the importance of this referendum and promote a "yes" vote, you may send contributions to: Friends of Chevy Chase, P.O. Box 682, Wheeling, IL 60090. Please vote "yes"!

Gail Benedetto
Wheeling
Friends of Chevy Chase



Enter Wheeling

Save Chevy Chase

Friends of Chevy Chase



Don't Lose Your Head!!

Vote on April 1st.



On December 3, 1996, over 200 people met with the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners to help decide the fate of Wheeling's premier landmark, the 75 year old Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

Residents and friends of Chevy Chase from other communities testified to the importance of the historical structure.

"Chevy Chase is completely booked. It always turns a profit. After renovation, the park district will be able to charge higher prices for events at this facility. My two sisters and myself had our wedding receptions at Chevy Chase. There are a lot of memories here," said Jim Falkiner, Wheeling resident.

The Wheeling High School madrigal singers, who use Chevy Chase's ballroom each December to stage their madrigal dinner, appeared before the board in full costume. "This [dinner] is a big community event and everyone enjoys this place as it is now," one of the students said. "...Many of us are involved in Chevy Chase, and many of us would like to see it stay open."

"We want it renovated, but we don't want it remodeled to a point where we don't recognize it anymore," said resident Laurel Anderson, who started a grass-roots effort to save Chevy Chase. "This building is used by a lot of people. If you tear it down, you're tearing down a very good image of what Wheeling Is.

Other people who testified on behalf of Chevy Chase were groups who held annual business meetings there, as well as people who use the ballroom for dance instruction and parties.

After 90 minutes of listening to comments from Wheeling residents, board members voted unanimously to place a referendum on the Spring ballot, asking residents to approve a tax rate increase to pay for \$2.8 million in renovations.

The referendum, when drafted by park staff, will not include the words "Chevy Chase" in accordance with state law. Instead it will ask for a tax rate increase in one of the park district's funds. It will be up to a group of volunteers to go door-to-door explaining the referendum and its necessity to their neighbors. **To volunteer call Lynn Pearson-Graham at 520-3141.**

The park board must approve the referendum ordinance by January 27 to have it placed on the April 1 ballot.

For more information and a meeting schedule about Chevy Chase, please call the Wheeling Park District at 465-3333, or return to this page for updates.

Information: Wheeling Countryside Newspaper

WHEELING.COM

Tax hike sought to rehab legendary country club

BY JOHN CARPENTER
SUBURBAN REPORTER

Mae West came here, and Al Capone.

A secret tunnel used to run from the basement out underneath the 18th green of the golf course—what exactly for, no one these days can say, though bad guys hiding from G-men is theorized.

It is hardly a typical suburban park district facility.

But the 77-year-old Chevy Chase Country Club—with its mysterious secret rooms and grand ballroom—has been owned by the Wheeling Park District for 20 years. And officials there, in one of the more unusual tax-increase referendums on the ballot April 1, say they need more than \$3 million to renovate the tudor-style clubhouse and bring it into compliance with federal requirements for access to the handicapped.

Northwest suburban Wheeling is looking to its past, hoping to save a reminder that Milwaukee Avenue north of Lake-Cook Road once was “out in the country” and that Chevy Chase once was a playground for celebrities, mobsters and North Shore socialites.

“If these walls could talk, imagine what they’ve seen,” said Laurel Anderson, chairman of the Friends of Chevy Chase, a group fighting to pass the tax increase.

“It’s a piece of history without which Wheeling doesn’t have much character,” said Darlene Brill, another backer of the referendum.

Brill, another backer of the referendum.

Even though taxpayers are being asked to pay an extra \$20 a year—the typical impact on an average Wheeling house of the proposed 7-cent increase in the park district’s tax rate—officials say the clubhouse is

very much a going enterprise.

The ballroom seats 600 and is rented out for weddings and other occasions. Area businesses use smaller rooms for conference space and more intimate social occasions.

But the most regular users are the several hundred ballroom dancing enthusiasts who dance away every Wednesday night and the country dancing lovers who show up Monday and Tuesday nights.

Park district director Karop Bavougian



BOB BLACK/SUN-TIMES

Darlene Brill, a supporter of the tax-hike referendum, stands in front of Wheeling’s Chevy Chase Country Club.

said the facility, which includes a lounge and snack bar for golfers, pays for itself, typically showing a profit of about \$125,000 a year. But he said that is not enough to pay for the work that needs to be done.

Bavougian said windows and wiring need to be replaced, as does the heating and air conditioning system.

The place used to be called Columbian

Gardens, with the first phase built in 1920 by members of the Knights of Columbus, who also built the 18-hole golf course on the 125-acre site. The name was changed to Windsor in 1934, when the property was taken over by a real estate company.

The facility was taken over in 1936 by Tom Williams, the reputed gambling boss of Lake County, who renamed it the Bon Aire. It became a gambling emporium. This might explain why “storage” rooms in the basement have 6-inch-thick doors, some made of solid iron. Bavougian also pointed to what is now a ventilation grill high up on one wall. Behind it, he said, is a small room believed to have been used to monitor the gambling floor.

Even the aging maple dance floor speaks of the heyday of the place as a society meeting spot. It includes a round section that Bavougian said once rose above the rest of the floor via a hydraulic system.

The park district, which runs the golf course and the clubhouse, bought the property in 1977.

“It’s a treasure,” Anderson said. “We have to save it.”



MetroNorthwest

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1997

Dancers, neighbors rally around Chevy Chase club

Its history includes gangsters and gamblers, a stint as a casino, big-name entertainers and the echoes of hundreds of dance bands and wedding waltzes.

Its present includes country and ballroom "open dancing," more weddings, and just about any gathering of any consequence for the community, including the centennial gala.

Its future, however, could be a date with a wrecking ball, if voters in Wheeling aren't willing to raise their taxes to renovate

Christine Winter
NORTHWEST JOURNAL



the aging but still classy Chevy Chase Country Club, now owned by the Wheeling Park District and in need of \$3 million in ren-

ovations.

The Friends of Chevy Chase, an organization of residents determined to save this historic building with its dramatic Tudor design and its legendary underground tunnel, secret room and dead-end staircase, is optimistic about the April 1 referendum. The club is on Milwaukee Avenue, just north of Lake-Cook Road.

"Our door-to-door canvassers and phone callers say the response they are getting is quite upbeat," said **Laurel**

Anderson, chairwoman of the Friends.

According to **Karop Bavougian**, park district director, "There is no organized opposition, which is a wonderful thing."

But that doesn't mean the club's supporters are taking anything for granted. They know that nothing is for sure until all the votes are counted.

And there is always going to be grumbling about any referen-

SEE WINTER, PAGE 6

Winter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dum by those who don't want to see their property taxes go up, even by the estimated \$16 to \$21 a year that the renovations will boost the average tax bill for residents in the Wheeling Park District.

The tax concerns, said Bavougian, are valid. Nobody wants more money coming out of his or her pocket.

"But we feel there is a value received by residents of Wheeling in having Chevy Chase here," Bavougian said.

The facility not only supports itself, he said, but it makes a profit for the park district off its banquet business and golf course.

But not enough of a profit to fund \$3 million worth of new heating, air-conditioning and ventilation equipment, 300 new windows and work on a wiring system so old that it is covered in cloth.

"There is some wear and tear on the building, which was built in the early 1920s, but it still looks good," Bavougian said. "But the systems are just worn out and not much here would muster code today."

The building also needs improved access for the handicapped to comply with Americans with Disabilities requirements.

Supporters were heartened by the huge turnout, nearly 300 residents, who showed up to urge the park district board to hold a referendum to save Chevy Chase last fall.

There are still a few very old-timers around town who remember the club's days as the shady but elegant haunt of underworld figures and Hollywood headliners.

Al Capone played here, Mae West and Imogene Coca and Vincent Price performed here, and nobody is quite sure what went on behind those 6-inch-thick solid iron doors in the basements or the room accessible only through a 4-foot-wide vent high in a wall. Of course, everybody has a theory.

Anderson said her favorite memories of Chevy Chase date to the 1950s, when it was among the *crème de la crème* of ballrooms and attracted even the snootiest North Shore residents.

"When a fellow asked you to go to Chevy Chase for dancing on a Saturday night, you knew it was special," she recalled. "That was no typical date."

Darlene Brill, another of the Friends, calls Chevy Chase, just minutes from her home, "an important part of my life."

She loves to go there to dance, and describes its specially constructed maple ballroom floor as "the best in Illinois."

"You could dance all night on it without having your feet hurt, it has so much give to it," she said. "It would be prohibitive to build something like it today."

Bavougian feels there is a certain comfort level among Wheeling residents, even those who don't dance, golf or get invited to many weddings there, just having Chevy Chase in their community.

"People call and tell us they don't use the club themselves, but they don't want to see it torn down. They enjoy just driving past it and knowing it is there," said Anderson. "It is just so unique, it is an asset to the community."

Bavougian said that if the referendum fails, especially by a large margin, it will undoubtedly spell doom for the nearly 80-year-old club, though not immediately.

"We have contracts for banquets through 1998, and we feel the heating system will last that long," he said.

And after that? It's up to the park district board, he said, though nobody has many doubts about what the decision would be.

"However, any bulldozer would have to run over my body first," insisted Brill.

E-mail: WinterC@aol.com



WHEELING COUNTRYSIDE

March 13, 1997

The Wheeling Countryside wants your news.

Here's who to contact and how to get in touch with them.

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• School and campus news	
• Religion news	

WEEKLY DIGEST

Symphony invited to national concert

The Wheeling High School Wind Symphony, directed by Brian Logan, has been named one of 16 bands in the United States to be invited to perform at the prestigious National Concert Band Festival to be held March 20-22 in Indianapolis.

This noncompetitive event brings the spotlight on music education and some of America's finest high school concert bands. Each invited band performs a 45-minute concert and receives taped and written evaluations from a panel of many of music's most respected educators.

The festival concludes with a concert featuring the Honor Band of America, a 100-piece symphonic band composed of top high school band students.

Benefit dance to save Chevy Chase

A benefit dance will be held from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. tonight, March 13, in the Grand Ballroom of Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. Proceeds from the dance will benefit the Friends of Chevy Chase citizens group, which is campaigning for a successful referendum on April 1 to renovate the 1920s-era clubhouse.

Admission is \$5 at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and there will be a cash bar. Ballroom and round dancing is planned for 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and country western dancing is planned for 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. There will be raffles during the evening.

Call in to question candidates

Radio station WCBR 92.7 FM will air a live debate between Wheeling village president candidates Judy Abruscato, Greg Klatecki and Sheila Schultz from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, March 28.

The "Viewpoint with Larry and Linda Carr" show will

Your
Local **NEWS**

Kmart officials: tampering claims appear isolated

By **CHERI BENTRUP**
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling police are continuing their investigation into who may have tampered with two bottles of pain relievers that were purchased from the Wheeling Kmart at 780 W. Dundee Road.

Meanwhile, Kmart officials are urging Chicago-area customers to carefully examine any product purchased at their stores to ensure further tampering does not endanger other shoppers.

Store officials removed the remaining stock of the Amer-

cidents, Hermes said.

"It was found to be a prescription drug, one you can't buy over the counter," Hermes said. "The danger comes in with any prescription drug. Not everyone can take every prescription."

Knowing that the tablets are available only by prescription may aid in the investigation, Hermes said. Wheeling police are working in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Office of Criminal Investigations.

Police, like store officials, consider the incidents to be



DAILY HERALD - March 27, 1997

Wheeling parks referendum

Voters in the Wheeling Park District will be asked Tuesday whether they'll support a small increase in the district's tax rate in order to save a community landmark.

More specifically, voters are asked to OK a tax rate increase of .075 percent, which would raise enough money over 10 years to cover Chevy Chase Clubhouse renovation.

Although the district has owned Chevy Chase only since 1977, the building has a storied history dating back much further. Built in the 1920s, it was a Prohibition-era hot spot whose entertainment fare included, at various times, theater, dinner, dancing and casino gambling.

Under the park district's ownership, the distinctive Tudor facility is used for proms, receptions, banquets, service club functions and parties large and small. Weekly dances — ballroom and country — draw large crowds.

The clubhouse pays for itself — generating revenue above expenses of \$100,000 to \$150,000 annually — but it does not bring in enough money to pay for the extensive renovation work a 65-year-old building demands.

Lacking other funds to pay for renovation, park board members say they'll tear the building down and replace it with a smaller clubhouse if the referendum fails.

That could be done without a tax increase, but it would erase a unique landmark that has meant much to Wheeling residents over the years — and still should.

