

July 2007

## Village of Forest Park

As the Village of Forest Park Commissioners consider the terms of the West Cook YMCA's offer to purchase land in the Altenheim Property Area, we thought it would be helpful for the community to have the benefit of a synopsis of the project as it is currently envisioned.

### **Benefits to the Village of Forest Park**

- The YMCA, rooted in Judeo-Christian traditions, is committed to improving the quality of life and the development of the Spirit, Mind and Body of all persons regardless of age, race, gender, creed or ability to pay.
- The new YMCA will not require any tax support or referendums to build or operate the new facility.
- Only those who use the YMCA facility will pay fees; the YMCA does not turn anyone away due to lack of funds. Scholarships and subsidies are available to anyone who is unable to pay regular fees.
- The new YMCA's staff will add to Forest Park's employment base (over 100 will be employed).
- With its focus on health, wellness and the development of character in youth, families and adults of all ages, the YMCA will contribute to the "quality of life," of the Forest Park community.
- The new YMCA will collaborate with Forest Park's community agencies such as schools, churches, senior centers, Park Districts and other agencies.
- As a community-based not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization recognized by the State of Illinois, whose operations are 90% funded by membership and program fees and the balance by contributions, the new YMCA will enhance the image and property values of Forest Park.

### **Proposed new State-of-the Art YMCA Facility**

The YMCA's architects and planners, working under the national guidelines of the YMCA of the USA and local zoning codes have developed a preliminary concept design for a site plan and for a two-story YMCA on the Forest Park property that will include the following facilities:

#### An Aquatic Center with two indoor swimming pools

- *Family/Fun Teaching Pool*  
A warm water (86°-88°F) Zero depth swimming pool that is fully accessible as proscribed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This pool will be ideal for teaching swim lessons for youth and excellent for use by seniors and persons with arthritis or disabilities. The pool will also feature a water slide that will add to family fun time together.
- *Fitness/Lap Pool*  
This pool, at 80°-82° F will be excellent for lap swimming, fitness and competitive swimming.

#### Field House with Indoor Track

Basketball, volleyball and badminton will be played in the field house and the facility will also be used for large fitness classes and meetings.

Multi-Purpose Meeting Rooms

Several meeting rooms are planned where local service clubs and community groups may schedule meetings. The rooms also will be used for health education and screening and fitness and dance classes.

Childcare Center

The YMCA will continue to expand its preschool and school age childcare programs.

Health /Fitness Center

A state-of-the-art Cardio/Weight Training Center for adults and a Family Activity Center with interactive equipment and educational information materials for youths and families will be available.

Teen/Senior Computer Learning Center

The Center will provide computer literacy education programs for persons of all ages and abilities. In addition, there will be Arts and Crafts programs offered as well.

Locker Rooms

There will be separate ADA accessible areas for families, adults, youth and disabled persons.

Sauna, Whirlpool and Steam Rooms

A Health Food "Bar"

Family Adventure Center will feature a climbing wall and other facilities

Handball/Racquet Ball Courts

Outdoor Grounds

Parking for up to 250 autos is planned on site. Playing fields for soccer, baseball/softball.

Walking paths will be installed leading to the Forest Park Picnic Grove on the north end of the property, and will connect to the Prairie Path. Plus access to overflow parking lot.

We believe that the new YMCA in Forest Park will meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's youth and families, with a special focus on Baby Boomers and seniors. The new state-of-the-art facility will offer fitness, health education, sports and recreation programs for persons of all ages. Of equal importance, the new YMCA will provide a special focus on character, leadership development and family values.

We're hopeful that you and the board finds this information helpful as you evaluate the West Cook YMCA's offer to purchase land and you discuss this important new development for the Village of Forest Park with your constituents.

We are available to discuss any aspect of this project at your convenience.

Sincerely,

James Lencioni  
Chairman of the Board

Richard Blaurock  
Member, Board of Directors

Scott Gaalaas  
President & CEO