



# Pathways

2007 Winter/Spring  
A Newsletter for Residents of the Woodridge Park District

## Haunted Forest Walk - A Halloween Tradition for over 25 years

For over 25 years, the Woodridge Park District's Haunted Forest Walk has been a Halloween favorite. Today, the thrills and chills of the woods is a scream with the help of many volunteers.

At the 2006 Haunted Forest Walk, seven local organizations created scary scenes including "Tombstone Pizza" by the Woodridge Memorial VFW Post #1578, "Nightmare on Elm Street" by Boy Scout Troop #109, "Death From Above and Below" Boy Scout Troop #181, "Evil Dead" by Boy Scout Troop #512, "Wizard of Oz" by The Young Artists Music Association and Sigma Alpha Epsilon, "Haunted Birthday Party" by the Woodridge Jaycees, and a scary scene by Boy Scout Troop #562.

These community organizations provided volunteers to create and work the spooky scenes. In return, each group received a donation as a

fundraiser. In addition, the public voted for their favorite scenes and the top three groups received a monetary award for their creative efforts.

The Woodridge Park District starts the behind the scenes work in early October when park maintenance staff prepare trails and bridges in Boundary Hill Woods. Maintenance staff also perform safety checks and spooky updates on the hayracks that transport guests from 75th Street Park to Boundary Hill Woods.

The community organizations spend hours planning the layout and execution of their scene, including staff, decorations, costumes, lighting, and special effects. The weekend of the Haunted Forest Walk, fundraising groups arrive by 8 a.m.



on the Friday of the event to get ready for the evening festivities. Technology in the Haunted Forest Walk has included music, black lights, fog machines, and strobe lights.

*continued on page 2*



**SURVEY  
ENCLOSED**

### Status Report

The Woodridge Park District has been analyzing the future of Hobson Pool since 2002. Recent signs of deterioration, such as a leaking pool basin, water main breaks, imminent replacement of filter system components and repairs to building infrastructure, further substantiate the end is near. The Fall 2006 Pathways Newsletter, available online at [www.woodridgeparks.org](http://www.woodridgeparks.org), provides background information on this issue, recommendations being considered, and the future direction to come to a resolution.

The Board requested staff to investigate the impact of the Village's and County's building and zoning codes on a total renovation of Hobson Pool. The District hired both civil engineering and transportation consultants to assess major codes and provide a professional opinion on any site impacts and potential costs.

The initial storm management assessment indicates that storm water detention would be required. The detention area would consist of a 2.31 acre/foot detention basin at an additional cost of \$184,500. To accommodate the basin, two to three baseball infields would be removed.

The transportation consultant determined the need for an additional 33 parking spaces at an estimated cost of \$145,200. This renovation would also require the removal of two to three tennis courts. Any proposed expansion to the pool facility would further increase parking and detention. These site improvements, combined with the facility redevelopment, bring the total estimated cost to renovate Hobson Pool to \$3.1-\$3.9 million. The estimated cost to construct a second program pool at Cypress Cove is \$900,000 to \$1.2 million.

Inside this newsletter is a survey for residents to help give direction on the future of Hobson Pool. The Board is looking for public feedback to determine which of the two options (in the box) is preferred by residents.

Please complete the enclosed survey, detach the addressed postage paid reply card, and drop it in the mail. The results will be tabulated by Western Illinois University and will be used to help finalize a decision for the Hobson Pool issue.

#### **Option 1: TOTALLY RENOVATE HOBSON POOL**

Estimated Total Cost of Concept is \$3.1 - \$3.9 Million and Subsidize Annual Operational Losses.

*(Referendum Approval and Property Tax Increase Necessary)*

#### **Option 2: CLOSE HOBSON POOL AND BUILD A PROGRAM POOL AT CYPRESS COVE**

Estimated Total Cost of Concept is \$900,000-\$1.2 Million

*(No Referendum and No Property Tax Increase)*

If Hobson Pool should close, additional public input will be sought to determine the future use of this site.

