



Soaring interest in local recreation expands need for parks , facilities

By Jason Sippy

Antioch has been steadily evolving from a quiet little town, with a historic past, to a growing center for housing developments and commercial stores.

The Antioch board of Parks and Recreation has been busily trying to match this growth with adequate facilities throughout the town. The future of Antioch's parks looks bright, as the board has plans for many new playing fields, as well as a recreation center.

This spring, Phase 1 of the Tim Osmond Sports Complex will begin, which will feature football fields that will be used by the Viking youth football program, as well as baseball diamonds, which can be used by the Antioch youth little league.

"Thanks to an OSLAD grant (Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development) we have the funds to begin the project", said Laurie Stahl, Parks and Recreation Director.

When all three of the phases are complete, the 80-acre park will include two football fields, including one with lights, seven baseball diamonds, a sledding hill, and a Frisbee golf course.

Most people recall taking a survey not too long ago, regarding a possible aquatic center for Antioch.

In the not too distant future, Antioch may soon be swimming in their new pool complex located off of North Avenue. The aquatic center will feature both water slides, as well as an indoor and outdoor pool.

A rec center will also be built on the property, with features similar to the Lindenhurst Rec Center. Antioch's idea incorporates a gym and a fitness center, as well as a preschool.

As of right now, Antioch will begin to construct small parks in the Clublands and NeuHaven subdivisions with soccer fields and baseball diamonds.

This summer, work will also begin on Trevor Creek Park.

However, the proposed clock tower, which created buzz a few summers ago, will no longer be erected due to insufficient funds.

"It's a shame that we couldn't construct the clock tower, but we don't have the necessary funding anymore", stated Tom Kessel, Parks Commission Member.

Looking into the future Antioch has a lot to accomplish.

"We have a master plan, which has goals we would like to accomplish in ten years, and one of these goals is to become a park district", Stahl stated.

Right now the Antioch Department of Parks and Recreation is part of the village, but if it were to become a park district, it would become its own separate taxing body.

It will also be less difficult to acquire money for projects.

This, however, would require a referendum, but is an available option in the future for Antioch to create bigger and better parks.

Livin' Large: Antioch experiences population inflation

By Kevin Heffernan

Over the past few years the population of Antioch has experienced a steady increase.

According to the U.S. census the population of Antioch has gone from 8,800 in the year 2000 to 10,000 in the year 2004 to 13,824 in 2007.

The increased population is directly related to the increase in housing availability in Antioch.

According to Jack Fields, a realtor of 13 years, Antioch has gained about seven or eight new subdivisions in the past ten years.

These subdivisions include the Woods of Antioch, Tiffany Farms, and NeuHaven.

Jeremy Pluccienik a realtor of three years has also noticed an increase in housing opportunities in Antioch.

"In the few years that I've been selling real estate there has been a definite increase in houses being built," said Pluccienik.

The constant increase in population raises the ques-

tion—how much will the population continue to increase?

According to Fields the population will continue its upward trend.

"If you look at the comprehensive plans for the new developments the population will increase to about 18,000 when the new developments are finished," said Fields.

Even more new subdivisions are waiting for the approval to begin development.

"Antioch has three subdivisions that are waiting for sewer regulations to be approved. Last year the village received funds from the state to expand the sewage system to the location of the new subdivisions," said Fields.

The new subdivisions will be located across from Emmons School off of Route 83, on the corner of Tiffany Road and North Avenue. Another subdivision will be coming in

off of Route 45.

Fields stated that the new subdivisions should be completed in the next few years.

"The sewage system should be expanded and ready by 2008. This would allow for development to begin sometime around 2009," said Fields.

One may find themselves asking—why is Antioch such a popular destination for new development?

According to Fields, builders are attracted to Antioch because of its convenient location.

"Antioch is centrally located between Chicago and Milwaukee. Only seven miles off the interstate. This allows for easy transportation to either city. Also, Antioch is not nearly completely developed, with much open space available to developers," said Fields.

The growing population in the area has resulted in the purchase of new land for a third school

and also the renovations of grade schools.

According to Jay Sabatino, District 117 Superintendent, land was purchased because of observations of the expanding community and population.

"It is possible that there will be an extra 100 students coming in every year," said Sabatino, "Within the next seven or eight years [both of] the schools will be overcrowded."

