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Spending cut below current level

Council okays new budget after wrangle, fund slashing

By Herman Baumann
The City Council approved a \$1.9 million 1979-80 capital budget. Monday night after fiery debate and votes to slash about \$192,000 from funds to improve the intersection of Touhy Ave. and Dee Rd., install new curbs and gutters on Courtland Ave., and beautify Hodges Park.

The new capital budget, which deals with the city's investments in plant and equipment, is down about \$167,000 from the 1978-79 budget figure of \$2.09 million.

The Council voted to install left turn bays on Touhy Ave. only, rather than on both Touhy and Dee Rd. to save about \$74,000 and to discourage heavier traffic on Dee Rd.

The Council policy is to give improvement priority to intersections with the most accidents. The intersection of Touhy and Dee ranks second only to Oakton and Greenwood in number of accidents because there are no turning bays or special lights for motorists turning left in an any direction, according to Tom Fredrickson, director of public works.

"If improvements are made, there should be a substantial improvement in the accident rate," Fredrickson said.

Ald. Bob Ady disagreed, "If we improve the intersection, it will encourage more people to use Dee Rd., and more traffic will lead to more accidents."

Ady said Higgins Rd. is scheduled to be improved south of the city where a large office complex is being planned, and to the north of the city many multiple family buildings are being constructed.

"Dee Rd. is a residential street," Ady argued. "There are 85 single family driveways that go onto it. We should encourage north-south traffic to use River Rd.," he said.

Ald. C. Gordon Johnson said, "If we're talking about not improving the intersection we're making a big mistake. It's a hazardous corner. Traffic is not going to go away, and won't increase

because we make the corner safer," he said.

Ald. George Locascio said, "If people going south on Dee can't turn left conveniently at Touhy, they'll turn left on Sibley to head into town. If that's an easier route they'll take it," he said.

The Council then compromised by agreeing to add turning bays to Touhy Ave. only.

Aldermen disgruntled over improving a sub-standard street completely eliminated \$9,000 from the budget for new curbs and gutters on Courtland Ave.

For purposes of safety, the city wants to add three feet to the width of the street, which has lawn and a row of trees on a parkway separating the two directions of traffic.

Locascio said Courtland is a collector street with heavier traffic demands on it, and that because it is only 19 feet wide, it is dangerous. He said that when cars are parked along the street, there is not enough room left for emergency equipment such as firetrucks and ambulances to pass by without going over

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Citizens petition for referendum on school bonds

A group of concerned citizens has banded together to force the Elementary School Dist. 64 Board to put their recently approved \$3 million working cash fund bond sale to a referendum.

Last week the board voted 5-2 to okay the controversial bond sale, which is designed to keep Dist. 64 from going \$3.3 million in the hole by 1982. The bond sale will add about \$40 to the tax bill of the average home in Park Ridge through 1982.

State law requires the board to put the bond sale to a referendum only if 20 percent of the registered voters sign petitions demanding that the measure be put to a vote within 10 days of the date the sale is published — that's Sunday, Dec. 24.

Aldermanic candidates may take first step

Park Ridge City Clerk Kathleen Breidert announced that forms and information for candidates who wish to run in the April 17 aldermanic election are available in the city clerk's office. Candidates can pick up nomination petitions, statements of candidacy, and ethics statements, as well as information sheets and copies of the relevant election laws.

To be a candidate for Park Ridge alderman, a person must reside in the ward in which he or she is seeking office; have resided in Park Ridge for at least one year; and not owe any money to the city.

The first day for filing these papers is Jan. 8. The final filing date is Feb. 13. Petitions of public policy must be filed by Jan. 29. Nomination papers must be filed in the City Clerk's office during regular working hours - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Breidert added that she and Mrs. Lorraine Hayes, deputy clerk, will be happy to assist any candidate in complying with filing requirements.

Residents claim UFO's paid visit to Park Ridge

If you saw anything unusual up in the sky in recent weeks, you weren't alone. At least five Park Ridge residents sighted a flying saucer in two unrelated incidents.

The first incident occurred about 2:30 a.m. Dec. 9 when Patty Kelly, 12, 339 Cuttriss St., looked out her bedroom window and saw a saucer-shaped object with red and white lights hovering above the house across the street. Patty then woke up her mother Joan Kelly and the two watched the saucer for about a minute before it moved quickly toward Lake Michigan where it hung for about an hour.

According to Mrs. Kelly, the saucer was as big as the house it was hovering over and about a block's distance up in the air. Attached to the underside of it

were three balls each the size of half a garbage can.

Mrs. Kelly said the three balls moved together around the saucer which also emitted a distant fire alarm type noise.

The saucer was also seen about the same time by several members of the Bachur family, 333 Cuttriss.

Last Thursday at about 5:30 p.m. Collette Loll, 12, 408 S. Lincoln, and Heidi Wissmueller, 12, 1526 Talcott, were tobogganing on the hill at Centennial Park when they spotted a saucer-shaped object with a row of flashing red lights on the top and bottom and flashing yellow lights in between.

