

# DES PLAINES JOURNAL

Vol. 89 No. 45

Journal & Topics Media Group | journal-topics.com | Wednesday, November 13, 2019 | \$1

## Outdoor Pool At Arndt Park?

Walking Path Another Possibility Discussed

By LAUREN BARRY

Journal & Topics Reporter

A potential new outdoor pool and walking path at Arndt Park in Des Plaines were some of the main points of discussion during an information session held Saturday (Nov. 9).

According to Des Plaines Park District Director Don Miletic, around 15 people attended the event held as a way for community stakeholders to provide feedback about renovations at the park ahead of grant applications.

“We had two breakout groups with great feedback and ideas,” said Miletic. “A very positive meeting.”

“People were interested in the pool,” said Des Plaines Ald. Malcolm Chester (6th), who attended the meeting. With the expected

(Continued on page 2A)

## Ideas For Arndt Park

(Continued from page 1A) closure this year of Iroquois Pool, which has served the city for over five decades, Chester said residents on the south side of the city are particularly interested in a replacement pool in the area. It could be located behind the existing Arndt Park fieldhouse, located near Mannheim Road and Howard Avenue.

However, Chester said it could take \$5.2 million to construct the pool and a necessary locker room area. He said park district commissioners also suggested a splash pad instead of a pool to reduce costs.

“They don’t want to build a pool, but they realize that’s what the public wants them to do,” he told the Journal & Topics of park district officials Monday (Nov. 11).

Other potential features discussed during the meeting were a zip line similar to the one installed at Centennial Park at Oakwood and Center streets, and a walking path around the park.

“This is a very large park,” said Chester, who added that employees from nearby businesses sometimes walk in Arndt Park during their lunch break. He said the district is still considering renovations to a horseshoe area

of the park and does not intend to do anything to the popular sled hill.

Miletic said he hopes even more residents will provide feedback at another upcoming information session about Arndt Park renovations scheduled for 6:15 p.m. Nov. 26 at the park’s fieldhouse, 1990 White St., Des Plaines.

# Staff Members Quick To Break Up Fight In Maine West Cafeteria

**(Continued from page 1A)** a fight broke out Wednesday, Nov. 6 in the school's cafeteria. He said none of the suspects were hospitalized and that more details of the case could not be revealed as those involved are minors.

"We are relieved that no one was injured and we're grateful for the quick response of several staff members who were on hand at the time," said Maine West Principal Eileen McMahon in a letter sent to parents about the incident. She said a school resource officer from the police department helped break up the fight.

Though the fight was brief, some students in the cafeteria were able to record it on their mobile phones and post footage on the internet, said McMahon.

"We are asking parents for their support in ensuring those videos are deleted and not posted on social media," she said, adding that posting videos of students obtained without their permission is a violation of school code.

"While upholding school policy is an important part of my job, even more important is the lesson we can teach our students about the impact of sharing video like this.

The fight is obviously harmful. Sharing the video is harmful in a different way."

McMahon said consequences for participating in fights at Maine West include long-term suspension or expulsion in addition to police charges, though the details of such consequences would be kept private.

"Should your child express any concerns about their safety, please be sure to contact the school or have your child reach out to a trusted adult as we work to ensure Maine West is an inclusive and supportive environment for all students," she said.

Mierzwa said the fight last week was not related to an Oct. 3 incident at Maine West during Home-

coming celebrations. The earlier incident involved a 14-year-old student, her 36-year-old mother and three other students ages 17 and 18. Battery charges were filed against the 36-year-old for participating in the brawl, which included hair pulling, wrestling and fist fighting, according to police.

"The recent incidents were isolated and involved students who have had conflicts both inside and outside of school. We have had altercations among friends who we then help repair the relationship so they can become friends again," McMahon said in a statement sent to the Journal Tuesday (Nov. 12). "In all cases, we have intervened as quickly as possible, acted decisively and assigned a range of appropriate consequences and interventions. In addition, we have...checked in with students when we have heard rumors of hard feelings. We've also been working with students on conflict resolution, among other steps to help stop physical conflicts in school."

McMahon also said "it is important to share we have few altercations between students at Maine West."

**"We are asking parents for their support in ensuring those videos are deleted and not posted on social media."**

Principal Eileen McMahon

# Ideas For Arndt Park

**(Continued from page 1A)** closure this year of Iroquois Pool, which has served the city for over five decades, Chester said residents on the south side of the city are particularly interested in a replacement pool in the area. It could be located behind the existing Arndt Park fieldhouse, located near Mannheim Road and Howard Avenue.

However, Chester said it could take \$5.2 million to construct the pool and a necessary locker room area. He said park district commissioners also suggested a splash pad instead of a pool to reduce costs.

"They don't want to build a pool, but they realize that's what the public wants them to do," he told the Journal & Topics of park district officials Monday (Nov. 11).

Other potential features discussed during the meeting were a zip line similar to the one installed at Centennial Park at Oakwood and Center streets, and a walking path around the park. "This is a very large park," said Chester, who added that employees from nearby businesses sometimes walk in Arndt Park during their lunch break. He said the district is still considering renovations to a horseshoe area

of the park and does not intend to do anything to the popular sled hill.

Miletic said he hopes even more residents will provide feedback at another upcoming information session about Arndt Park renovations scheduled for 6:15 p.m. Nov. 26 at the park's fieldhouse, 1990 White St., Des Plaines.

# Theater

**(Continued from page 1A)** "It's too deteriorated to keep," the public works project manager told the Journal & Topics. "A lot of it is wood that is rotted out."

According to Tim Watkins, assistant director of public works, a new steel and aluminum sign that looks identical to the old marquee has already been fabricated. However, the building still needs preparation work before the new marquee can be installed.

"Our intent is to have it done by the end of the month," Watkins said. The existing marquee is expected to be down by today, he added.

Des Plaines plans to spend up to \$6 million to renovate the theater and re-open it as an entertainment center.

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**  
**SCHOOL DAY OFF PROGRAMS**  
AT THE DES PLAINES PARK DISTRICT

**No school? No problem!**  
Join us for fun, from 7:30am-6:00pm!

**KRUISIN' KIDS**

3 exciting day trips. Register early!  
Ages 6-14. Details at DPParks.org

- 1** Monday, November 25  
Main Event Entertainment
- 2** Tuesday, November 26  
Schaumburg Water Works  
and Culver's
- 3** Wednesday, November 27  
AMC Rosemont Theater  
and CiCi's Pizza



AT THE LEISURE CENTER

**STAY & PLAY**  
A DAY OF SUPERVISED FUN & GAMES FOR AGES 5-14  
GYM SPORTS • GAME ZONE • ARTS & CRAFTS • OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



1919 2019

DES PLAINES PARK DISTRICT

2222 Birch Street • 847-391-5700 • DPParks.org



2017 WINNER  
2018 WINNER  
2019 WINNER  
NORTH SHORE  
**CHOICE**  
AWARDS  
PRESENTED BY 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MEDIA

**Oil Lamp Theater**  
Live Theater

*It's A Wonderful Life*

*A Live Radio Play*

*By Joe Landry*




November 29 through December 29

To reserve tickets - oillamptheater.org

Or (847) 834-0738