# Park & Playground News

## New Amenities for All Ages at 75th Street Park

75th Street Park will undergo some renovations to incorporate new features to the park. This winter, the park district will contract for the demolition of the existing building on the corner of Woodridge Drive and Forest Glen Parkway.

In 2007, construction for the new park features will begin based upon the park's previously approved master plan. The park district worked with a park planning committee, consisting of neighborhood residents, to determine park needs and finalize a master plan.

The park will include such amenities as playground equipment for 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds, swings for both age groups, a park shelter, a seating plaza with multiple benches, a drinking fountain, low level security lighting, and extensive landscaping throughout the site. The existing tennis courts and parking lot to the north of the park will remain at this location.

Construction is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2007. The site will remain the hayrack loading location for the Woodridge Park District's annual Haunted Forest Walk held each October.

## Six New Playgrounds to Enjoy!

Check out the new play equipment at

Edgewood School

Goodrich School

Meadowview School

Ide's Grove East Park

Sunnydale Park

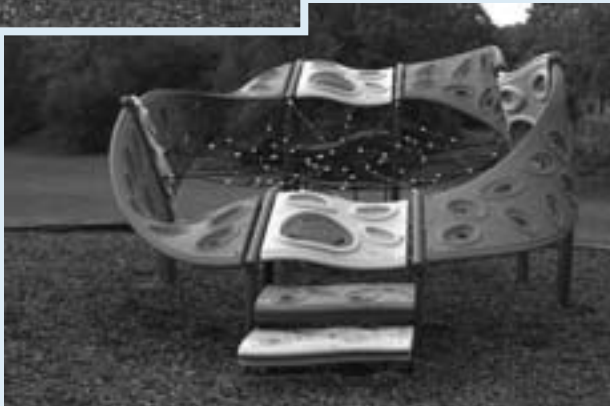
Coming Soon - Castaldo Park



Volcano Climber at Sunnydale Park



Double Swish Slide at Goodrich School



Infinity Web Climber at Meadowview School

## Haunted Forest Walk continued from page 1

Joe Bregin of the Woodridge Memorial VFW Post #1578 notes, "The VFW has been involved with the Haunted Forest Walk for 20 years. Over the years I have seen attendance grow from 500 to 3,500. We enjoy being a part of such a great Woodridge fall tradition and appreciate the support of the community."



## Young Children Enjoy Afternoon "Scary" Fun

While the Haunted Forest Walk provides an evening of terror for teens and adults, young children can join in the fun during the daylight hours equipped with their "power rings." A special power ring is given to each child at the Afternoon Matinee Haunted Forest Walk usually held Saturday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 p.m. during the weekend walk. The children are asked to hold up their power ring to anything scary and the monsters will cower in fear and retreat to let the youngsters pass by unscathed by terror.

"This matinee walk gives young kids a chance to enjoy spooky things during the daylight. We always get great feedback from parents who appreciate the daytime hayride/forest walk adventure," notes Julie Rhodes Woodridge Park District event supervisor for Haunted Forest Walk since 1991.

After 15 years as the event supervisor, Julie Rhodes is passing the tradition on to Vanessa Dettore, Recreation Supervisor. For more information about future Haunted Forest Walks, please call 353-3300.

## Ice Skating Opportunities

The Woodridge Park District offers residents a natural winter wonderland. Ice skating is permitted at Lake Carleton, Ide's Grove West and Ide's Grove East pending weather conditions and the safeness of the ice. Six inches of solid ice is considered safe for skating. The east end of Lake Carleton is designated for ice fishing and the snow on this area will not be cleaned off. SKATING and NO SKATING signs are provided on the sites and must be observed for your safety. For more information, please contact the Woodridge Park District at [info@woodridgeparks.org](mailto:info@woodridgeparks.org) or 353-3300.

# Early Bird Annual Pool Membership Sales



Mark your calendars for the Early Bird Membership Sale Dates to be held at the Community Center over the course of two consecutive weekends this spring.