The tax increase would amount to an additional \$21.05 a year for someone whose property tax bill is now \$2,500. That's a reasonable price to pay to save a piece of history that doubles as a pretty good place to throw a party. The Daily Herald recommends a YES vote.

**SAVE CHEVY
CHASE:
PUNCH 246!**

**CHEVY CHASE "YES" VOTE
ENDORSED BY ALL
CANDIDATES FOR VILLAGE
OFFICE AND PARK BOARD, AS
WELL AS THE PIONEER PRESS
AND THE DAILY HERALD!**

PIONEER PRESS - March 13, 1997

A vote for Chevy Chase

Wheeling Park District residents have a unique opportunity April 1 to save a piece of history when they cast their votes on a referendum question to save the Chevy Chase Clubhouse.

We feel voters should cast their "Yes" votes for many reasons.

In an age when local landmarks fall to the wrecking ball with increased regularity, it is refreshing to see that park district officials are giving residents the choice to preserve the facility. If they choose not to, park district officials say, it is safe to bet that the 1920s-era facility will fall. That would be a shame.

While the clubhouse is still structurally sound, it needs extensive rehabilitation to meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other renovations for the facility's utilities are also needed. And the estimated \$2.7 million in work will make the facility much more user-friendly.

It is true that only a fraction of Wheeling Park District residents — about 15 percent —

use the clubhouse on a regular basis. But other groups, as well as residents from surrounding towns that find the facility attractive for weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs and other social gatherings, bring valuable revenues into the park district.

Some may question the validity of pouring money into the clubhouse and not the golf course itself, which needs extensive irrigation and flood-control work. But park district officials also are committed to improving that attraction as well.

With that said, it only seems natural that residents would benefit from preservation of both the clubhouse and the golf course.

Park district officials estimate that the tax increase, a 7.5-cent boost per \$100 of assessed valuation, will cover the cost of renovation and will bring the historically colorful Chevy Chase into the 21st century. We agree and feel voters should do all they can to convince their friends of the same.

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Northwest - Stories from the latest print edition

TRUSTEES ENDORSE TAX-HIKE PROPOSAL FOR CHEVY CHASE

By Tony Perri

Web-posted Tuesday, March 18, 1997; 6:03 a.m. CST

Dateline: WHEELING

The Wheeling Village Board Monday night unanimously endorsed the Wheeling Park District's ballot proposal to spend \$2.7 million to renovate the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse.

Laurel Anderson, chairperson of the Friends of Chevy Chase, thanked the board and said, "I really think that this is an issue that our community can get behind and preserve this wonderful building."

Village President Sheila Schultz cited the recent study of Wheeling residents, "2000 and Beyond," when she said that preservation of the clubhouse was in keeping with residents' desires.

According to the Friends of Chevy Chase, a homeowner with a current annual property tax bill of \$2,000 would see an increase of \$16.84 if the referendum question is approved.

The clubhouse was used as a gambling casino and nightclub, and a theater, and is now a ballroom and banquet hall. The Park District acquired it in 1977.



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A Wheeling icon

For two years, our group has had the privilege of going to "line dancing" sessions at the Chevy Chase Ballroom. The dance floor is a treasure to the hundreds that use it regularly. To think of having it torn down is terrible. This building is a "landmark" in every sense of the word, whether it is officially designated as such or not! Many residents can remember coming here for proms and luncheons, business meetings and school festivals. We will lose a lot if we lose Chevy Chase and end up with a "golfer only" facility. Residents of the Wheeling Park District will have the opportunity April 1 to vote for a referendum to provide funds to renovate the facility. This is to bring the building up to code for electrical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning and various other improvements. Please vote yes to retain this icon of Wheeling history and the charm of Milwaukee Avenue.

DAILY HERALD Barbara Mundy
WEDNESDAY, 3/19/97 Wheeling



WHEELING COUNTRYSIDE

March 27, 1997

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WEEKLY DIGEST

Village supports Chevy Chase

Village trustees recently approved a resolution in support of the April 1 referendum to renovate Chevy Chase Clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. Saving the clubhouse was one of the recommendations of the yearlong "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" strategic improvement plan.

Voters on April 1 will decide whether to raise the Wheeling Park District's corporate tax rate 7.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to renovate the 1920s-era clubhouse. Renovations are estimated to cost \$2.76 million.

Earlier this month, the Wheeling Park Board also approved a resolution in support of the referendum. The Park District has owned the clubhouse and golf course since 1977, when voters approved a referendum for their purchase.

In the Park Board's resolution, commissioners reaffirmed that the increase, if approved, will be used for capital expenses of repairing Chevy Chase, not for operational purposes or salaries.

Village wins public works award

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz recently accepted the Project of the Year — Transportation \$2-\$10 Million Award from the Chicago Metropolitan Chapter of the American Public Works Association. The village was recognized for its participation in the Wolf/Hintz roads relocation project near Palwaukee Airport. Chapter award recipients are considered eligible for consideration at the national level.

Eleven agencies worked together to coordinate the relocation project. The awards committee commended Wheeling and the other agencies on the completion of a difficult project that resulted in improved safety for both drivers and pilots.

Park spends \$50,000 for playground

Following through on their commitment to Wheeling Elementary School District 21 last fall, the Wheeling Park Board last week approved an expenditure of \$50,000 to help the school district purchase 1.9 acres of open space near Whitman School.

The play area became controversial last summer when the village found a developer to build 40 townhouses on the 7.8-acre site along Milwaukee Avenue. Nearby residents contacted the school district and park district and persuaded them to jointly purchase 1.9 acres of the tract to remain as open space for neighborhood children.

Village scholarships available

Wheeling residents have until 3 p.m. Friday, April 11, to submit an application to Village Hall for the fourth annual community scholarship, announced by Village President Sheila Schultz. Money will be awarded to qualified residents pursuing educational training, skills upgrading or job retraining. Scholarship funds can be applied to tuition, books or any other educational expense. Recipients will be chosen by a president's committee.

Funds are made available through the Northwest Municipal Conference and the Private Industry Council of Northern Cook County. To request a scholarship application, call Village Hall at (847) 459-2600.

Candidates must submit an application with two references and a photo identification that includes date of birth and Social Security number. Applications must be returned to Village Hall by April 11.

English as second language on TV

"Crossroads Cafe," a new television series for adults that is intended to teach English as a second language, is being shown on TCI Cable Television Channel 24 in Wheeling and Prospect Heights. If you don't subscribe to cable TV, the series also is available at Indian Trails Public Library, 355 Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling. For information concerning the library's literacy efforts, call Jean Pollard at (847) 459-4100.

Your
Local

NEWS

Where does the buck stop?

Candidates scrap over Wheeling's retail state

By **CHERI BENTRUP**
STAFF WRITER

It may have been more rhetoric than reason, but the candidates for the Wheeling Village Board finally got around to talking about business issues at a recent forum hosted by the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce.

The discussions that did focus on business centered on the recommendations of the "Wheeling: 2000 and Beyond" project, an extensive look into Wheeling's present status and a blueprint as to where the village should go in the future.

Incumbent Trustee Elizabeth Hartman did not attend the March 18 luncheon and did not return her questionnaire to the Chamber, according to Chamber officials.

Village president candidates Sheila Schultz, Greg Klatecki and Judy Abruscato each listed economic development among their goals.

"The economic development committee is an independent committee, but (it) obviously has the very strong support of the Chamber and the village. This is something we've talked about for years. I think the direction is clear," said Schultz.

If re-elected, Schultz said, she would continue to listen to residents' concerns, to let residents know what issues are coming before the board and to base her decisions on fact instead of sentiment.

"I think it's important to be consistent," Schultz said, adding that she'd like to encourage more debate at the board level because "the people of Wheeling deserve that and want that."

Klatecki said it's time for Wheeling to become more ag-

gressive and seek out better relationships with other governmental agencies in the community.

"We all serve the same citizens. What's good for the park district should be good for the village," said Klatecki, adding that he views the Chamber as the village's prime vehicle for marketing itself to prospective businesses.

"We need a change of attitude," Klatecki said, using Tom Todd Chevrolet as an example of how he'd like to see the village operate. "They're a service-oriented business. They call their customers. They see if you were pleased with how you were treated. How are people treated at the village? Is our staff cooperative?"

Abruscato compared Wheeling's image and business environment to the chicken-and-egg scenario. Do businesses leave because of Wheeling's poor image, or does the image suffer when businesses leave?

"On the village level we need a strong enforcement of ordinances to make our village look good. If we all work together, and with the excellent staff we have and with our inspectors, our village should be, and can be, the best in the northwest suburbs," Abruscato said.

Abruscato said she's committed to broadening the village's retail base and attracting more businesses to the village.

Several trustee candidates strayed from stating their business-related goals.

Steve Telow described himself as an "anti-tax and pro-business" candidate. One of Telow's priorities, if he is elected, would be to annex Chevy Chase Golf Club. How-

(Continued on page 14)



Cathryn Scott/Pioneer Press

Swing time

Karen Imundo shows her stuff during a spin at the Chevy Chase Ballroom Saturday. About 150 people attended the ball and danced to the big band sound of the Teddy Lee Orchestra.

Horizons, township working toward affordable day care

By **CHERI BENTRUP**
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to two grants from Wheeling Township, local families are finding affordable day care at the Horizons Children's Center in Wheeling.

With a \$75,000 grant awarded to the center by the township in November, Executive Director Suzan Sclove said Horizons has started improvements to its security system and to the interior of the center at 3316 Schoenbeck Road in Wheeling.

In addition, the township raised its annual donation of \$30,000 to the center to \$105,000 this year. That money will be used to offset the cost of child care at Horizons for needy Wheeling Township families, Sclove said.

Sclove said she had been talking with township officials for 22 months before they announced the grants in November.

"They wanted to do something about child care. It's something they consider very important, and it's nice that they're on the forefront in this, which is wonderful," Sclove said. "The first three years of a child's development are critical. The art, music and talking — we provide everything to stimulate them to the fullest."

Horizons offers day care to children from 6 weeks to 12 years old in the northwest suburbs, including some that come from as far away as Lake Zurich.

Jo Stellato, director of finance and administration for Wheeling Township, said the Township Board decided to increase its annual support of the child care center to \$105,000 after a needs assessment determined that local families wanted more affordable day care.

"We had so many children on a waiting list," Stellato said, adding that providing affordable day care makes it possible for parents to return to work after being on welfare.

Among the renovations planned for the school are new floor tiles, a card-accessed security system, drop ceilings throughout the building, new outside lighting, lighting on the Horizons School sign and better insulated windows in the lobby.

Sclove said video cameras will be installed in each room so school officials can better monitor what goes on during the day.

Because of the township's hefty contribution, one classroom will be called the Wheeling Township Room. Sclove said other organizations and corporations which make significant contributions to the center will be honored in a similar manner.

Sclove expects the renovations to be completed by April 13, which begins the Week of the Child.

Sclove founded Horizons Children's Center in 1974, opening the program in the basement of a Northbrook Church. Four years later, the center purchased its current facility, a former Wheeling District 21 elementary school.

Daily Herald

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EDITORIALS

For supervisor in Palatine Twp.

Palatine Township voters will find something at the polls Tuesday they don't always see: a choice of township candidates.

Democrats have fielded a full slate of candidates in this heavily Republican area, and the township supervisor's race features incumbent David Regner, a Republican and challenger James A. Geocaris, a Democrat

The main issues for the next supervisor will be problems in the northeast part of the township with low income, overcrowded apartments posing crime and gang problems; the role of townships in interacting with municipal governments; and residents' knowledge and use of township government and services.



The Daily Herald endorses Regner.

Both candidates bring to the race impressive credentials earned in local government and politics. Regner brings to the table years of legislative and township experience, while Geocaris' legal background is unquestioned and his role in bringing the Rolling Meadows courthouse and its related services to the area is well documented.

We recommend Regner because he is much more astute concerning township government and operations. Moreover, he's done a good job as supervisor the past four years. Addressing priorities for a new term, Regner says the township must persuade the county board to get involved with the Rand-Grove area to legislate limits on the number of families per apartment units.

Geocaris advances the laudable goal of making sure townships are not duplicating services provided by some other unit of government. But Geocaris does not begin to match Regner's expertise on township government and would, if elected, have to do a lot of learning on the job.

Wheeling parks referendum

Voters in the Wheeling Park District will be asked Tuesday whether they'll support a small increase in the district's tax rate in order to save a community landmark.

More specifically, voters are asked to OK a tax rate increase of .075 percent, which would raise enough money over 10 years to cover Chevy Chase Clubhouse renovation.

Although the district has owned Chevy Chase only since 1977, the building has a storied history dating back much further. Built in the 1920s, it was a Prohibition-era hot spot whose entertainment fare included, at various times, theater, dinner, dancing and casino gambling.

