

Woodridge First NEWS

October, 1969



THE PARK DISTRICT REFERENDUM

What a District is and how it works

An important date in the history of this dynamic and growing Village is rapidly approaching. The Park District Referendum, requiring a "Yes" or "No" vote, and a choice of several Park District Commissioner candidates, from whom we must elect five, will be decided on October 18, 1969.

There is some concern among the residents of the Village that the referendum is being held too soon to make an intelligent decision on this important question. The timing may or may not be ideal, but the Court has set the date, and so we must determine our future course of action,

A Park District, as defined by the Illinois Park District Code (Article One, Sections 1 to 3, dated 1963) is as follows:

"A) The term 'Park District' or 'District' where used herein shall refer to any district having a population of less than

500,000 inhabitants organized under the provisions of this code, or any district organized under 'An Act to provide for the creation of pleasure driveway and park districts' approved June 19, 1893, as amended, or 'An Act to provide for the organization of park districts and the transfer of submerged lands to those bordering on navigable bodies of water', approved June 24, 1895, as amended, or 'An Act to establish and maintain parks and parkways in towns and townships', approved May 29, 1911, as amended, or any one of them as indicated by the context of the section wherein said phrase appears."

Park Districts are a form of municipal or quasi-municipal corporation unique to Illinois and three or four other states. In most states parks are usually maintained and operated by boards or commissions appointed by the local administrations

Under Illinois law, cities and villages are authorized to maintain parks and levy a tax therefor. But by far the greater number of municipal parks are maintained and operated by park districts.

A Park District's basic purpose is to insure adequate and functional parks and recreational facilities, and continuous programs for the entire area.

BASIC ADVANTAGES

Following are some of the advantages of a Park District:

- 1) Since by law the bonding power of a municipality is limited, it is difficult for a village to issue bonds to cover the acquisition and improvement of parks.
The organization of a Park District releases Village funds for other important municipal projects.
- 2) The District Commissioners are elected by the people, and are independent of the Village Administration. Hence the District can't become a "political football" lacking in continuity, long range planning, and financial stability.
- 3) The boundaries of the district need not be coterminous with the Village boundaries (same as Village boundaries), and the additional territories will increase the assessed valuation and the resultant revenues
- 4) When the Park District boundaries are coterminous with the school district boundaries, cooperation between the two boards is facilitated, usually at a substantial savings to the taxpayer.
- 5) Park District Commissioners are responsible for the acquisition and development of parks and recreation, and have no other municipal duties.

PARK DISTRICT vs. PARK BOARD

Many residents of the proposed district will question the necessity for a new and separate taxing body--a Park District, claiming an appointed Park Board can do the same job.

Having already pointed out several advantages of the district form in the previous column, let us examine that terrible term "separate taxing body".

When this phrase is mentioned, we all grimace and complain, not realizing that when a village administration is forced to form a Park Board or Commission, the village must attempt to allocate funds for the park system out of the General Fund--which we as taxpayers are already contributing to.

We should also realize that the development of a park system under the control of an appointed board must of necessity be slow and "catch-as-catch-can", primarily because of the limit to the availability of funds, which must often be diverted to other municipal services.

WHY INCLUDE AREAS

OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE

Many residents outside of the Village, yet within the proposed Park District boundaries, have stated their opposition to the formation of a district with the proposed boundaries (see map insert), but would be in favor of a district coterminous with the Village boundaries.

We Woodridge residents realize that many of the homes outside the Village are on large lots, but we also feel that everyone in the immediate area will benefit from park facilities in the district, and that everyone in this area should have a voice in the planning and development of the area, and share in the costs of that development, specifically the Park District.

(cont. next page)

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE REPORT AND QUESTIONNAIRE
COVERING SURETY BUILDERS OFFER OF SALE FOR THE
75TH ST. AND WOODRIDGE DRIVE BALL PARK.

The sale price of \$25,000.00 is based on \$12,500.00 being raised by Village residents and \$12,500.00 to be paid by the Village Government. There would then be a \$12,500.00 gift back to the Village by the builders. We could retain this property as a ballfield or use it for any other village function.