**Saturday, April 28** 9 am - 2 pm  
**Sunday, April 29** Noon - 5 pm

**Saturday, May 5** 9 am - 3 pm  
**Sunday, May 6** Noon - 5 pm

Look for more details in the 2007 Aquatics Guide delivered to homes in March 2007.



**Thursday, June 14 – Sunday, June 17**

**Mark the Calendar!**

Woodridge Jubilee moves back to June to launch the festival season. This year's Jubilee will run from Thursday, June 14 through Sunday, June 17. Thursday evening starts off the festival with the carnival only and Sunday afternoon will be expanded to include activities and food vendors.

**Thursday, June 14 evening**  
 (carnival only)

**Friday, June 15 evening**  
 (carnival, food vendors, bands)

**Saturday, June 16 afternoon/evening**  
 (carnival, afternoon organization fair, children's activities, food vendors, bands)

**Sunday, June 17 afternoon**  
 (carnival, afternoon activities, food vendors)

Come celebrate Father's Day weekend with your family at this exciting community tradition. Look for more details in the Summer Activity Guide 2007.

## Golden Years Welcomes Everyone 50 Years and Better

Since 1991, the Golden Years Program has been a great way to meet and greet fellow active adults in a friendly atmosphere. The Woodridge Park District invites community members 50 years and over to join the Golden Years Program on Thursdays from 1- 4 p.m. at the Woodridge Park District Community Center, 2600 Center Drive.

Regular activities include games, guest speakers, birthday parties, stimulating conversation, and much more. Throughout the year, members enjoy special events and sign up for a variety of trips. Refreshments are served weekly. The annual fee is \$12 and payment is taken during the Thursday meeting. Don't miss the opportunity to have fun and meet new friends. For more information, please contact the Woodridge Park District at 353-3300.



## Fall Memories at the Woodridge Park District



**"One More Hug"**  
 Daddy/Daughter Hayride



**"My Hero"**  
 Indian Summer Festival



**"Bike Rodeo Action"**  
 Friend & Family Bike Fest

# Woodridge Park District Winter/Spring Highlights



Early Bird Registration Meetings for  
WSA Spring 2007 In-House Soccer  
and WPD 2007 Girls Softball



Saturday, January 13 9 am – Noon  
Wednesday, January 17 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
Saturday, January 20 9 am – Noon

**Community Center**

Coaches will be available at these registrations to assist you with questions and information.

## Community Clean Up the Parks Day

Saturday, April 14 • 1 – 3 pm

Meet at Cypress Cove Parking Lot

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 9

## Park Board of Commissioners

President . . . . . Fred Hohnke  
Vice President. . . . . Jim Duffy  
Commissioner . . . . . Jack Mahoney  
Commissioner . . . . . Joe Kubal  
Commissioner . . . . . Brian Coleman

Pathways is published by the Woodridge Park District. Comments and questions may be directed to:

Woodridge Park District  
Community Center  
2600 Center Drive  
Woodridge, IL 60517  
Phone: 353-3300  
Fax: 353-3320  
info@woodridgeparks.org

## Look for your Aquatics and Summer Activity Guides this Spring

Mid-March 2007 – Aquatics Guide delivered to homes

Mid-April 2007 – Summer Activity Guide delivered to homes

Door to Door Direct distributes the Woodridge Park District Guides to the doorways of residents' homes and to the leasing offices of multi-family complexes. Single-family households, who do not receive a brochure, please e-mail your address and phone number to [info@woodridgeparks.org](mailto:info@woodridgeparks.org). Brochures are also available at the Woodridge Park District Community Center, 2600 Center Drive.



Woodridge  
**PARK DISTRICT**

2600 Center Drive  
Woodridge, IL 60517

[www.woodridgeparks.org](http://www.woodridgeparks.org)

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Woodridge Park District is to enhance the quality of life of its residents by providing superior parks, facilities, and recreational services in a fiscally responsible manner.