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Lacking other funds to pay for renovation, park board members say they'll tear the building down and replace it with a smaller clubhouse if the referendum fails.

That could be done without a tax increase, but it would erase a unique landmark that has meant much to Wheeling residents over the years — and still should.

The tax increase would amount to an additional \$21.05 a year for someone whose property tax bill is now \$2,500. That's a reasonable price to pay to save a piece of history that doubles as a pretty good place to throw a party. The Daily Herald recommends a YES vote.

Wheeling park board

In an earlier editorial, the Daily Herald reported that three seats are available on Wheeling Park District board in Tuesday's election. In fact, four are available. We reiterate our support for incumbents Francine Melamed, Mark Parkinson and Thomas Webber.

For the fourth seat, Kenneth R. Kent, R. Michael Kurgan and Paul G. Phillip all offer some interesting ideas, and their willingness to serve is commendable. Of those, Phillip already has shown the most willingness to serve by his regular attendance at board meetings, including a 10-hour budget workshop. He is endorsed.

Paddock

Edgar's indecision may cost Republic

Gov. Jim Edgar's all-options-remain-open strategy may turn out to be a smart one for school funding, but that same approach may backfire on his party's political future.

Moderate-to-liberal members of the GOP especially should be worried about the potential problems created while Edgar indulges himself in a Hamlet-like soliloquy: "To be governor again or not to be..."

For while he continues to ruminate, state Sen. Peter G. Fitzgerald of Inverness plows forward with a Senate bid that will appeal mostly to the party's more conservative wing. And incumbent Democrat Carol Moseley-Braun has begun stockpiling the cash she will need to try to reprise her role as a senator of historic symbolism, while Republican Congressman John E. Porter, a social moderate, has taken a pass on the top-of-the-ticket Senate race.

"It tends to put other possible candidates on hold," Porter said of Edgar's indecision.

Still, Porter added, "I think people have to make the decision in their own minds as to whether they want to run."

Edgar could help his party and his party's ticket from top to bottom by making up his mind — and announcing his decision — sooner rather than later.

Madeleine Doubek

Political editor



Senate candidates will need to raise \$2 million to \$3 million in \$1,000 to \$5,000 increments for a contested primary. And while Moseley-Braun is vulnerable in Illinois, she has national stature and remains popular among campaign contributors outside the state.

Edgar's aides note the governor never announced his intentions until at least July or August before his 1990 and 1994 runs. That may well be true, but it was obvious what Edgar was going to do in both those years. And before the 1990 race, Republicans pretty much had coalesced around former Rep. Lynn Martin as their choice to take on then-Sen. Paul Simon.

Whether they had an early start or not, whether they coalesced or not, Republicans have not had their hands on a Senate seat since 1984, when Charles Percy lost to Simon. By Election Day next year, it will have been two decades since Percy, and the GOP, last

won a Senate seat in Illinois.

So an early start certainly wouldn't hurt and could only help as Moseley-Braun continues to raise cash. But while Edgar keeps all his options open and toys with notions of a third term, retirement or a Senate run, he has frozen most other potential candidates in their tracks. "The governor hasn't made up his mind," state Comptroller Loleta Didrickson said Wednesday. "That says that all the rest of us continue to explore all options."

A moderate woman some observers believe would match up well with Moseley-Braun, Didrickson says she also is considering a run for governor or re-election. She will not narrow her focus until Edgar does.

And Didrickson's frame of mind did not change even after Edgar told a radio reporter earlier this week that he has told others considering a Senate bid: "Don't hold back because of the fact that I have not made a decision."

It would appear that all but Fitzgerald are holding back.

"I'm not running for the Senate right now," former Senate candidate Al Salvi of the Wauconda area said, "but I'm not closing the door either."

Didrickson said, "For me to con-

tinue to explore, the next step would be support of the Republican Party leadership community.

Ironically, it is a member of a wealthy family who could delug money. But Fitzgerald is back. He is and advisers in this week and tract with one c

Fitzgerald left after Salvi lost Durbin. "He's a fine record, but out of line," Salvi said.

The state is ahead of Didrickson's aggressively go wants. "It's all about it's all about it and being served we put up with "It's an expensive order to do it about winning."

The primary away. So far, Edgar, has not he cares about seat. Fitzgerald Republican v cares about wit



Childrens' youth skating on thin ice

WASHINGTON — At 14, Tara Lipinski won the world figure skating title over the weekend in Switzerland, making her — in the odd formulation of one news account — the youngest "woman" ever to do so and prompting her agent to suggest she "can be a huge role model for kids." If that's going to be the case, let us hope she stops skating and goes right back to school.

Not a chance — I know. Lipinski, in fact, has three tutors who work with her four hours a day and since they are paid by her family and not, you understand, by the county or the state, they probably know better than to assign too much homework. Anyway, the triple toe loop requires little in the way of reading comprehension.

The statistics on Lipinski are impressive. Nevermind that she is but a wee 4-foot, 8-inches from the ice to the top of her smiling head and weighs but a mere 75 pounds. More to the point, she has had an agent since the age of 13, could make as much as \$1 million in the coming year and might, her agent mused, endorse products aimed at "women" about her age — milk and Wonder Bread were mentioned. She already endorses a line of Canadian skating outfits

Richard Cohen



the sort. She is a rare success story. The children who will emulate her are hardly likely to do as well.

And yet, on a given day in America countless children are mindlessly swimming laps or skating in circles. They are playing golf, shooting baskets or delaying puberty through rigorous gymnastics workouts. Either they believe or their parents believe — or, more likely, they all believe — that all this hard effort will pay off with incredible fame and just as incredible riches. Not so.

We are told that the odds of a high school athlete playing any sport professionally are about 10,000 to 1. Yet America believes otherwise and in the black community, sports has almost a religious power — like a belief in heaven. There, 66 percent of black teenagers think they can make a living at sports, according to Northeastern University's Center for the

Show business people tell the same tale. A few child actors go on to success as adults — Elizabeth Taylor and Kurt Russell come to mind — but most don't.

Mozart was a child prodigy and the world is better for it. He was composing by the age of 5, performing not much later. But his gift was so rare, so Godlike (Amadeus means "beloved of God"), that his life teaches no lessons. Nowadays, though, we are seeing the widespread infantilization of sports — and that is a different story. Gymnastics, tennis, skating and basketball can be played very well by teenagers — and who knows what sport is next? Mozart died young, but he was not washed up at 19.

What we are really talking about here is the near-mad yearning of parents to achieve success through their children. The most tragic example of that caused the death of Jessica Dubroff, who at the age of 7 was flying across the country in a stunt that amounted to nothing less than child abuse. What, exactly, was supposed to follow? Endorsements? A child's airplane?

Now it is Lipinski's turn for the star turn. In the published reports, we are assured that all is fine with her and that her coaches, agents

FENCE

letters to the Please limit letters to be signed and include telephone numbers. anonymously. Letter to Fence Post, P.O. IL 60006. Fax to Fer E-mail to fencepost

Opened u

The people o need a leader. We have watch Craig Johnson the tantrums administration assured that t takes are take consideration, cence.

We applaud his fight to bri into open, allo have some ch village matter being present subjects we must of the residen chance to stud about alternat dent Craig Jol have more op the process of lage.

This is our o change "busir elect Craig Jo

Rettberg

After checki both candidat Elk Grove Vill the conclusion is the candida

He is lookin industrial park This needs to have a strong too much idle tions around l waste. Elk Gr have gone sta ness growth i

I have lived since 1972. Th have seen Scl man Estates ; area, more bu and especially

We in Elk G new leadersh lage presiden and meet this Paul Rettbe ership during construction library He al

Chevy Chase...

Wheeling's Heartbeat of History

*We, Friends of Chevy Chase, wholeheartedly support passing the April 1 Wheeling Park District referendum to **SAVE AND RENOVATE** the Chevy Chase Clubhouse in Wheeling, 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue. We strongly encourage you to **VOTE "YES" on April 1. Punch 246.***

(Remember: the words "Chevy Chase" do not appear on the ballot.)

Monday night country western dancers
Tuesday night country western dancers
Wednesday night ballroom dancers

Barbara Abraham

Judy Abruscato

Laurel and Bob Anderson

Pat Armitage

Dave and Dianne Bachmann

Karop and Marilyn Bavougian

Rick and Gail Benedetto

Ron and Mary Lou Berrie

Darlene Brill

Lillian Brill

Connie Bytner

Marv Call

Edward and Marianne Chmelar

Stan and Rose Cota

Sam and Irene Dattilo

Christine and Paul Doose

Dennis and Linda Drake

Kathleen Drake

Gary and Janet Fauser

Barbara Forke

Margaret Forke

Richard H. Goldberg

Wedge and Pat Hancock

Lee Hansen

Elizabeth L. Hartman

Skip Hedlund

Robert J. Heer

Dolly Hein

George Hernandez

Gary and JoAnn Hittleman

Pat Horcher

Donna Hugh

Doug and Sally Jensen

Steve and Michelle Jensen

Randy and Helma Johnson

Kevin, Cynthia and Chelsea Kane

Joe and Hama Katagiri

Nobi Kay

Kenneth R. Kent

Greg Klatecki

Andy Klumpp

Cheri and Steve Klumpp

Alderman Greg Koeppen

Phyllis J. Korogodsky, CFP

John and Jackie Krajewski

John and Kate Kulczuga

R. Michael Kurgan

Fred LaCerra

Marilyn and Bob Lewis

Kevin and Cathy Markiewicz

Paula Mata

Laura McDonald

Fred and Joanne McGowan

Glenn and Kathy Meier

Francine Melamed

Jack and Virginia Metzger

Don and Marie Moore

Mary Mozal

Barbara Mundy

Jan Obrand

Mark and Jackie Parkinson

Carrie Pearson

Lynn Pearson

Paul G. Philipp

David and Bonnie Phillips

Sandy Pifer

Steve Pohlman

Mary Lou Quinn

Vernon and Bonnie Rieb

Julia Robberson

William A. Rogers

Bob and Juanita Sachs

Sandra Salazar

Bertha Sanchez

Frank and Lonnie Schnaitmann

John and Sharon Schomer

Terry Schraub

Bea Schuler

Sheila H. Schultz

Bob Schuppe

Jeanne and John Selander

Bill and Elaine Simpson

Andy and Dolly Snyders

William C. Spangenberg

Lillian W. Stiller

Wally and Rita Stryszyk

Dr. Ian W. Taylor

Gertrude Trunda

Vern and Vivian Verstraete

The Webber Family

Barbara Weder

Don and Pinky Wennerstrom

Wayne J. Wisinski

3X Copy Center

Am-Vets Post 66

AR-K-TEKS Unlimited

Bob Chinn's CrabHouse

Card and Party Outlet, Ltd.

Centennial Title Inc.

Convenient Printing Inc.

Crawdaddy Bayou

D. Brill & Associates

Daniello's Restaurant

Don Roth's Restaurant

Eros Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlour

Golden Chef Restaurant

Hackney's in Wheeling

Hans' Bavarian Lodge

Harry Caray's Restaurant - Wheeling

In Working Order

Joe's Pizza

Lake Cook Distributors

Lewis Paper Place, Inc.

The MITEC Corporation

Northbrook Hilton and

Allgauer's on the Riverfront

Pita Inn

Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza

Wheeling Archery Club

Wheeling Chapter AARP 4384

Wheeling.com

Wheeling Historical Society

Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber of

Commerce

Wheeling Village Board

Chevy Chase...