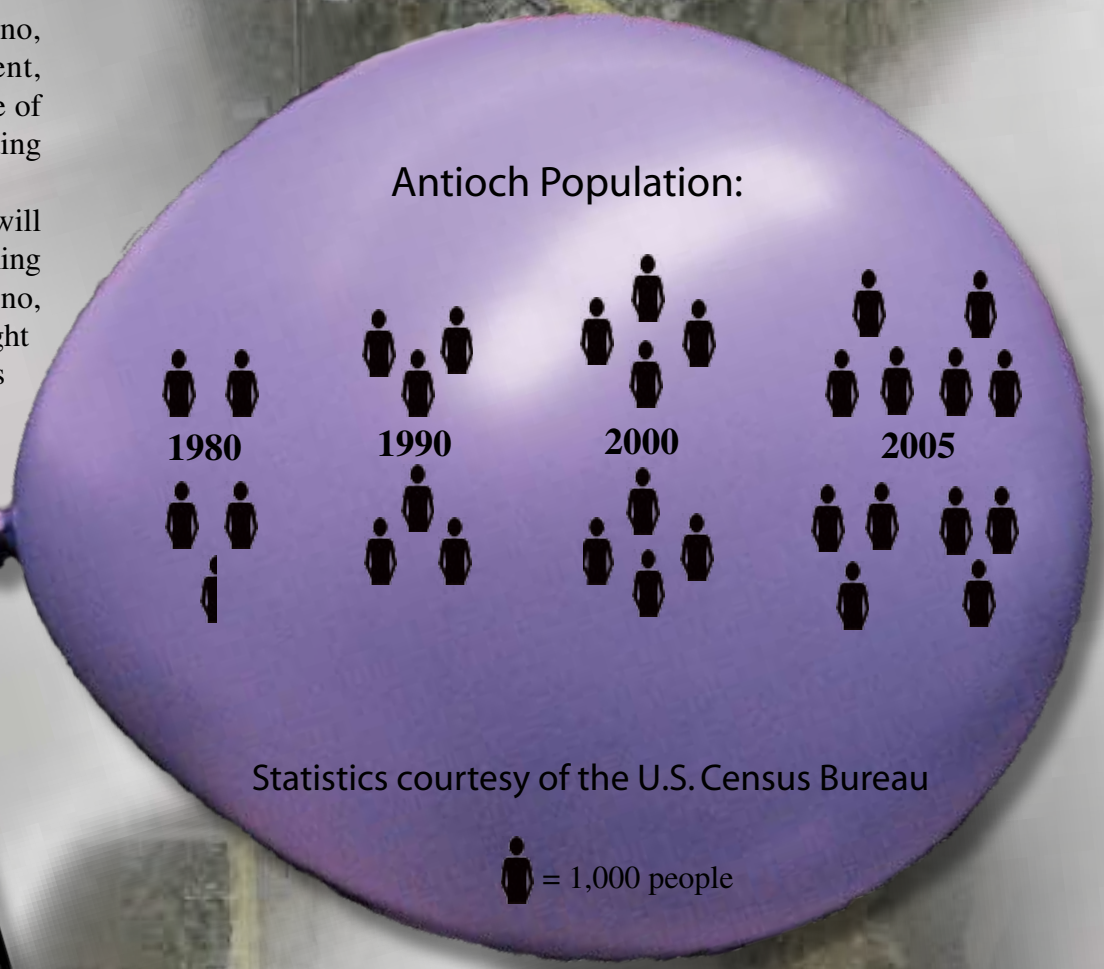
The recent purchase of land is for a third high school. Sabatino reported that there is still more land to be purchased for the school.

"We have approximately 40 acres of new land for the third school [so far]," said Sabatino.

But before the high school is built, grade schools need to be expanded to fit the area's expanding population.

"There are potential plans for two new grade schools," said Sabatino.

It is possible that there will be an extra 100 students coming in every year.
-Jay Sabatino Superintendent



Booming commercial climate draws in new merchants and services

By Sean Kelly

The mega-opolis on the corner of Route 173 and Deep Lake Road is continually growing with the upcoming addition of businesses.

Perhaps the biggest addition will be Menard's. Accord to Dustin Nilsen, Director of Planning and Zoning in Antioch, Menard's plans on opening its doors in April.

Located near Menard's will be National Tire and Battery. Nilsen said National Tire and Battery will also be open in April.

Along with the opening of National Tire and Battery will be a fellow car specialty store Fast Tire. Fast Tire opened Monday. According to general manager Scott Goldufsky, Fast Tire will offer a \$9 oil change in its first month it is open.

Goldufsky said that a unique feature of Fast Tire is its waiting area. According to Goldufsky, the store plans on having plasma screen televisions, wi-fi internet access, a video game area, and Starbucks coffee all available for customers while they wait for their car.

Another addition will be Popeye's Chicken. According to Nilsen, as of now it is unknown when Popeye's will open.

Nilsen said that there are a couple of other businesses that have shown interest in building in that area, but are not a sure thing. Businesses that have shown interest include Target, Kohl's, and Lowe's.

Nilsen indicated that businesses have taken interest smaller stores as well.

"We'll see more smaller businesses coming in," Nilsen said.

Fifth-Third Bank is another business that has recently opened its doors.

According to financial center manager Omar Mendez, Fifth-Third Bank's fun atmosphere sets it apart from other banks.

ACHS junior Sam Gordon said that although the new additions will be convenient, overall they will have a negative impact on Antioch.

"Sometimes it's really inconvenient to have to drive to Round Lake or Gurnee for a certain store, but I don't like the idea of so many stores because it's going to make everything so much more hectic," Gordon said.

Antioch resident Ryan Owens disagrees with Gordon.

"I think it's great for the community. It'll be much more convenient and will bring a lot of jobs to Antioch," Owens said.