We are asking the residents to fill out the following questionnaire and mail it back to us by October 9, 1969. There is no postage required - simply fold and staple and drop it in the nearest mail box. The questionnaire could also be dropped off at the Ben Franklin Store in the 75th St. Shopping Center, the Village Hall or the 7-11 Store at 53rd and Maple. We need your help - please reply.

- 1 - Should the land, if purchased be used as a recreational field? _____
- 2 - If purchased by village residents, should the property be left open for other possible community use? _____
- 3 - Should it be left with the builders for construction of six (6) single family homes? _____
- 4 - If number 2 above is your recommendation, then what would you suggest it be used for? _____
- 5 - Do you think the village residents can raise \$12,500.00 in donations? _____
- 6 - Would you donate money to purchase the property? _____
If so, how much? _____

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VILLAGE CLERK
VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE
2909 FOREST GLEN PARKWAY
WOODRIDGE, ILL. 60515

A G E N D A

Regular Board Meeting

October 2, 1969

Woodridge School Gym

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

MINUTES FROM REGULAR BOARD MEETING 9/18/69 AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETING 9/13/69

OPEN THE FLOOR

MAYORS REPORT

CLERKS REPORT

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Voucher Listing

BUILDING AND ZONING

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Report re blocking of Elinor St. (Joint report by Plan Comm. & Public Works)

Ordinance #69-23, second reading, posting of signs in restricted areas

Ordinance #69-24, second reading, parking of vehicles in certain areas

R-16-69, second reading, parking of vehicles on Larchwood Lane on Sunday

Ordinance #69-25, second reading, re the inoculation of dogs and cats and the impounding of animals

SPECIAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

Ordinance #69-15, use of parks, second reading

ENGINEERS REPORT

Report on Traffic study on Rt. 53 and Woodridge Dr. & Hobson & Woodridge

OLD BUSINESS

Report on blacktopping of sidewalk near Edgewood School, by Attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Plan Commission

Police Department

Building Department

Public Works Department

A G E N D A
Regular Board Meeting
October 16, 1969
Woodridge School Gym

The business portion of the Board meeting will be kept to a maximum of 30 minutes to enable the speaker on the Park District ample time to answer any questions the residents may have. There will be the Mayor's report and Finance report.

* * * * *

In the last issue of the Mayor's Bulletin we advised you that a group of citizens in Woodridge had submitted a petition to the Circuit Court in Wheaton for a Park District that would encompass all of the village plus the immediate surrounding area outside of Woodridge. We further advised that the court had accepted the petition with the boundaries and had judged that the residents living within the proposed Park District Boundaries should vote on the referendum and at the same time vote for 5 Park District Commissioners on the 18th of October 1969.

The two Political Parties in the Village are working toward this goal and above all would like to see the residents vote yes on the referendum. The Mayor and full Board of Trustees are publicly on record and urge each of you to vote yes on this issue.

An important issue such as this rises above personal prejudice and political thinking. We your elected officials realizing that the time is short until the voting date of October 18, 1969, and further realizing that all residents who are not native to Illinois possibly do not understand what a Park District is and should be, have considered our duty and responsibility to each and all of you. As a result of this most vital issue, we have by Board Action invited MR. CHARLES W. PEZOLOT, a specialist in the area of Park Districts, to attend the Village Board Meeting of October 16, 1969.

Mr. Pezolat is presently a Community Recreation Specialist in the Office of Recreation and Park Resources at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois. Mr. Pezolat will cover such topics as:

1. Definition of a Park District.
2. Alternatives
3. Tax Rates
4. Boundary considerations
5. Maintenance function
6. Planning function

We wish to urge each and everyone of you to mark the date on your calendar and take what action is necessary to attend this Board Meeting and hear Mr. Pezolat. If you personally cannot attend, make sure that your friend and neighbor attends and tells you about the facts. This issue is so important to the future of your village, your children and your home values, that we urge you to take the necessary time to make yourself knowledgeable by reading, researching and listening and discussing the facts regarding a Park District versus a Village Park Board so that you may go to the polls on October 18, 1969 and vote your conscience. Please don't let your neighbor do it for you. Please don't permit apathy and the traditionally don't care attitude overcome you. Take the time to inform yourself by coming to the Board Meeting October 16, 1969 and going to the polls to vote OCTOBER 18, 1969. You have only yourself to blame if you sit this one out. The Board Meeting will be a brief business session and the balance will be devoted to the speaker and questions and answers from you the citizens and the expert.