Wheeling's Heartbeat of History



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Trevor Lehmann

Marilyn and Bob Lewis

Kevin and Cathy Markiewicz

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Am-Vets Post 66

ARK-TEKS Unlimited

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Christine and Paul Doose
Dennis and Linda Drake
Kathleen Drake
Gary and Janet Fauser
Barbara Forke
Margaret Forke
Richard H. Goldberg
Wedge and Pat Hancock
Lee Hansen
Elizabeth L. Hartman
Skip Hedlund
Robert J. Heer
Dolly Hein
George Hernandez
Gary and JoAnn Hittleman
Pat Horcher
Donna Hugh
Doug and Sally Jensen
Steve and Michelle Jensen
Randy and Helma Johnson
Kevin, Cynthia and Chelsea Kane
Joe and Hama Katagiri
Nobi Kay
Kenneth R. Kent
Greg Klatecki

Jack and Virginia Metzger
Jim W. Miller
Don and Marie Moore
Mary Mozal
Barbara Mundy
Jan Obrand
Mark and Jackie Parkinson
Carrie Pearson
Lynn Pearson
Paul G. Philipp
David and Bonnie Phillips
Sandy Pifer
Steve Pohlman
Mary Lou Quinn
Vernon and Bonnie Rieb
Julia Robberson
William A. Rogers
Bob and Juanita Sachs
Sandra Salazar
Bertha Sanchez
Frank and Lonnie Schnaitmann
John and Sharon Schomer
Terry Schraub
Bea Schuler
Sheila H. Schultz
Bob Schuppe
Jeanne and John Selander
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Bob Chinn's CrabHouse
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Daniello's Restaurant
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Eros Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlour
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Hackney's in Wheeling
Hans' Bavarian Lodge
Harry Caray's Restaurant - Wheeling
In Working Order
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Pita Inn
Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza
Wheeling Archery Club
Wheeling Chapter AARP 4384
Wheeling.com
Wheeling Historical Society
Wheeling/Prospect Heights Chamber
of Commerce
Wheeling Village Board

Paid For By Friends of Chevy Chase



Friends of Chevy Chase

P. O. Box 682

Wheeling, Illinois 60090



POLLING PLACES

Precinct	Polling Place	Address
1	Wheeling Park District	251 N. Wolf Rd.
9	Amvets Post 66	700 McHenry Rd.
27, 37	Mark Twain School Dist. 21	515 E. Merle Lane
30, 76	Harmony Village	1 Fern
33	Walt Whitman School Dist. 21	133 S. Wille Ave.
48, 50	Jack London Jr. High School	1001 W. Dundee Rd.
49	Wheeling Park District	222 S. Wolf Rd.
55	Arlington Club Condos	1610 Newburn Court
74, 137	Kenneth F. Gill Admin. Center	999 W. Dundee Rd.
79, 83	Indian Trails Public Library	355 S. Schoenbeck Rd.
93	Village of Wheeling	255 W. Dundee Rd.
98	River Trails Condominium Assn.	811 Apple Dr.
105, 108	Lexington Commons Condos	548 Lexington Dr.
107	Lakeside Villas	794 Lakeside Circle Dr.

Precinct	Polling Place	Address
116	Robert Frost School	1805 Aspen Dr.
125	Cedar Run Development	601 Cedar Run Dr.
127	Chelsea Cove Condominiums	300 N. Denoyer
129, 140	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd	1111 N. Elmhurst Rd.
130, 144	Tahoe Village Condominiums	1771 Tahoe Circle Dr.
133	Prospect Heights Community Church	400 N. Elmhurst Rd.
138	Willow Heights Condominiums	844 Old Willow Rd.

CHEVY CHASE CLUBHOUSE REFERENDUM RESULTS: APRIL 1, 1997

PCT. #	YES (%)	YES	NO	PCT. #	YES (%)	YES	NO
1	71.68%	162	64	98	34.62%	9	17
9	63.46%	99	57	105	77.11%	64	19
27	63.31%	157	91	107	59.04%	49	34
30	61.46%	59	37	108	75.34%	55	18
33	58.95%	135	94	116	29.91%	35	82
37	65.05%	67	36	125	62.00%	62	38
48	60.69%	88	57	127	56.96%	45	34
49	55.73%	146	116	129	50.00%	40	40
50	61.44%	137	86	130	62.90%	39	23
55	55.94%	113	89	133	54.55%	30	25
74	67.80%	139	66	137	64.06%	164	92
76	61.02%	36	23	138	45.00%	9	11
79	51.14%	45	43	140	62.90%	78	46
83	50.00%	10	10	144	76.58%	85	26
93	60.42%	116	76	255	91.43%	32	3
	SUBTOTAL	1509	945		SUBTOTAL	796	508
GRAND TOTAL	61.34%	2305	1453				

A:\CHEVYCHS\RESULTS.WPD

189 PHILIP	19.6%	53				
190 KENNETH R. KENT	17.0%	46				
191 R. MICHAEL KURJAN	12.2%	33				
192 MARK PARKINSON	17.4%	47				
193 THOMAS R. WEBBER	15.9%	43				
194 FRANCESCA MELAMED	17.7%	48				
INDIAN TRAILS LIB-4Y... (4)						
215 WYNE E. WEISS	25.4%	63				
216 DORIS WADDER	26.6%	66				
217 EARL M. SYBES	23.7%	59				
218 DONALD L. ROBLKUM	24.1%	60				
INDIAN TRAILS LIB-2Y... (1)						
221 LEON R. SHURE	100.0%	64				
WHEELING PK DST PROP... (1)						
246 YES	77.1%	64				
249 NO	22.8%	19				

SPRING 1997



WHEELING PARK DISTRICT Program/Facilities Brochure

Activities

Special Events 10, 11
Youth Sports . . . 28-34

Early Childhood . . . 13-15
Aquatic Center 40

Variety 23-27
Mature Adults 41, 42



“CHEVY CHASE...A WHEELING PLACE”

- Centennial Gala
- Family Celebrations
- School District Events



- Chamber Functions
- Madrigal Dinners
- Community Meetings

• Service Clubs: Lions, Rotary, Jaycees

It's Your Choice! VOTE April 1, 1997

WELCOME

Board of Park Commissioners



Commissioners Left to Right

Tom Webber, Bill Mattes (Vice President), Dennis Drake, Greg Klatecki (President), Mark Parkinson, Cheri Klumpp, and Fran Melamed.



Take Time for Fun!

Wheeling Park District

Wheeling Park District

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the Mission of the Wheeling Park District to provide for the present and future leisure needs of the community through the provision of recreational programs, facilities, and open space in an efficient and economical manner, and to provide wholesome, constructive and enjoyable leisure-time experiences that benefit the individual and the community of Wheeling.

Adopted August 9, 1990

Dear Residents:

VOTE!! That's all I'm asking!! The Wheeling Park District is going to referendum on Tuesday, April 1 to be able to renovate Chevy Chase Country Club as a banquet facility. YOU—the public came out and told us to keep Chevy at the December 3, 1996 Public Hearing. In order to renovate (See page 24) we must ask for an increase in the Park District corporate tax rate to be able to cover the cost. PLEASE—YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT!

Our new and improved Childerley Park will be re-dedicated at the Holiday Hunt on Saturday, March 29. Come on out and join us for a morning of activities. There are some great new adult workshops to look forward to. From "Dinner in Minutes" to a "May Day Basket" craft, I'm sure you'll find one to suit your needs. You can look forward to the Day Camp registration for the summer as well as the "Early Bird" Aquatic Center pass. And it's never too late to start working out at the Fitness Center!!!

Remember—we're always looking for your input and the Board meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the CRC.

Greg Klatecki
President, Board of Commissioners

Park District Board Meetings
are the first and third Tuesdays
of each month.

STAFF

Director of Parks and Recreation	Karop T. Bavougian, CLP
Superintendent of Recreation	Steve Pohlman, CLP
Superintendent of Clubhouse Services	Roger Christensen
Superintendent of Golf Services	Steve Schiller
Superintendent of Finance and Personnel	Thomas Busby
Superintendent of Parks & Planning	Mark Harrison, RLA
Asst. Supt. of Parks & Planning	Mitch Cohen
Asst. Supt. of Recreation	Jan Buchs
Asst. Supt. of Clubhouse	Keith Morgan
Greens Superintendent	Tom McDonald
Safety Coordinator	Amy Rivas
Fitness/Athletics Coordinator	Jan Arnold
Aquatics/Special Events Coordinator	Michelle Bobbora, CLP
Recreation Supervisor	Marv Call
Athletic Supervisor	Brien Halterman
Preschool/Tot Coordinator	Colleen Farrell
Recreation Coordinator	Laurakathleen Fre
Recreation Coordinator	Cindy Schaar
Promotions/Special Events Coordinator	Trudy Wakeman, CLP

Resident Lottery March 19

Family name _____ Home phone _____

Address _____ Town _____ Zip _____

Please complete the following for youth programs

Father's name _____ Work Phone _____

Mother's name _____ Work Phone _____

Please include a photocopy of BIRTH CERTIFICATE or HOSPITAL CERTIFICATE for Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood programs.

How did you find out about this program _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT: Check Charge: MasterCard VISA Discover Signature: _____

For Charge Customers Only: Charge Account Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

CODE NO.	PROGRAM NAME	DATE(S)	DAY(S)	TIME	*FEE	NAME OF PARTICIPANT	GRD	SEX	BIRTH DATE

***NOTE:** \$6.00 Service Charge for any check returned by the bank.

The Wheeling Park District welcomes individuals with disabilities into programs. Please describe any accommodation needed for successful inclusion in this/these program(s): _____

WHEELING PARK DISTRICT WAIVER & RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS THIS WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED IN ORDER TO REGISTER

The Wheeling Park District, a member of Park District Risk Management Association, is complying with the Association's regulation by including a waiver and release of all claims, form to be signed by adults 18 years old and over, residents and non-residents, when participating in park district programs. This regulation is an attempt to hold down insurance costs and assure adequate coverage for the Agencies' programs and services.

RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

Participants 18 years of age or older and parents of participants under the age of 18 should read this form carefully and be aware that in signing up and participating in this program you will waiving and releasing all claims for injuries or damages you might personally sustain which might arise out of this program.

As a participant in this program (or as a parent of a minor participant), I recognize and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury and I agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, damages or loss which I may sustain as a result of participating (or as a result of my minor child's participation) in such program as against the Park District, its officers, agents, servants and employees.

I do hereby fully release and discharge the Park District and its officers, agents, servants, and employees from any and all claims from injuries, damage or loss which I may have or which may accrue to me on account of my participation (or on account of my minor child's participation) in the program.

I further agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Park District and its officers, agents, servants and employees from any and all claims resulting from injuries, damages, and losses sustained by me and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with the activities of the program (or with my minor child's participation in the activities of the program).

I give permission for any photos taken of me, or my minor child, by the park district to be used for promotional purposes.

I have read and fully understand the Program Details & Waiver & Release of all Claims:

SIGN FOR EACH PROGRAM LISTED ON APPLICATION

1. Program _____
Signature _____ Date _____
2. Program _____
Signature _____ Date _____
3. Program _____
Signature _____ Date _____
4. Program _____
Signature _____ Date _____
5. Program _____
Signature _____ Date _____
6. Program _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Make additional copies if needed.

USE THIS FORM FOR: YOUTH SPORTS/CAMPS

DATE _____ PAYMENT _____

Code - Activity _____ Location/Division _____ Session _____
Code - Activity _____ Location/Division _____ Session _____
Code - Activity _____ Location/Division _____ Session _____

Name _____ Address _____

Town _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Sex M _____ F _____ Age _____

School _____ Grade _____ Birthdate ____/____/____ Height _____ Weight _____

Father's Name _____ Phone (home) _____ Phone (work) _____

Mother's Name _____ Phone (home) _____ Phone (work) _____

Please describe any accommodations needed for successful inclusion in the program(s):

Friendship Request: Friend's Name _____ Activity Code _____

FOR SPORTS:

If child played last season, what team? Sport #1 _____ Sport #2 _____

Would you like to volunteer as a: Head Coach _____ Asst. Coach _____ Are you NYSCA Certified? Yes No

If you would like to volunteer as a coach, please come to the Community Recreation Center, 333 W. Dundee Road, and fill out a coach's application.

FOR CAMPS:

BUS SERVICE CODE # - CODE # - CODE # -

Complex or nearest cross street _____

KAMP KEEPERS

Before Camp CODE # - CODE # - CODE # -

After Camp CODE # - CODE # - CODE # -

CAMP LEARN TO SWIM—Level Name _____

Medical Information:

Family Physician _____ Phone _____

Please list any conditions/restrictions/behaviors we should be aware of: _____

Please list all medications & times taken _____

Emergency Contact: (other than parent/guardian)

Name _____ Relationship _____

Town _____ Phone (home) _____ Phone (work) _____

PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN WAIVER ON BACK

MAIL WITH PAYMENT AND SIGNED WAIVER TO: WHEELING PARK DISTRICT, 333 W. DUNDEE RD., WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090

VARIETY

MEDITATION

Discover the many ways to explore, experience and understand meditation. It will help you relax, relieve stress, calm your conscious mind, and be in touch with your true feelings and in tune with your inner nature. Learn how to make meditation a part of your daily life.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	FEE
1221-2	5/17	Sa	1-3:30 PM	Adult	\$17

DECIPHERING YOUR DREAMS

Dreams are a bridge between the conscious and subconscious minds. They're a mirror image of a person's mind in motion, reflecting their true feelings, thoughts, ideas and experiences. Learn to remember, understand and interpret your dreams and see how your dreams can help you in your everyday life.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	FEE
1221-1	4/26	Sa	1-4 PM	Adult	\$17

SWIMSUIT SAVVY

Summer is almost here and it's time to select a suit that looks great on you! Learn how to work with your figure to choose a flattering style by accentuating your best features and minimizing your "problem" areas. With the right cut and style, you'll see how you can actually look taller and thinner! Bring your swimsuits along for input. Handouts will be provided to help you shop.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1202-1	5/14	W	7-8:30 PM	Adult	\$15/\$22

MARVELOUS MANICURES

Save time and money by learning how to give yourself a manicure in just one hour—including drying time! Fee includes a complete manicure set, polish and carrying case.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1202-3	5/7	W	7-9 PM	11-15 yrs	\$15/\$22
1202-4	4/15	Tu	7-9 PM	Adult	\$15/\$22

EXPLORE YOUR HAIRSTYLE FANTASIES

Looking for a new look this Spring? Through computer technology, you may choose from hundreds of styles and colors to see on yourself...risk free! A great way to see what lengths, colors and shapes fit best on your face. You'll receive twelve pictures of yourself with twelve different hairstyles. It'll be easy to show your stylist your favorite "do".

