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THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
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Tuesday, February 10, 1981

Accent

Plan would turn tract into a haven

By Thomas J. Hagerty
Journal Environmental Reporter

Park officials with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources want to do something wild for city dwellers and convert the Havenwoods property to a rustic urban park.

The 235-acre tract on the Northwest Side boasts enough natural value to make an estimated $1.7 million park development worthwhile, according to a DNR master plan.

The plan cost $20,000, and it was unveiled at a recent meeting at the McGovern Park Senior Center.

Havenwoods is a departure for the DNR, which is more accustomed to developing rural land for parks.

In the opinion of some outdoor purists, transforming and policing Havenwoods as an environmental education center would bring headaches.

Nevertheless, the idea is to use Havenwoods for environmental programs for school and university groups and for evening programs run by volunteers.

In ages past, a canopy of tall forest covered the area.

Suffered from abuses

It has suffered from off-road vehicles, hunting, littering, dumping and vandalism. To protect the proposed park, the DNR would declare most of the land a wildlife refuge.

Largely cleared for a variety of urban and military uses, Havenwoods is in the process of revegetation. It harbors ring-necked pheasants, Hungarian partridge, cottontails, ground squirrels, thrushes, finches, warblers and red-tailed hawks, and it still attracts migrating mallards, teal and wading birds.

The DNR proposal is to construct an energy-efficient environmental education center costing $503,000, replant areas to mimic pre-settlement vegetation at a cost of $342,000, build a special-events area on an abandoned Nike missile pad for $182,600, and spend more than $300,000 to clean the site, form a four-acre wetland basin and build a rest area with picnic benches and toilets for hikers.

The project's advisory committee, strongly influenced by Friends of Havenwoods President Cari Backes, took the planners to task at the meeting last week for not includ-

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—Journal Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Steam rose from the lake as a man braved the cold weather while walking with his dog along the lakefront just south of McKinley Marina

ON THE city

Directory, parade planned

The Upper Center Street Business Association is looking for some support.

Among the group's immediate tasks are the compiling of a business directory and the planning of the fall Goblin Parade.

The directory will be 32 pages of business listings, advertisements and neighborhood information for residents. The directory will be distributed north of Center to Burleigh, south to North Ave., east to 37th St. and west to 67th St.

The parade, to be held Oct. 17, will proceed on Center St. from 43rd to 60th Sts.

For more information contact Ernest Martin at 442-8090 or Al Farnham at 447-9073.

Benefit for credit union

A benefit for the First Hub Credit Union will be held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday at the Jazz Gallery, 932 E. Center St.

Music and poetry readings by local artists, signed for the deaf, will be featured.

Proceeds from the event will be used to help First Hub defray the cost of damages suffered in a recent fire. Advance sale tickets are $3 and are available at ESHAC, 531 E. Burleigh St., or at First Hub, 814 E. Center St. Admission at the door will be $3.50.

Free tax clinic for elderly

A free federal income tax clinic for the elderly will be held at 1 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St.

Sharon Mack, a taxpayer service specialist for the Internal Revenue Service, will speak on filing requirements, exemptions, disability exclusions, credits for medical deductions and other special tax concerns.

For more information call United Way's Information Service for the Aging at 933-6540.

Harambee plans raffle

The Harambee Community School, 110 W. Burleigh St., will hold a raffle as one of two major events to raise money for the year.

The prizes will be a vacation to the Bahamas, a microwave oven and a $50 gift certificate from Kohl's.

All items will be raffled at the annual Sweetheart Dance Feb. 21 at the school.

Parents, teachers to convene

A convention for parents and teachers of students attending alternate schools will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Urban Day School, 1441 N. 24th St.

The public also is welcome to the event, which will cost $3.50 and which will cover such subjects as stress management for teachers, identifying learning disabilities, the literacy campaign in Nicuragua, learning modalities and 11 other workshops.

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Bank seeks to relocate in Park West

By Deborah Fagan
of The Journal Staff

Midtown State Bank, which unsuccessfully tried to move from the Near West Side to Downtown last year, is now eyeing a site on the vacant Park West freeway corridor.

The bank, at 3405 W. Lisbon Ave., wants to move to a parcel on Sherman Blvd. just north of North Ave. That land is earmarked for single-family and duplex housing, not commercial development, according to the redevelopment plan of the Park West Task Force.

Last year, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation refused to allow Midtown to move to a site on N. Water St. The proposed move had been opposed by the Cooperation West Side Association and several Downtown bankers.

The FDIC said the bank should remain within the area it was chartered to serve, an area bounded by 20th St., Highland Blvd., the Stadium Freeway and Center St.

In a recent letter to the Task Force, Cooperation West Side Association and the Sherman Park Community Association, Midtown President Paul Cochran said low traffic counts, a lack of parking space and deterioration of the bank's leased building had caused deposits and loans to drop.

"The community, I sense, would be delighted as we would be to have a new bank erected ... to act as a living monument to the death of the freeway corridor," Cochran wrote. "The traffic counts on North Ave. and Sherman Blvd. are excellent."

He added that the new site would allow the bank to obtain deposits from people living outside the Sher-

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Project Respect fights to keep head above water

By Kevin Merida
of The Journal Staff

Project Respect, an anti-crime program operating in the Inner City, is back where it started six years ago — broke.

