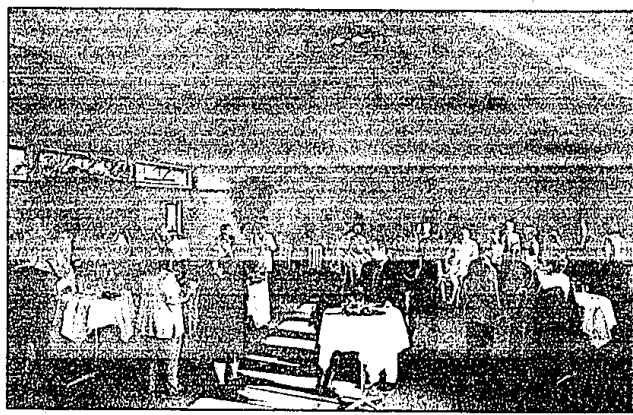




**Hello:** James Seavitt (at right) spearheaded efforts to raise money for the expanded recreation center. He meets Jim Ragland and board member Myra Wetzel.

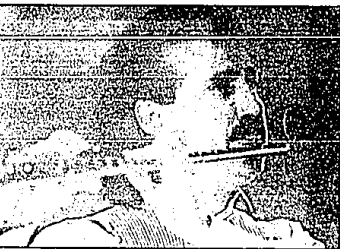


STAFF PHOTOS BY BOB BEEBE

**Celebrate:** The expanded recreation center at Boys and Girls Republic is spacious and full of natural light. Friends and supports of the center gathered to celebrate the expansion.

## Dedication

### Boys and Girls Republic honors former leader with party



**Music:** The Alexander Zonjiz Quartet entertained guests at the dedication ceremony.

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It was pure celebration.

Donors of the expanded Jack McElroy Recreation Center at Boys and Girls Republic on Nino Mile were treated to a party and brief dedication surrounded by the sounds of Alexander Zonjiz and Friends and Naima Shamborguer.

"It was a thank you to our donors," said Mary Jane Peck, Boys and Girls Republic executive director.

The \$1.6 million addition to the recreation center on the campus was due to donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.

The center is named after the late Jack McElroy, the former assistant director, who was dedicated to children, Peck said.

"Besides its providing a healthy physical

**"He taught young people to use recreation as a way to look at and deal with the conflicts in their lives."**

*Tribute to Jack McElroy*  
—Boys and Girls Republic

outlet, Jack saw recreation as a tool to help youth who were not physically fit get in shape which increased their self-esteem. He taught staff how to create and evaluate recreation plans for each young person, tailoring games and sports to each youth's specific needs. He taught young people to use recreation as a way to look at and deal with the conflicts in their lives," according to a tribute.

McElroy was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in March 1991. He died in January 1994.

"He became a leader dedicated to kids," Peck added.

The addition of girls to the program and expanded services to youth and families prompted the expansion of the recreation center.

The expanded center offers a weight room, library, multipurpose room, offices and bathrooms, Peck said.

"We use the multipurpose room to teach cooking and other life skills," Peck said.

The Boys and Girls Republic 80-acre campus features 13 buildings and serves boys and girls ages 12 to 18 who are considered delinquent, abused or neglected and those with mental health problems.

The following foundations have provided funding for the center: United Way Community Services Capital Fund Division, McGregor Fund, Chrysler Corporation Fund, Herrick Foundation, Seavitt Foundation, Carls Foundation, Cadillac Products Foundation, Detroit Rotary Foundation, William Lyons Phelps Foundation, Himmel Foundation, Thomas Foundation and individual donors.

Caribou Coffee: The mix of ingredients gives you goosebumps. The kick of coffee, blended smooth as virgin snow. Mmmm. Brrrr. CARIBOU COFFEE.