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1202-5	4/24	Th	6-9 PM	Adult	\$20/\$30

SUPER SAVINGS SEMINAR

Learn how to save money on groceries, dining out, repairs to your home, and even how to go to Hawaii absolutely free! Simplify your life, become more efficient and save money—all at the same time! This seminar is sure to be a real learning experience.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1221-4	5/8	Th	7-8:30 PM	16 yrs+	\$6/\$9

COMPUTER CLASSES

Designed for both beginning students and those wishing to refresh their computer skills. Each registrant has use of a computer during class time.

LOCATION CRC
AGE Adult

CODE	CLASS	DATE	DAY	TIME	FEE
1299-1	Intro to PC/ Windows 95	3/31-4/14	M	1-4 PM	\$165
1299-2	Intro to PC/ Windows 95	3/31-4/14	M	7-10 PM	\$165
1299-3	Intro to Keyboard/ Mouse/WP	4/5-4/12	Sa	9:30 AM- 12:30 PM	\$120
1299-4	Intro to WP 6.1 for Windows	4/19-4/26	Sa	9:30 AM- 12:30 PM	\$120
1299-5	Intro to Micro Word 7.0 Windows 95	4/28-5/5	M	1-4 PM	\$120
1299-6	Intro for Form Letters, Mail Merge, Micro Word for Windows 95	4/28	M	7-9 PM	\$ 45
1299-7	Intro to Windows 95/File Management	5/3-5/10	Sa	9:30- 11 AM	\$ 85
1299-8	Intro to Micro/ Windows 95	5/12-5/19	M	1-4 PM	\$120
1299-9	Intro to Micro/ Windows 95	5/12-5/19	M	7-10 PM	\$120

CHEVY CHASE CLUBHOUSE REFERENDUM

APRIL 1, 1997

“IT’S YOUR CHOICE”

YES or NO

Due to the overwhelming outcry to **save and renovate** the Chevy Chase Clubhouse, during the Public Hearing of December 3, 1996, the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners have authorized placing on the April 1, 1997 ballot a referenda question for a tax rate increase of .075% which would be used to **save and renovate the Chevy Chase Clubhouse!**

OPTIONS:

The Park District Board considered four options of which three would require a tax rate increase. Of the four options requiring a tax rate increase the overwhelming choice of those attending the Public Hearing and replying to the Chevy Chase Questionnaire was to **save and renovate the Chevy Chase Clubhouse.**

If the Tax Rate Referenda Passes: Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be **saved** and renovated.

If the Tax Rate Referenda Fails: Chevy Chase Clubhouse will be **torn down** and a much smaller golf clubhouse will be built without banquet facilities or the need for a tax rate increase.



Wheeling's Largest Celebration...Hosted at Chevy Chase

COST:

The Park District Board originally considered asking for a .10% tax rate increase in the Corporate Fund to accomplish renovation of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse. The Park District Board has prudently reviewed the costs of renovation and has **reduced its original consideration by 25%**. The tax rate increase request will be for .075%.

What Will A .075% Tax Rate Increase In The Corporate Fund Mean To Your Tax Bill?

Current Annual Tax Bill	Approximate Additional Cost Increase		
	Per Year	Per Month	Per Day
\$1,500	\$12.63	\$1.05	4 cents
\$2,000	\$16.84	\$1.40	5 cents
\$2,500	\$21.05	\$1.75	6 cents
\$3,000	\$25.26	\$2.11	7 cents
\$3,500	\$29.46	\$2.46	8 cents
\$4,000	\$33.68	\$2.81	9 cents
\$4,500	\$37.88	\$3.16	10 cents

HOW WILL THE REFERENDUM QUESTION APPEAR ON THE BALLOT?

The ballot question wording is dictated by the State of Illinois Park District Code, which does **not allow** the words “**Chevy Chase Clubhouse**” to be placed on the ballot. The ballot to approve the **saving and renovating of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse** will read as follows:

Shall the Wheeling Park District, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois be authorized to levy and collect an additional tax of .075% for all corporate purposes as provided in Section 5-3 of “The Park District Code”?	YES	
	NO	

- (a) The approximate amount of taxes extended for corporate purposes under the maximum rate now in force in said Park District is the sum of \$705,250.
- (b) The approximate amount of taxes extendible for corporate purposes under the proposed rate is the sum of \$1,234,187.

MAY DAY BASKET

A unique basket with a pre-made dried flower handle, filled with roses, larkspur, heather, ferns and greenery. Perfect for Mothers Day or May Day.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1214-1	4/24	Th	7-9 PM	Adult	\$38

PANSY GERANIUM AND IVY TOWER

A triple stacked tower of terra cotta pots stacked and planted with fresh ivy intermingled with pansies and geraniums. Beautiful centerpiece that can be re-planted to last each season.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1214-2	5/15	Th	7-9 PM	Adult	\$48

CONTAINER GARDENING

A slide lecture on lush hanging baskets, window boxes, containers and many original ideas. Discussion on cultures, creative combinations, care tips, and a new recipe for aging containers that really works! Demonstration on planting a flower tower.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1214-3	4/29	Tu	7-9 PM	Adult	\$8/\$12

CREATING A KEEPSAKE ALBUM

Do you stuff your photos in shoeboxes and drawers? Or are they stored in an album that chemically destroys your timeless photo? Learn how to create a safe, beautiful and personalized album in this hands-on workshop. Using simple, creative techniques, you will make your own sample pages with your own photos! Please bring 8-12 recent photos, a pen, and scissors to class. All other supplies are included.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1221-0	4/10	Th	7-9 PM	Adult	\$15/\$22

DINNER IN MINUTES

Too busy to cook? Just follow our simple menus, keep the pantry stocked, and we'll show you how to prepare delicious dinners in minutes. Recipes include Pasta Putanesca, Grilled Chicken and Artichoke Hearts, and many more.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1223-3	5/22	Th	7-10 PM	Adult	\$35/\$52

INDOOR GRILLING

Rely on your stovetop grill for quick, low fat meals all year long. Learn how to grill chicken, fish, vegetables, meats, breads and flavorful marinades and sauces. Stovetop grills can be utilized on gas or electric and will be available at class.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1223-5	5/7	W	7-10 PM	Adult	\$35/\$52

LIGHT 'N EASY PASTA

Kitchen tips on proper pasta cooking, pasta selection, olive oils and more! Among the tempting light 'n easy recipes... Artichoke Hearts in Salsa Rosa, Fettucini With Smoked Salmon, and Ziti in Lemon-Herbed Sauce.

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE	RES/NR
1223-1	4/8	Tu	7-10 PM	Adult	\$35/\$52



DOG OBEDIENCE

Teach your dog to stand for veterinary exam, sit, stay, heel, and come when called.

PLEASE NOTE: First class, without dog, is mandatory. Special equipment including a training collar is required and may be purchased at the first class. Required immunizations must be current and documented by your vet. A current fecal, within two weeks of start of class, is required.

AGE	Dog	4 mos & older
	Handler	12 yrs & older

LOCATION CRC

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	RES/NR
1217-0	4/16-5/21	W	7-8:30 PM	\$65/\$98

POSITIVE PARENTING CLASS **NEW!!**

Would you like to improve your parenting skills and help your child reach maximum potential? Join Fran Collins, School District #21 Special Education teacher, who will help you learn new techniques for better communication and ways to increase your child's confidence and self-esteem, leading to a more responsible student. Babysitting available; see Kids Korner for information.

LOCATION CRC 102
FEE RES \$5/NR \$8

CODE	DATE	DAY	TIME	AGE
1612-1	4/9-5/14	W	9:30-11 AM	Adult
1612-2	4/9-5/14	W	7-8:30 PM	Adult

CHEVYCHASE COUNTRY CLUB

COUNTRY WESTERN NIGHTS

Every Monday and Tuesday Nights in the Main Ballroom you can side step your way to an evening of Country Western dancing. A D.J. plays the latest Billy Ray or Clint Black songs to dance to. Pizza, beverages, and cash bar available all evening.

LOCATION	Chevy Chase Country Club Main Ballroom
DAY	Every Monday and Tuesday
TIME	7-11 PM
DANCE LESSONS	7:30-9 PM
FEE	\$4 per person
AGE	18 yrs +

Couples Night is the last Thursday of the month \$4 per person from 7-11 PM



FAMILY COUNTRY WESTERN DANCES

Bring the whole family out for a night of Country Western Dancing. Let's teach them when they're young!! Scheduled for one Sunday a month. Call Chevy Chase for further information. Why not plan your **Birthday Party** around Family Night! \$8 per person includes: admission to dance, reserved table, 2 pitchers of pop per table, 1 slice of pizza, and a Decorated Cake.



BANQUET FACILITIES

Private parties, wedding reception, business meetings. Chevy Chase Country Club is the place to do it all. Our three banquet rooms can accommodate from 30 to 600 guests. All rooms include dance floors, fully stocked bars, air conditioned comfort, a public address system and a breathtaking view of our golf course.

BOOKING BANQUETS THROUGH 1998



BIG BAND BALLROOM DANCING

Every Wednesday evening in the Main Ballroom, a 10 piece band will provide the music to quick step, fox trot or samba. Doors are open at 8-11:30 PM with FREE dance lesson by Tom & Agnes DeBartolo beginning at 8 PM. \$10 per person at the door. Come to the "Best Place to go Dancing" in the northwest suburbs by the Pioneer Press (1994 Readers Choice Awards).



Take Time for Fun!

Wheeling Park District

CHEVYCHASE GOLF COURSE



**Chevy Chase
Country Club**

A facility of the Wheeling Park District

The 75 year old Chevy Chase Golf Course has been accredited and rated by CDGA (Chicago District Golf Association) status while owned and operated by the Wheeling Park District the past 17 years.

This full length course is:

Par 72

6,520 total yards (shortest being 121 yds, longest 563 yds.)

1 lake

2 ponds

13 water holes

4 levels of tees from short to championship

Ladies & Mens Locker Room

Pro Shop

Gable Room and Bar (Breakfast and lunch service)

GOLF OUTINGS

Does your company or organization hold an outing each year? We are accepting reservations for 1997 outings an excellent choice of tee times and dates for weekend or weekday outings. A \$2.00 per person deposit is required to hold reservations. Minimum number of golfers: 32 weekdays, 48 weekends/holidays. **DINNER IS REQUIRED WITH ALL OUTINGS.**

GIFT IDEAS FOR THE GOLFER IN YOUR LIFE

1. **PRO SHOP MERCHANDISE** – A complete line of clubs, bags, golf balls, gloves, hats, caps, shirts and jackets at a terrific savings.
2. **PERSONALIZED GOLF BALLS** – Buy custom printed balls (name, logo, or phrase). Allow up to three weeks order time for imprinting balls.
3. **GIFT CERTIFICATES** – Can be purchased for green fees, golf cart, or Pro Shop merchandise.
4. **HANDICAP SERVICE** – Handicap service through the C.D.G.A. is available at Chevy Chase. A certified handicap is necessary for tournament play and is great for "getting strokes" from your playing partners.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private indoor lessons with our teaching staff are by appointment \$30 per half hour indoors, \$35 per half hour outdoors.

INDOOR GROUP GOLF LESSONS...EVENING

Group lessons are 2 nights per week, Mon./Wed. or Tues./Thurs. for 3 weeks (6 lessons total). Advance registration is required at Chevy Chase.