Michael McGee, director of the program, laughs about it now as he waits for the last federal money to run out at the end of this month.

"It's almost funny," he said. "I think in the end what is going to have to happen for groups in our community is we're going to have to establish some kind of united black community fund to maintain the kind of programs we want ... because it's just a big hassle with all of these government funding sources."

At the end of February a grant of $27,844 from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration will run out, which in effect will mean the termination of the program's last two paid staff members. At one time the program had a paid staff of 11.

Project Respect, at 2636 N. 3rd St., recently sent a statement to community groups and neighborhood agencies spelling out the program's financial troubles and its disappointments.

"Hard to understand"

"It is hard for our board of directors to understand why our program was terminated, especially with the high crime rate in our community in 1980 and with the boom in crime that took off from Jan. 1 up until now," the statement read in part.

McGee said, "That is not a laughing matter." However, he said that the program would continue to operate with volunteer help.

While some aldermen, community groups and police are reporting a decrease in non-violent crimes in neighborhoods — at least those crimes that are reported — Milwaukee County medical examiner's records show there were more blacks murdered in 1980 than in any year since 1975.

Records show that in the 78 homicides recorded by the medical examiner last year 40 of the victims were black. In 1975, of 88 homicide victims, 44 were black.

A review of the records shows that 75% of the black homicide victims in 1980 were killed in the black community, the rest in other parts of the city.

"A yo-yo effect"

In 1981, through Feb. 2, four of the 12 homicide victims were black.

Said Ald. Roy Nabors, who represents the predominantly black 1st District, "Yeah, it seems to be a yo-yo effect.

"Any time the economic condition worsens, violent crime goes up in the black community. Maybe that will be the invitation for the Common Council to restore their funding."

Project Respect, which started in March of 1975 with all volunteers and the slogan — "Warning: We Must Respect Each Other" — has organized block clubs and sponsored a number of workshops to inform citizens on crime prevention techniques. It also has trained advisers to help residents set up neighborhood watches.

McGee said that in the last two years Project Respect organized 419 households into the Neighborhood Block Watch Program, distributed 8,500 pieces of crime prevention literature, organized eight block clubs and trained 60 people to become block leaders.

Kenneth Hagopian, deputy inspector in charge of the detective bureau for the Milwaukee Police Department, said there was a definite need for Project Respect and programs like it.

"I think that their objectives are admirable," he said. "Any program that would alert citizens is a damned good idea. There's no question that that kind of help is essential to a police department."

Project Respect also sponsors an annual essay writing contest for youths and a summer basketball league that involves some 800 Inner City youths.

After receiving its first grant of $53,000 in 1977 through the Compre-

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City sale of building seems painfully slow

By Fran Bauer
of The Journal Staff

Two months ago, Charles Hays and Reuben Anderson thought they had bought the building at 2439-45 N. 3rd St. from the city.

Their plans for the building, which included their using it for living and working, were picked by the city as the most promising among the five it received.

But the two men still aren't sure they are actually the lucky buyers. Seemingly endless red tape has delayed the final word on whether the building is theirs. Several times, the two say they have thought of simply forgetting the whole deal.

What is stalling the decision now is the potential buyers' need to get city approval on a $27,500 low-interest loan. They estimate that the money would cover the cost of restoring two stores downstairs and the five efficiency apartments they plan upstairs. Without the loan, the city cannot sell them the house when the Milwaukee Common Council reviews the sale this week.

Despite the agonizing wait, the two men consider the building to be their stake in the future. The price was right for them — just the $2,000 the city had decided on before the bidding, plus another $1,000 to show good faith. If they actually do get the building, they expect that the rentals from the apartments and the revenue from the businesses in it will help them both finish school.

The building was one of three 3rd

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ask the Journal

Directed by Maurice D. Wozniak

If you've tried to help yourself, this column will try to get your rights from government, cut red tape, correct consumer injustices, and answer unanswered questions. Unfortunately, because of mail volume, we can't answer or acknowledge all letters. Write Ask The Journal, The Milwaukee Journal, Box 661, Milwaukee, Wis. 53201. Give your name, address and telephone number.

A turnaround

On the west and south corners of the intersection of 68th and Morgan, the City of Milwaukee has a "No Turn on Red" sign. This serves no practical purpose because 90% of the children are bused to the nearby school.

I think these signs should be changed to "No Turn on Red When Children Are Present." These signs are a great inconvenience in this area.

Jerome Roush, Milwaukee

Ronald Sonntag, freeway operations supervisor for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, said there are six specified criteria for prohibiting right turns on red lights. They include intersections with characteristics that present sight problems or unexpected pedestrian and vehicular conflicts. Intersections with more than three accidents per year involving a right turn on red and those with significant crossing activity by children, elderly or handicapped also qualify.

There are also other less clear-cut criteria, Sonntag said. Many intersections are evaluated on an individual basis. But the ultimate decision of whether a "No Right Turn" sign is erected or not rests with the municipality where the intersection is located.

Since 68th and Morgan is in Milwaukee, we went next to the city's traffic engineering department.

Don Haglund, a traffic control engineer, told us that the city had made a policy decision against using "No Right Turn When Children Are Present" signs. He said the city felt the signs were nebulous and concurred with the police department's contention that the limited restriction was impossible to enforce. So the city had decided to "go all the

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