Charles E. Martin, Mayor

The residents of the Village have heard a great deal of publicity regarding the Township's responsibility in paving 71st St. and Janes Avenue so that the North Section of the Village will be connected with the South Section. The Township officials have sent the Mayor a letter advising the following:

1. The Township Road Commissioner, who is an elected official, has the sole responsibility of maintaining the Township Roads.
2. The Township Road Commissioner has met with the Township Supervisor and Committee and has agreed to develop a program for the paving of 71st and Janes Avenue which lies outside the Village limits. His program must be approved by the State to enable the Township to use the Motor Fuel Tax funds that the Township gets back from the State.
3. The Township officials have called attention to the Village Officials that the Village must pave that portion of 71st that lies within the Village Limits (the section of 71st along Unit 3 of Winston Hills and the section in front of Casteldo Park-71st Park) To enable the Village to pave these sections, the Village would have to use the Village's Motor Fuel Tax refunds from the State.

The Township Officials strongly recommend that the Village join in the Township's program and thus insure the States approval. This proposal, of course, is all very good if this is all the Village Government had to consider using the Village's Motor Fuel Tax refunds. This the Village government would do without hesitation except -

- 1 - If 71st St. and Janes were paved, all of the residents and traffic would not be diverted to this route. We would still have traffic coming and going at Woodridge Drive and Highway 53; Hobson and Woodridge Drive; Hobson and Highway 53, and above all, at Janes Avenue and 75th Street. These are the intersections that we, the Village, must have traffic lights to save lives.
- 2 - If we are to have traffic lights at these highly dangerous intersections, it is quite probably that the Village will have to pay at least half if not all the expense of these traffic lights. The County, on 75th and Janes, the State on Hobson & 53 and Woodridge Dr. & 53, will not pay the expense of the lights if according to their standards there is not sufficient traffic. The costs of Traffic Lights vary from \$45,000.00 to \$60,000.00 per intersection, depending upon the type of traffic lights installed. We are talking about the urgent need of three (3) intersections (fatalities have occurred at 2 of these). The maximum cost possible, if the Village must pay the full expense, is \$180,000.00.
- 3 - Up to this point in time, the Village has been using the Motor Fuel Tax Refunds to maintain the streets in the Village. Last year, the streets in the South end of the Village were completed as to resurfacing. The Village Engineer has given his professional opinion that starting next spring, the streets in the North end of the Village must be sealed, otherwise they will start cracking and quickly deteriorate to such a condition that it will be a major resurfacing and repair job to bring them back to standard.

We are advised that unless the Village applies to the State with the Township for approval of the joint program, the State will not approve the Township's program.

At the present time, the Village Government is not certain as to how much Motor Fuel Tax refund they will be receiving in 1970. As a result, at the present time, the Village Officials cannot place a priority on the necessities of the Village as outlined above and as a result, the Mayor, requested the Public Protection Committee to work with the Village Engineer to come up with the facts for the next Board Meeting, October 16, 1969.

It is indeed unfortunate that the Citizens Committee that organized themselves for the purpose of paving 71st and Janes did not make as in depth a study of the finances of the Township and Village as they did for the publicity of their project. If all aspects of the project had been thoroughly investigated prior to the publicity campaign, both in the local newspaper as well as their well intentioned circulation of a petition, on which they received approximately 1500 signatures, approval of the Board of Trustees, the ministers of the Churches and the general approval of the public, we the Village Officials would not find ourselves faced with the necessity of calling upon supernatural help to make a wise decision of how to do what is best for the benefit of all of the people.

As you, the resident who reads this, prepared to say with honesty, that the Village's share of the Motor Fuel Tax Refund monies should be spent to pave 71st Street and Janes Avenue, at the expense of Traffic Lights at the intersection listed above, which without any doubt will save lines now, and in the future. What value will you, the reader, place on your life as opposed to the paving of these streets, which you, the particular reader may have little or any occasion to use, especially if you live on the South end of the village and have little if any reason to visit the North end of the Village.