AGES: Adult

LOCATION: Chevy Chase

DAYS	TIME	DATE	RES/NR
M/W	7-8:15 PM	1/13-1/29	\$40/\$50
T/Th	7-8:15 PM	1/14-1/30	\$40/\$50
M/W	7-8:15 PM	2/3-2/19	\$40/\$50
T/Th	7-8:15 PM	2/4-2/20	\$40/\$50
M/W	7-8:15 PM	2/24-3/12	\$40/\$50
T/Th	7-8:15 PM	2/25-3/13	\$40/\$50
M/W	7-8:15 PM	3/17-4/2	\$40/\$50
T/Th	7-8:15 PM	3/18-4/3	\$40/\$50
M/W	7-8:15 PM	4/7-4/23	\$40/\$50
T/Th	7-8:15 PM	4/8-4/24	\$40/\$50



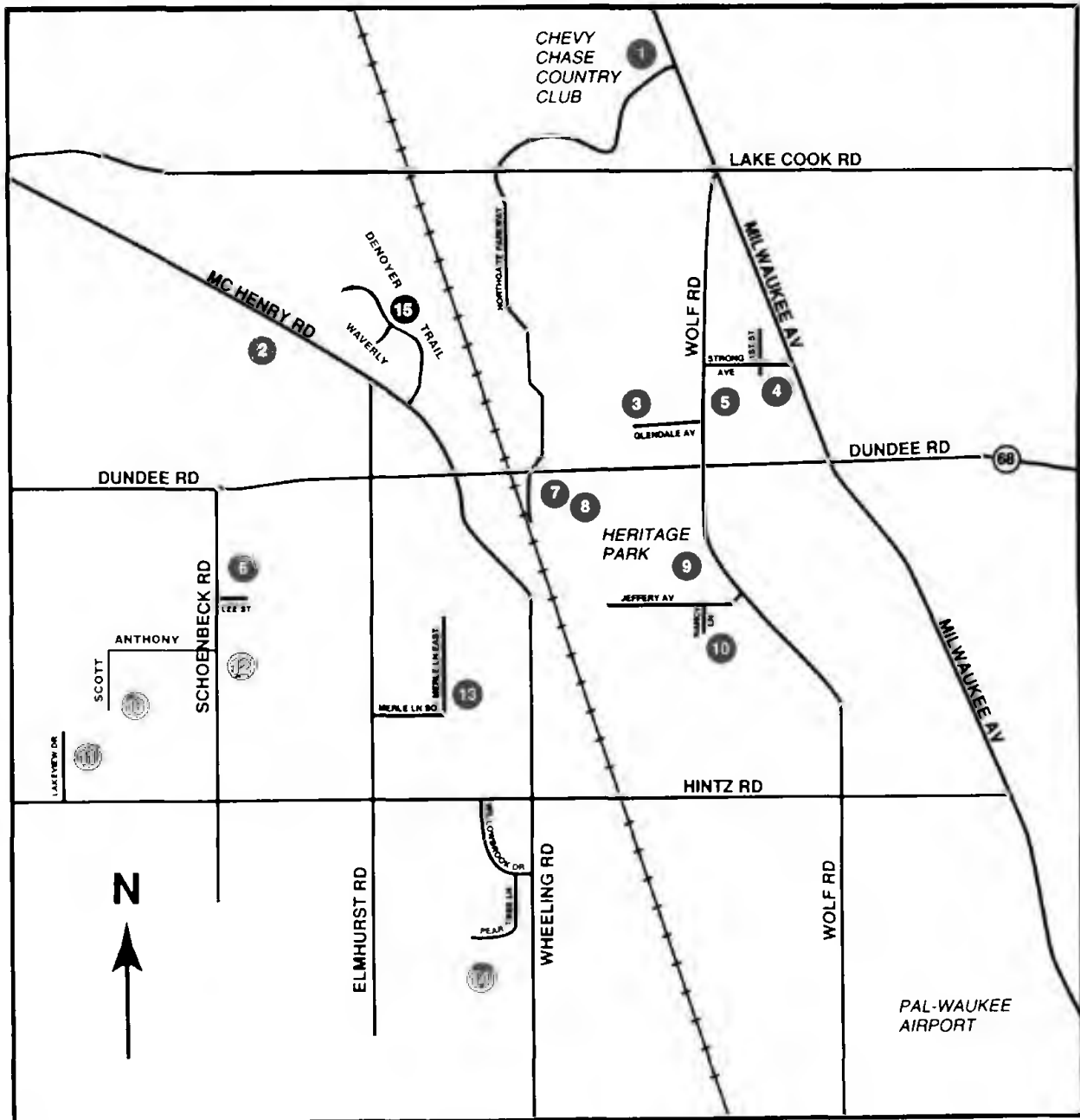
OUTDOOR GROUP GOLF LESSONS

REGISTRATION Begins 4/7 at Chevy Chase

LOCATION Chevy Chase Golf Course

DAY	TIME	DATE	RES/NR
M/W	5:45-7 PM	5/5-5/21	\$55/\$65
Tu/Th	5:45-7 PM	5/6-5/22	\$55/\$65
M/W	9:15-10:30 AM	5/19-6/4	\$55/\$65
M/W	5:45-7 PM	6/2-6/25	\$55/\$65
Tu/Th	5:45-7 PM	6/3-6/26	\$55/\$65
M/W	9:15-10:30 AM	6/9-6/25	\$55/\$65
M/W	5:45-7 PM	6/30-7/23	\$55/\$65
Tu/Th	5:45-7 PM	7/1-7/24	\$55/\$65
M/W	9:15-10:30 AM	6/30-7/16	\$55/\$65
M/W	5:45-7 PM	7/28-8/20	\$55/\$65
Tu/Th	5:45-7 PM	7/29-8/21	\$55/\$65

THE PARKS OF WHEELING



- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Chevy Chase Country Club and Golf Course
1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue | 6. Husky Park
Lee Street | 11. Malibu Park
Lakeview Drive |
| 2. Childerley Park
506 McHenry Road | 7. Community Recreation Center
333 W. Dundee Road | 12. Horizon Park
378 Schoenbeck Road |
| 3. Northside Park
220 Glendale Avenue | 8. Aquatic Center
327 W. Dundee Road | 13. Twain Gym
505 E. Merle |
| 4. Village Pavilion Senior Center
199 First Street | 9. Heritage Park
222 S. Wolf Road | 14. Pleasant Run Park
Pear Tree Lane |
| 5. Chamber Park
251 N. Wolf Road | 10. Meadowbrook Tot Lot
Nancy Lane | 15. Denoyer Park
Waverly Lane |
| | | 16. Tarkington Gym
310 S. Scott Street |

Park hours are 6 AM-10 PM or as posted



LIVE At
Chevy Chase Country Club

B.J. Thomas

Saturday, March 29
7 PM & 10 PM Shows

Remember: "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head" • "Hooked On A Feeling" • "It's Only Love" and "I'm so Lonesome I Could Cry".

Plus: 15 Top 40 Pop hits • 10 Top 40 Country hits • 5 Grammy's • 2 Dove awards • 2 Platinum • 11 Gold Records

Tickets prior to March 14: \$22/\$18

After March 14: \$25/\$20

Charge by phone 847-465-3333

Chevy Chase Country Club

1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. • Wheeling

Wheeling Park District
333 W. Dundee Road
Wheeling, IL 60090

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Torrance, Calif. 90503



SUMMER 1997



WHEELING
PARK DISTRICT



1996 Softball Champions



Fun on the Teeter-Totter



July 4th Parade

Activities

Trips	9
Camps	15-17
Variety	21-22
July 4	23
Mature Adults	28
Aquatic Center	34-38

WELCOME

Board of Park Commissioners



Commissioners Left to Right

Tom Webber (term ends 2001), Bill Mattes—Vice President (term ends 1999), Dennis Drake (term ends 1999), Greg Klatecki—President (term ends 1997), Mark Parkinson (term ends 1997), Cheri Klumpp (term ends 1999) and Fran Melamed (term ends 2001).

Newly Elected Park Commissioners



Paul Philipp



Kenneth Kent

Wheeling Park District

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the Mission of the Wheeling Park District to provide for the present and future leisure needs of the community through the provision of recreational programs, facilities, and open space in an efficient and economical manner, and to provide wholesome, constructive and enjoyable leisure-time experiences that benefit the individual and the community of Wheeling.

Adopted August 9, 1990

Dear Residents:

YOU DID IT!!! Thanks to you and all your support for getting out and voting to save Chevy Chase Country Club. We never could have done it without you! Chevy Chase can now start its planning and design phase over the next 12 months with renovation anticipated to begin in 1999. We have added two new Board of Commissioners to the group. Kenneth Kent and Paul Philipp bring to the group open minds and the ability to look at the Park District as a whole and not just bits and pieces of it. Welcome!!!

This summer is packed with a great line up of summer concerts, golf tournaments, day camp trips and much more. We've also planned a Wheeling Arts Adventure in August which is a great way to see community artists as well as out-of-town crafters and also be a place for the kids to do "hands on" activities. It's another great summer that you won't want to miss at the Wheeling Park District.

Greg Klatecki
Past President, Board of Commissioners

P.S. Thanks for allowing me to serve as a Park Commissioner for eight great years!

Park District Board Meetings
are the first and third Tuesdays
of each month.

STAFF

Director of Parks and Recreation Karop T. Bavougian, CLP
 Superintendent of Recreation Steve Pohlman, CLP
 Superintendent of Clubhouse Services Roger Christensen
 Superintendent of Golf Services Steve Schiller
 Superintendent of Finance and Personnel Thomas Busby
 Superintendent of Parks & Planning Mark Harrison, RLA
 Asst. Supt. of Parks & Planning Mitch Cohen
 Asst. Supt. of Recreation Jan Buchs
 Asst. Supt. of Clubhouse Keith Morgan
 Greens Superintendent Tom McDonald
 Safety Coordinator Amy Rivas
 Fitness/Athletics Coordinator Jan Arnold
 Aquatics/Special Events Coordinator Michelle Bobbora, CLP
 Recreation Supervisor Marv Call
 Athletic Supervisor Brien Halterman
 Preschool/Tot Coordinator Colleen Farrell
 Recreation Coordinator Cindy Schaar
 Promotions/Special Events Coordinator Trudy Wakeman, CLP

CHEVY CHASE COUNTRY CLUB



Chevy Chase Referendum Passes!

Chevy Chase Clubhouse will remain a focal point of our community! Congratulations to the entire community! Your vote and effort allows the Wheeling Park District to keep, renovate and continue the operational life of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse—an important part of our community culture and heritage. For those of you, and there are many, who led the initiative to acquire the Chevy Chase Clubhouse and Golf Course in 1977, the importance of your initial efforts have been validated. You understood the value of this facility twenty years ago and a new generation of residents agreed with your decision of years past.

What will happen now? Chevy Chase has been booking functions into 1998 and will continue to operate as a banquet facility through 1998. As many of you are aware, the Wheeling Park District Board of Commissioners authorized a study of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse which outlined and detailed the work and estimated costs needed to rehabilitate the Chevy Chase Clubhouse—this will be the road map for the required work.

The Park District will engage an architect who will help define the actual scope of work. Plans and specifications for the work will then be developed, which should be completed at the end of 1997, with particular care and emphasis being directed toward the Ballroom and front exterior of the building. It is anticipated that the project would be “bid” in the spring of 1998. By law the Park District must “bid” the work, which is a process where notice is given and contractors submit sealed bids with the lowest qualified bidder being awarded the contract. The bidding and analysis phase is expected to be completed in May/June of 1998, with anticipation of work beginning in 1999 inasmuch as the Ballroom, Devonshire and Wayside rooms will be in use through the end of 1998. There is the possibility that some work could begin on the southern portion of the building, Gable Room, in the fall of 1998 as this section of the building is not used for banquets.

Special acknowledgement needs to be made to all the “Friends of Chevy Chase” Committee who led the charge to save Chevy Chase, but especially to Laurel Anderson, Chairman; Dave Phillips, Administration & Fundraising; Darlene Brill, Promotions; Lee Hansen, Precincts; Gail Benedetto, Phone and Cheri Klumpp, Walkers and Forums. We all thank you!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wheeling Art Adventure

DATE Saturday, August 2

TIME 10 AM-5 PM

LOCATION Community Recreation Center

30-50 Artists

Photography

Jewelry

Soft Sculpture

Wood Carving

Painting

Hand Crafts

Kids Interactive Areas Too!

In Cooperation with: American Society of Artists
Village of Wheeling

Omni Youth Services Caribbean night

DATE Thursday, July 31, 1997

TIME 8 PM-10:30 PM

LOCATION Wheeling Park District Aquatic
Center

COST \$3/per person or
\$10 for a family of 4 or more

Pay at the door or reserve your place by calling
847-537-7357 X3 by July 25th

Activities for children and adults of all ages

Sand Castle Building

Swimming

Sand Volleyball

Live DJ

Limbo Contest

**Pizza, Pop
and dessert**

(Rain date of Thursday, August 7, same place and time)



Co-sponsored by:



MUD VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

You might know how to play volleyball, but how 'bout in mud? Test your team skills as well as standing skills when you try to move on a court made of 6" or more of mud! Teams are co-ed with a maximum of 10 players on the roster. T-shirts and goodie bags for all registered players.