According to Collette's mother, Kathie Loll, the saucer seemed to follow the girls making a "thumping and rushing wind noise." The saucer hung in the air for about 20 minutes occasionally making a semi-circle and stopping again.

Collette and Heidi also described the saucer as having three balls attached that moved together.

Park Ridge police said they received no other reports of the two incidents, but advised that residents that do see anything unusual contact the police dept. which will in turn call the UFO Center in Evanston.

First Baptist to install first woman deacon

Frances Scott of Glenview will become the first woman deacon in the 22-year history of First Baptist Church of Park Ridge this January. Along with Frances Meadows of Northbrook, she was elected to the Board of Deacons at the fall business meeting in late November.

The church is at the corner of Northwest Hwy. and Potter Rd. in Park Ridge. Membership is made up of people from many communities; only about half of those active are from Park Ridge itself.

Sunday worship is at 10:45 a.m., with Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome to attend and to find a church home at First Baptist of Park Ridge.

Public meetings

Park Dist. Board of Commissioners, Thursday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m., at Park Dist. Headquarters, 2701 Sibley

Finance and Budget Committee, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 8 p.m., in City Hall.

Unique, fresh pine adornment Park Ridge Christmas decorations start their story on hot July day

A hot July in 1972 may seem a strange time to begin the story of Park Ridge's beautiful Christmas decorations in Uptown and South Park. Many will remember, however, an unseasonable sight for three weeks that summer—a fresh pine Christmas wreath garlanding the gas light outside the Coffee Cup on Main Street.

That wreath was a sample, placed there by the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce, to be assessed by our merchants for new decorations in the major business districts during the holiday season.

"Terrific!" was the reaction, and plans went ahead to turn our city into what many think is the prettiest town in the Chicago area at Christmastime.

For some years before, the Chamber of Commerce had sponsored the decorations. During the 50's, every parking meter had a flower pot mounted on it. For the holidays, small trees were placed in the pots, an idea conceived by Russ Reid of Reid's on South Prospect.

In the middle 60's, the chamber's executive director, Clare Perline, led a switch to blue-and-gold tinsel Christmas

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Long time resident remembers old-fashioned Christmas beauty

Editor's Note: The following article is written by Mary Walley, 81, author of the Herald's weekly column, "Do you remember", and a Park Ridge resident since 1922.

By Mary Walley
My memory about Christmas goes back many, many years
In my childhood, Christmas was a feast of the spirit of the mind. It was the birth of a child who was the

without the slightest idea of what it really signifies.

When I came to Park Ridge, Christmas was still the feast of the birth of Christ, and Santa Claus was just an image of St. Nicholas, a legendary friend of children, especially the poor, who distributed gifts of food and clothing on his feast Dec. 6.

Park Ridge merchants helped to make Christmas exciting for the children. A horse-drawn sled with sleighbells drove through the town as Santa Claus distributed candy canes, nuts, and apples to the children.

Even the horses seemed generous. The children did not realize these were the same horses that drew the garbage truck, the snow plow or the excavator, driven around by Mr. Diessen.

Johnny Burkett in his Cadillac garage on Meacham collected toys. His crew of mechanics worked for weeks mending and painting these toys. They were distributed to children whose fathers were known to be unemployed during the depression.

Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Lyon, Mrs. Holbrook and Mrs. Merritt, directed the distribution by the fire dept. so each Park Ridge child had a gift. Rocking horses, scooters, dolls and doll buggies, sleds and roller skates were the most popular gifts.

Artificial trees were unknown. Tree decorations consisted of popcorn strings, cranberry strings, glass ornaments and candles in snap on brackets. Later when we first had strings of electric lights, if one light went out the whole string went out. Fixing and turning them on again added to the excitement and glamour.

There was no television to distract from the joy, love, and companionship of the family together.

Christmas and winter also had its seamy side, however. Children were subject to all kinds of childhood diseases. Whooping cough, measles, colds, and the dreaded scarlet fever. Each of these diseases required quarantine.


When a patient had scarlet fever, a red sign was nailed on the door by a police officer. No one was allowed to enter the home even the milkman who had to leave the bottles of milk at the back door. He was also not allowed to pick up the empties until the red sign was off the door.

Often when one child after another

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Mary Walley



The spirit of Christmas..

The warmth of friendship and fellowship pervades our hearts. A sense of peace and harmony saturates our souls. Christmas truly is a miracle bringing man closer to man and closer to God. We hope that the Miracle of Christmas with all of its joyous manifestations comes to you and your loved ones this holiday season and throughout every day of the new year ahead!

THE PARK RIDGE HERALD



Like an old-fashioned Christmas card, Hodges Park's gas lights twinkle through their pine garlands, an unforgettable holiday setting for City Hall. (Photo by Sheldon Sugar)