Is it more important to spend our Motor Fuel Tax money on this project and let the streets in the North end of the Village deteriorate to where we have to spend that much more of yours and my tax dollar to repair them.

There can be no doubt that all of your elected, appointed and self-appointed officials, with each of you, would like to and most heartily desire to see 71st St. and Janes Avenue paved whether we as individuals use this route once a day, week, month or year.

As you sit and contemplate what is best, as each of your elected officials are doing, please keep in mind that "WOODRIDGE IS FIRST" and all that this statement implies. Woodridge as a whole entity, the health, safety and welfare of the entity is first, not sections, parts or special interests, to the possible detriment of the whole entity.

We will study the hard cold facts and perform our duty as sworn to you and ourselves, when we took our oath of office.

Charles E. Martin
Mayor

At the regular Board Meeting of October 2, 1969 the following persons were appointed to the Communications Division: Barbara M. Cooling; Richard M. Gilgis, Barbara J. Lawson, John C. Stoffel.

Mr. William E. Richey and Sharon M. Tate were appointed to the Emergency Police Rescue Unit. Volunteers are still needed for the Rescue Unit. Anyone interested in volunteering for this service can obtain more information by telephoning the Police Department.

Dolores Shuksta was appointed as a part time relief operator and Robert J. Hajek re-appointed as the radio engineer.

Ordinance #69-23, concerning the posting of signs in restricted parking areas was passed and approved.

Ordinance #69-24, regarding the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles in certain areas was also passed and approved.

Resolution R-16-69, prohibiting the parking of vehicles on Larchwood Lane from the south curb of Crabtree Avenue to the property line of St. Scholastica Church on Sundays during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, was passed.

Ordinance #69-25 providing for the inoculation of dogs and cats at the age of 4 months and a change in the impounding of animals was also passed and approved.

Ordinance #69-15 regulating the use of parks in the Village was passed and approved.

Copies of all ordinances and resolutions are available at the Village Clerk's office during regular office hours.

PLEASE NOTE: BEGINNING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1969, THE REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE, WILL BE HELD AT THE EDGEWOOD SCHOOL, 7900 WOODRIDGE DRIVE, AT 8:00 P.M., THE BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE EDGEWOOD SCHOOL, ON THE FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAY'S OF EACH MONTH, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE
2909 FOREST GLEN PARKWAY
WOODRIDGE, ILLINOIS

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Published by the Village of Woodridge Illinois, in the belief that interested and informed citizens are the safeguards of good government.

Jack Pearson
6626 Woodridge Dr.,
Woodridge, Ill. 60515
28-4

WELL QUALIFIED



DENNIS DEREZOTES
6533 Woodridge
Woodridge

Married-Two Children
Asst. Payroll Supv.
Santa Fe Railway 14 years,
Recreational Trustee-Winston
Hills Homeowners Assoc.-1966
Member of 1967 Mayors Special
Committee on park dist.
Woodridge Lions Charter Mem.
When elected would implement
facilities and programs for
all age groups.



Mrs. Nancy Noyes
6320 MacArthur Dr.
Woodridge

Married-Housewife-One Child
Attended Central Missouri St.
College.
Formerly employed by Jewel as a
Buyer.
When elected plans to work for
creation of a comprehensive
park plan with a professional
Recreation Director.



Ronald A. Zarn
6709 Woodridge Dr.
Woodridge

Married-One Child
Western Electric Co.-Test set design
and Drafting.
Attended Chicago Technical College
with several courses in architectural
construction and business management.
When elected would work for profes-
sional management of the district
and beautification of the area.