LOCATION Heritage Park Mud Pits

TIME 8:30 AM-4 PM

CODE	DIVISION	DATE	AGE	DAY	FEE
2149-5	Recreational	7/19	All	Sa	\$100
2149-6	Competitive	7/20	All	Su	\$100

The fee for teams that register after 7/1 is \$130/per team

Co-Sponsored by: Tom Todd Chevrolet/Geo



Wheeling voters OK plan to save historic clubhouse

BY DIANA WALLACE
AND BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writers

The "gem" of Wheeling was spared from the wrecking ball Tuesday.

By a wide margin, Wheeling voters agreed to a tax increase to save the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse, a 78-year-old village landmark.

In unofficial results, the referendum received 2,273 "yes" votes — or more than 60 percent — vs. 1,450 "no" votes.

"I think what (the voters) were saying is that you don't necessarily need to have money as your only motivation, that the heart and soul and what feeds you are also important," said an elated Darlene Brill, public relations chair for the Friends of Chevy Chase, which waged an extensive campaign to save the clubhouse.

Tuesday's referendum victory means property owners in the Wheeling Park District will pay 7.5 cents more for each \$100 of assessed property values, raising about \$2.76 million for renovations of the clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

That means the owner of a \$125,000 home would see an increase of about \$29 in the approximately \$220 he or she paid to the park district last year.

"The voters recognized that we have a big, big asset here," said Laurel Anderson, chairperson for the Friends of Chevy Chase. "We have a gem here. We really do."

Park district officials had said that, if the referendum failed, they would demolish the clubhouse and build a smaller one for \$1.3 million, primarily to accommodate golfers.

But what appeared to drive supporters of the Chevy Chase referendum was the building's history.

The grand, English Tudor-styled building, a Prohibition-era hot spot rumored to be a one-time haunt of legendary gangster Al Capone, has been home to theater, dining, dancing, casino gambling and countless community events throughout the decades.

"I think a lot of people thought it was important to them to maintain Chevy Chase," said Karop T. Bavougian, director of parks and recreation. "It's important to the village's past and its future."

The tax increase is expected to give the park district, which purchased the building in 1977, an estimated \$528,000 in annual additional revenue from the \$3.9 million the district expects to collect this year, Bavougian said.

Though the building is structurally sound, renovations of the deteriorating ballroom, and replacement of antiquated windows and heating and electrical systems are among the improvements needed, officials say.

Bavougian said any surplus revenue from the tax increase over time could be used for other park district improvements.

With the referendum behind them, park district officials intend to begin working on renovation plans this summer and start construction as soon as the 1998 golf season ends.

Daily Herald Staff Writer Dwayne T. Wong contributed to this report.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1997

NORTHWEST SUBURBS

Rolling Meadows Park District

Annex Plum Grove Estates?

Yes No

Wheeling Park District

Raise \$2.76 million to renovate Chevy Chase clubhouse?

Yes No

Barrington Unit District 220

Issue \$19.4 million in bonds?

Yes No

2 incumbents, 2 newcomers to govern Wheeling parks

By **BOB MCKEE**
AND **DWAYNE T. WONG**
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Newcomers Kenneth R. Kent and Paul G. Philipp on Tuesday won Wheeling Park board seats along with incumbents Francine Melamed and Thomas R. Webber.

The new park board received voters' approval to renovate the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse.

With all 29 precincts reporting, unofficial results showed that Philipp received 2,066 votes, Web-

ber 2,022, Melamed 1,882 and Kent 1,790 votes.

"I've been here in the village for 24 years," Philipp said about his victory. "People thought I was credible, that's the way it looks to me."

Incumbent Mark F. Parkinson had 1,705 votes while newcomer R. Michael Kurgan had 1,608 votes.

The race for the four 4-year terms was waged between three incumbents and three challengers.

The incumbents included Melamed, a 46-year-old real estate



Kenneth R. Kent



Paul G. Philipp



Francine Melamed



Thomas R. Webber

appraiser; Parkinson, a 42-year-old president of a title company; Webber, a 47-year-old president of a distribution company. Melamed and Webber have been commissioners since 1989, with Parkinson having served since 1993.

The challengers included Kent, a 38-year-old maintenance operator; Kurgan, a 37-year-old real estate broker; and Philipp, a 59-year-old

retiree.

With all precincts reporting, unofficial totals show that voters overwhelmingly approved a tax hike to pay for renovation of the clubhouse 2,305 to 1,453.

Voters were asked in a referendum permission to raise taxes so that \$2.76 million in necessary improvements could be made to the 78-year-old building.

ELECTION '97

Clubhouse saved by Wheeling voters

Park Ridge appears to OK a tax increase

By Patricia Tennison
and Dionne Searcey
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

Voters in Park Ridge Elementary School District 64 appeared Tuesday to have approved both a new school and a tax increase, while Wheeling Park District voters agreed to save the old Chevy Chase clubhouse.

With 85 percent of the votes tallied Tuesday night, District 64 looked as if it was heading for a victory on a \$23 million bond issue to build a new middle school and to upgrade technology as well as an education fund property tax hike of 59 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation to pay for operating expenses.

"It's wonderful," schools Supt. Fred Schroeder said. "This is a result of strong citizen-to-citizen campaigning."

The last successful referendum in District 64 was in 1972. The most recent referendum was in 1978, and it failed.

"This is a very conservative community, and you have to prove that you really need the money," Schroeder said.

As of 9:30 p.m., the proposal for the new middle school was ahead with 59 percent of the votes in favor of the initiative and 41 percent against it. The tax increase was leading 56 percent to 44 percent.

Meanwhile, Wheeling Park District voters agreed to spend \$2.7 million to renovate the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse.

With 99 percent of the precincts reporting, 1,300 Wheeling voters approved the referendum to save the Chevy Chase clubhouse versus 900 people who voted against it, according to Tom Busby, superintendent of finance for the Park District.

"It goes to show you that people still feel that Chevy Chase is an asset to the community," Busby said.

The proposal had been unanimously endorsed by the Village Board and appeared to face no organized opposition.

Clubhouse history includes gangsters and gamblers, a stint as a casino, big-name entertainers and the echoes of hundreds of dance bands and wedding waltzes.

The renovations would boost the average tax bill for residents in the Wheeling Park District an estimated \$16 to \$21 a year.

The clubhouse, at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., not only supports itself but makes a profit for the Park District off its banquet business and golf course, parks officials said.

Meanwhile, in Barrington Unit School District 220, partial returns showed voters in Lake and Cook Counties were approving by 58 percent and 67 percent, respectively, a \$19.4 million bond issue.

The bond sale would allow for the construction of two new elementary schools and an addition at the district's middle school. If approved, the \$19.4 million bond sale would increase school property taxes by about 2.2 percent.

Since 1995, two bond proposals—one for \$112 million and another for \$92 million—to add classroom space have failed in the rapidly growing district, even as hundreds of new students were squeezed into 11 tightly packed schools.

This time, however, the district arrived at the proposal through a careful process of community consensus building, including the creation of a 45-member citizens advisory committee.

The district straddles Cook, Kane, Lake and McHenry Counties and serves 12 communities.

No substantial vote tallies were available for a proposal for voters in unincorporated Plum Grove Estates, who were asked whether they wished to be annexed into the Rolling Meadows Park District.

Plum Grove Estates is a secluded, 172-acre community, where homes are valued at \$275,000 to \$600,000. The community lies west of Illinois Highway 53 and north of Algonquin Road.

Some Plum Grove Estates residents complained about a Park District tax rate that would cost homeowners, according to various estimates, \$250 to \$305 annually.

Consider a different viewpoint. Every Sunday.

Perspective

Chicago Tribune

LOCAL REPORT

Park board's charge: to renovate, preserve Chevy Chase building

By BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling voters decided they were willing to pay additional taxes to keep the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse standing.

Now, the Wheeling Park District is faced with such questions as how and when to do that.

"There is a big plateful of stuff to consider," said district board Commissioner Bill Mattes.

Voters Tuesday convincingly approved raising their taxes so the district can afford to make \$2.76 million in renovations on the 78-year-old community landmark.

Final, but unofficial, totals resulted in the measure passing with 2,273 votes to 1,450 — a 61 percent to 39 percent margin.

The district's tax rate — now 58 cents per every \$100 of assessed property valuation — will increase 7.5 cents. This means the owner of a \$125,000 home would pay about \$29 more than the approximately \$220 they paid to the district last year.

Now, the district will begin to seek an architect to draft plans for the renovation project,

Mattes said. Officials say that could be done as soon as this summer.

The English Tudor building at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. is structurally sound — still hosting functions — but needs new windows and improved electrical wiring and a heating system.

Mattes said one of the decisions the district faces is when work will begin. Officials have said the district plans to honor bookings it made for the banquet hall through 1998.

Ultimately, the decision to renovate instead of raze the building was the community's. And Mattes said residents' opinions will still be considered for the remainder of the effort.

"They are footing the bill," Mattes said.

One area in which residents want to voice their opinion is the preservation of the building's historical aspects, said Laurel Anderson, who headed a group supporting the referendum.

"We worked so hard as a group to preserve the building. We want to make sure it is the way it should be," Anderson said.

"We want to maintain the nostalgic feeling that is there."



Elections not all that drive our daily lives

Just because there's been a rash of elections in the northwest suburbs doesn't mean that everything that goes on in springtime around here has to be dripping with significance. Some things, however, are heavy on tradition.

What to wear? For the second year, Arlington International Racecourse will hold a benefit Derby Day for charities chosen by the three communities that surround it—Arlington Heights, Rolling Meadows and Palatine—and therefore put up with the brunt of its summertime noise and traffic.

Mayors of those towns have chosen the Arlington Heights Senior Center, Special Leisure Services Foundation (Special Olympics) in Rolling Meadows and Bridge Youth and Family Services in Palatine to share the proceeds. Last year, in the event's premiere, it raised \$20,000.

But a bigger issue is what exactly do you wear to an event that starts at 3:30 p.m. with munchies in front of a simulcast of the Kentucky Derby and ends at 10 p.m. with a lavish dinner and dancing?

Last year, the mandate was formal wear, which most people interpreted to mean black tuxedos and long evening gowns. Fine for the after-dark events, but perhaps a tad *de trop* for daytime. There were those who thought so.

Since many didn't feel as comfortable in mid-afternoon in **CHICO TRIF** SEE WINTER, PAGE 8
THURS, 4/3/97

Winter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the formal attire that looked so spiffy at the dinner dance, this year the word is out: No black tuxes in the daytime. The invitations say semi-formal is the way to go.

About the only thing we know for sure about the definition of semi-formal is that it does not include black tuxedos for men.

But we have been told your basic afternoon wedding attire will work, featuring day coats or cutaways for men.

For women, "garden attire" is good, which includes those long, filmy dresses that English actresses wear so well, or fancy "tea length" or afternoon dresses—and don't forget the big My Fair Lady-style hats. Think Ascot.

Just to encourage the grand chapeau thing, there is a prize for best hat as well as for most original tie and best overall attire.

But most likely, anything nice that isn't jeans and T-shirts will

get you in the door.

The event is May 3, and tickets are \$100 each. For more information, call **Kris Stabler** at 847-255-7740 at the track, or **Dee Bigham**, 847-253-1703, at the Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

Chevy Chase champions:

After voters approved a referendum proposal to save the aging but classy Chevy Chase clubhouse in Wheeling, supporters of the measure celebrated—where else?—right on the building's famed ballroom floor.

"I think this strong victory shows that there are some things you can't put a dollar value on that are important to the quality of life," said **Darlene Brill**, a member of the Friends of Chevy Chase.

The group, which included several hundred volunteers and attracted financial support from all around the area, liked to describe itself as "a real grass-roots movement."

The club, once the playground of gangsters and a stage for Hollywood performers, is now owned by the Wheeling Park

District and needs about \$3 million in renovations, for which voters said they were willing to pay.

Corporate art: The Northwest Cultural Council, which is based in Rolling Meadows, has opened its 10th corporate gallery, this one at Northwest Community Healthcare's Wellness Center in Arlington Heights.

The purpose of corporate galleries, according to council Executive Director **Kathy Umlauf**, is to "make art part of everybody's working-day life."

But some corporate galleries get more traffic than others. Some exhibits are only seen by employees and sales reps, while others are shared by tenants of the building. And a few, such as those in banks, capture the public eye as well.