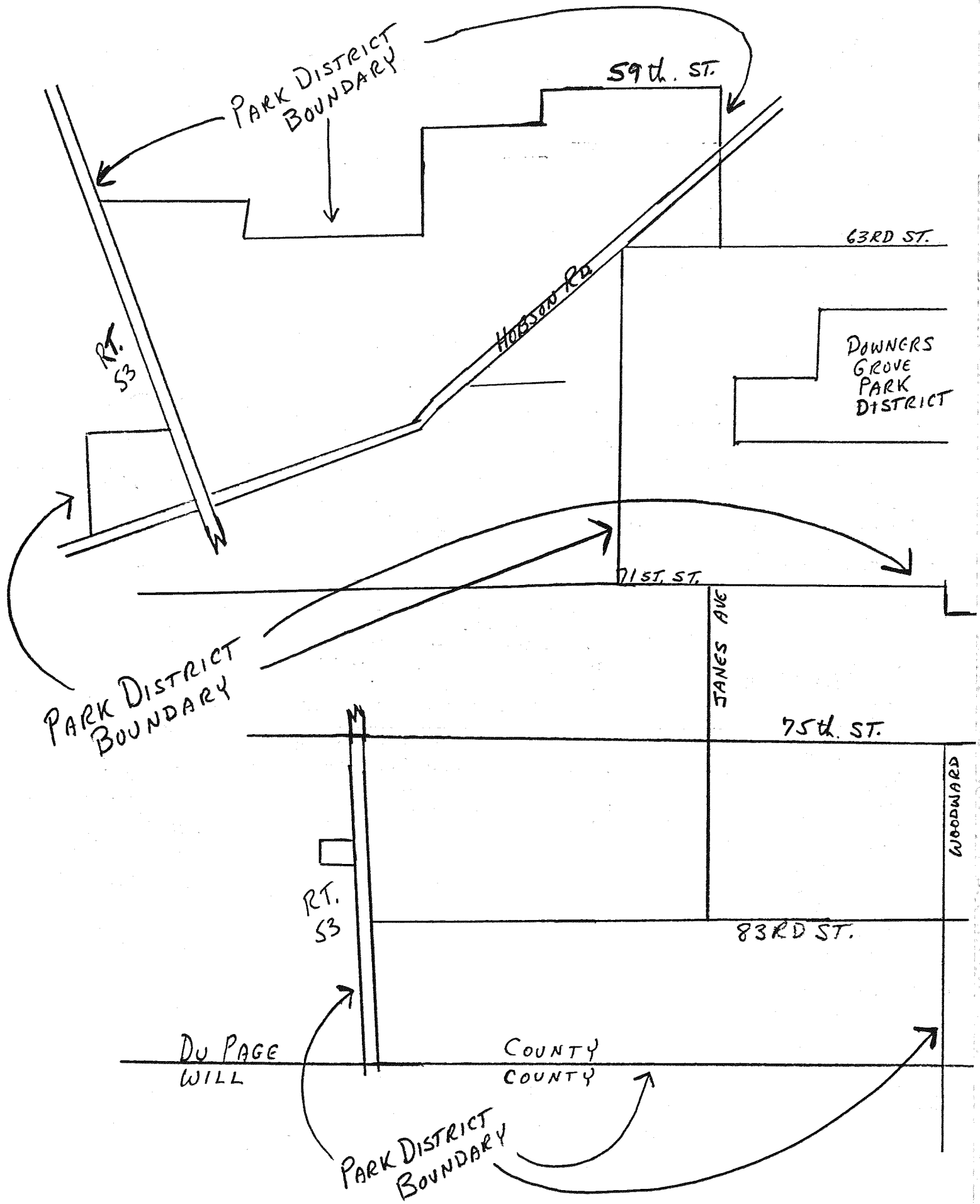
Patrick "Jake" LeVoy
7717 Crabtree Ct.
Woodridge

Married-No Children
Personnel Director-Welsh Co.
Attended Univ. of Ill. &
Northwestern Univ.
Director-Lisle/Woodridge JC's
When elected would work for
year-round supervised activ-
ities.



Lawrence V. Biesemeyer
7705 Larchwood Lane
Woodridge

Married-Three Children
Electrical Lineman-I.B.E.W. Local
#9.
Attended I.B.E.W. Trade School-
Graduated 1964.
When elected, because of interest
in youth groups, would work to pro-
vide the most modern yet safest e-
quipment possible, as soon as econ-
omically feasible.



Creative, functional recreational areas increase and stabilize all property values, and what is more important, enable planned activities with trained leadership to aid in the fight against juvenile delinquency--whether it exists inside or outside the Village limits!

In addition to aiding in the fight against the frustrating boredom the children of this area must live with every day due to lack of facilities, a Park District can provide programs for all age groups.