The Wellness Center, with more than 1,000 members already, falls into that latter category.

The new gallery is on the second floor of the Wellness Center, and Umlauf said the group is delighted with the space.

"The building is so beautiful

and gets so much traffic," she said. "We've gotten wonderful feedback."

Swan song: Louis and Serena are back. According to Schaumburg Mayor **Al Larson**, who can see them from his office in the municipal building, the village's two stately swans have returned to Schaumburg from wherever it is they are sent every winter.

It would be romantic to think the lovely swans consider the municipal pond in Schaumburg their own little Capistrano, but the truth is, they're rental swans who just spend the summer on duty at the Atcher center and are no doubt assigned elsewhere during winter months.

Basically, they have three tasks ahead of them this summer: Look pretty, make baby swans and terrorize local Canada geese, all of which seems to come pretty naturally to the elegant creatures.

Other than that, the life of an official Schaumburg village swan is pretty much all smooth sailing on calm waters.

E-mail: WinterC@AOL.com



Lynn Pearson

graphic art services 520-9872 FAX

1230 Anthony Road Wheeling, IL 60090 Phone & Fax: (708) 520-3141
847

Friends of Chevy Chase



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Karop Bavougian	465-7762 Fax 537-3481
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Tom Busby	465-7766 (Fax 537-3481)
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Donations: Friends of Chevy Chase, P.O. Box 682, Wheeling, IL 60090

Paul Benedict 541-8524

Cheri Klumpp 215-0893

Friends of Chevy Chase

Promotions Committee Members

Lee Nansen 520-5822 -1-
1051 Driftwood



Friends of Chevy Chase

P. O. Box 682

Wheeling, Illinois 60090



April 2, 1997

3X Copy Centers
Attention: Manager
333 E. Dundee Road
Wheeling, IL 60090

Dear Friend of Chevy Chase,

WE DID IT!!

Thanks to your support and contribution, the residents of the Wheeling Park District voted to fund the renovation of the Chevy Chase clubhouse. We have chosen to save this beautiful and historic building.

Wheeling can be proud of everyone who cared enough to help save Chevy Chase. Thanks again for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Laurel Anderson
847/537-2593
Chairperson, Friends of Chevy Chase

FENCE POST

Historic building saved

Dear Friend of Chevy Chase,
We did it!

Thanks to your support and contribution, the residents of the Wheeling Park District voted to fund the renovation of the Chevy Chase clubhouse. We have chosen to save this beautiful and historic building.

Wheeling can be proud of everyone who cared enough to help save Chevy Chase. Thanks again for your efforts.

Laurel Anderson, Chairperson
Friends of Chevy Chase
Darlene Brill, Chairperson
P.R. and Promotions
Wheeling

FENCE POST

Will continue progress

On April 1, the Wheeling voters spoke loudly, and I would like to thank them for their support. It will be an honor to represent them in the park district. I will do my best to continue the forward trend the park has taken in past years. Chevy Chase is a huge project, and we will need to think and work very hard to make it a great asset for the park, but I know we are up to the task. I would also like to thank all the people who helped me by passing out fliers and putting up signs and for the faith that I can get the job done. Thank you again for electing me. I won't let you down.

Kenneth R. Kent
Wheeling

Wheeling voters OK plan to save historic clubhouse

BY DIANA WALLACE
AND BOB MCKEE
Daily Herald Staff Writers

The "gem" of Wheeling was spared from the wrecking ball Tuesday.

By a wide margin, Wheeling voters agreed to a tax increase to save the Chevy Chase Country Club clubhouse, a 78-year-old village landmark.

In unofficial results, the referendum received 2,273 "yes" votes — or more than 60 percent — vs. 1,450 "no" votes.

"I think what (the voters) were saying is that you don't necessarily need to have money as your only motivation, that the heart and soul and what feeds you are also important," said an elated Darlene Brill, public relations chair for the Friends of Chevy Chase, which waged an extensive campaign to save the clubhouse.

Tuesday's referendum victory means property owners in the Wheeling Park District will pay 7.5 cents more for each \$100 of assessed property values, raising about \$2.76 million for renovations of the clubhouse at 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

That means the owner of a \$125,000 home would see an increase of about \$29 in the approximately \$220 he or she paid to the park district last year.

"The voters recognized that we have a big, big asset here," said Laurel Anderson, chairperson for the Friends of Chevy Chase. "We have a gem here. We really do."

Park district officials had said that, if the referendum failed, they would demolish the clubhouse and build a smaller one for \$1.3 million, primarily to accommodate golfers.

But what appeared to drive supporters of the Chevy Chase referendum was the building's history.

The grand, English Tudor-styled building, a Prohibition-era hot spot rumored to be a one-time haunt of legendary gangster Al Capone, has been home to theater, dining, dancing, casino gambling and countless community events throughout the decades.

"I think a lot of people thought it was important to them to maintain Chevy Chase," said Karop T. Bavougian, director of parks and recreation. "It's important to the village's past and its future."

The tax increase is expected to give the park district, which purchased the building in 1977, an estimated \$528,000 in annual additional revenue from the \$3.9 million the district expects to collect this year, Bavougian said.

Though the building is structurally sound, renovations of the deteriorating ballroom, and replacement of antiquated windows and heating and electrical systems are among the improvements needed, officials say.

Bavougian said any surplus revenue from the tax increase over time could be used for other park district improvements.

With the referendum behind them, park district officials intend to begin working on renovation plans this summer and start construction as soon as the 1998 golf season ends.

Daily Herald Staff Writer Dwayne T. Wong contributed to this report.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1997

Residents vote to save Chevy Chase

By CHERI BENTRUP
STAFF WRITER

Wheeling residents may not be the ones using Chevy Chase Clubhouse, but it appears they want to see the 1920s-era local landmark remain standing as a part of their village.

The celebration at Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., began early as vote totals began to be tallied. Chevy's future appeared bright early in the evening, when at 8 p.m., with over half of the precincts reporting, the referendum was winning by more than 300 votes.

Final, but unofficial, tallies later in the evening proved even brighter, when the referendum passed with a vote of 2,305 in favor and 1,453 against the proposal. The referendum question asked voters whether they supported raising park district taxes 7.5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation for the renovation of the clubhouse. Park officials had estimated that a homeowner with a current tax bill of \$3,500 would pay an additional \$29.46 to the clubhouse if the referendum passed.

"We're very pleased," said Park Director Karop Bavougian. "The

Friends of Chevy did a magnificent job. It says something for the community. It says they're willing to do something to keep this building."

Park Board commissioners began discussing Chevy Chase and its need for renovations in 1994 when they hired an architectural firm to study the building. The firm Sente & Rubel reported that the clubhouse needed \$2.8 million in repairs, including renovations to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Since receiving the report, the Park Board held three public hearings

asking for residents' opinions whether to save the clubhouse or raze it and build a facility specifically designed to serve the needs of golfers at the Chevy Chase course.

Most of those who spoke at the first two hearings were either ballroom dancers or country line dancers who use the clubhouse's ballroom for their weekly dances. Many didn't even live in Wheeling and wouldn't be paying more taxes if the Park Board were to decide to save the building. Only about 12 percent of Wheeling residents use Chevy Chase, park officials have said.

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WHEELING COUNTRYSIDE, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1997

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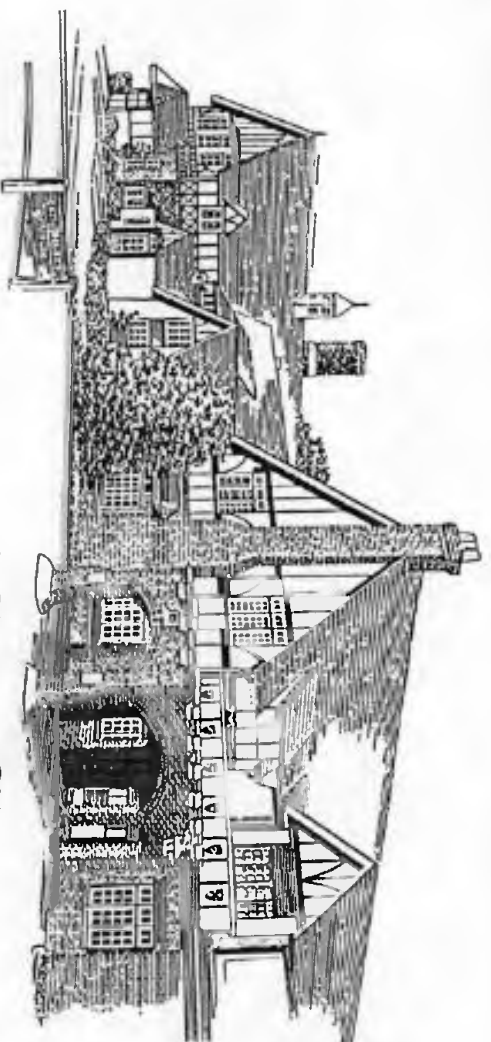
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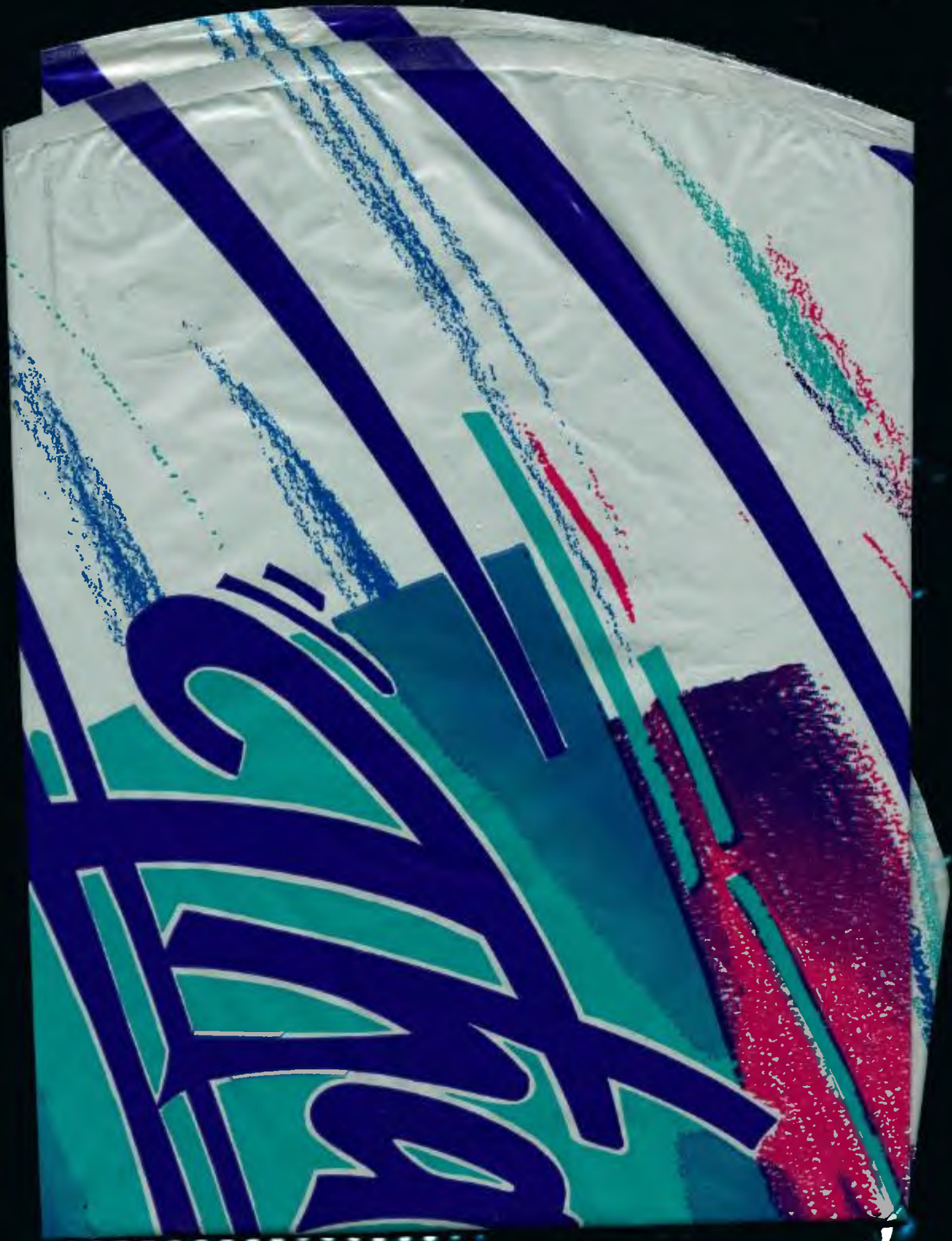
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