A Park District provides a taxing body and a bonding power to help provide youth centers, community swimming pools and skating rinks, and will also, if created at this time, enable some of the available remaining open spaces in the area, which are rapidly being appropriated for home and apartment developments, highways, etc., to be acquired and conserved as recreational sites, before the cost of such lands becomes absolutely prohibitive.

WHAT WILL THE DISTRICT COST

Based on an approximate assessed valuation of \$30,000,000.00, the cost for a Park District at this time will be about \$1.30 per month per home (approximately 13¢ per \$100.00 of assessed valuation). At this rate, the District residents will pay slightly less than 5¢ per day--a small price indeed for the type of comprehensive programs the District could provide.

This is about as simple a statement as we can make regarding basic costs.

To be more specific, funds to purchase and build parks and facilities, and to operate and maintain these facilities come from several sources:

- A) Bonding Power--The District may issue bonds for capital improvements in an amount not to exceed $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the

equalized assessed valuation of all taxable property within the district with the approval of the voters. With another referendum this may be increased to 5% which is the Constitutional limitation.

The District may issue bonds without referendum in an aggregate amount not to exceed 0.5% of the equalized assessed valuation of all taxable property in the District.

Revenue bonds may be issued without referendum for the purpose of constructing swimming pools, ice rinks, golf courses, harbors or marinas.

B) To carry out its programs the District may levy a tax for corporate purposes not to exceed 10¢ per \$100.00 of assessed valuation; another for recreational purposes not to exceed 5¢ per \$100.00 of assessed valuation.

Other minor tax levies, some requiring referenda, exist to cover street-paving and lighting (in the parks), airports (AIRPORTS??), liability insurance, audits, etc.

The Du Page County Clerk's Office will probably not be able to complete its compilation of the assessed valuation of the area included in the District until after the referendum is passed, so if the referendum carries, no money will be received until about one (1) year after its inception, so the District will have a problem which may have to be resolved by the issuance of tax anticipation warrants, should the Commissioners so decide.

WE GOOFED!

Oops--a mistake was made in the September issue of the "NEWS" in which we credited Mathew Brady with the photographs. It seems Matt Brady was a Civil War photog, and the shots were actually taken by Vern Schulze. Sorry about that, and thanks, Vern.

PARK SPECIALIST
TO ATTEND BOARD MEETING

The regularly scheduled Village Board meeting on Thursday, October 16 is expected to be very informative, as Mr. Charles Pezoldt, park and recreation specialist from the Univ. of Illinois, Urbana has accepted the Board's invitation to give a comprehensive review of the Park District question.

The Mayor and Board of Trustees, having publically stated their support for the Referendum, will open the floor for discussion and questions following Mr. Pezoldt's presentation.

OUR LOSS--ST. LOUIS' GAIN

J. Robert "Bob" Foster, of 6419 Halsey Drive, the first Civil Defense Director of the Village, has been transferred to the St. Louis area by his employer.

The First Party thanks Bob and his wife, Louise, for all the help in the past, and wishes them both luck, and "HURRY BACK"!

VOTER ELIGIBILITY
&
POLLING PLACES

In order to be able to vote on the important Park District Referendum on October 18, 1969, a voter must have been a resident of the state for one (1) year, of the county for 90 days, and the district for 30 days.

Registration is closed until after the referendum, according to law.

Voters North of 71st. Street will cast their ballots at the Goodrich School. Voters South of 71st. Street will vote at Woodridge School.

The Polls will be open from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Don't forget that important date--October 18, 1969

VOTE "YES" FOR THE PARK DISTRICT REFERENDUM.

CANDIDATES NIGHT

Several of the candidates being endorsed by the Woodridge First Party (see insert) will be at a rally at the Goodrich School Gym on Friday evening, October 17, at 7:00 P.M. to participate in an informal question and answer session.

We sincerely hope all interested citizens in the Village will attend, and we wish to extend a cordial invitation to all of the other Park District Commissioner candidates to join us to explain to the voters all the reasons we need a Park District now. Refreshments will be served.

VOTE YES



**For a
PARK
DISTRICT**

WOODRIDGE FIRST PARTY OFFICERS

Chairman: Al Parlich
968-0347

Vice Chairman: Tom Sweeney
968-1458

Treasurer: Bill Wiley
968-1475

EDITOR: Nick Haviland