

# HCMHA Redevelopment Of Belle Isle Eyed

Belle Isle isn't just a Detroit facility. It's a resource used by people from all over the region and the state.

That's the belief of the Detroit Common Council expressed upon being presented with a proposal to redevelop Belle Isle by the Huron County Metropolitan Authority (HCMHA).

"This is a grand opportunity for all units of government, federal, state, county, city and the HCMHA to demonstrate intelligent analysis and solution to a perplexing problem," said William E. Kreger, Wayne County's representative on the HCMHA board of commissioners.

He called the redevelopment plan pertinent to "a regional park facility for the substantial numbers of citizens who depend solely on public trans-

portation for the recreational needs," in contrast to the Common Council opinion.

HCMHA is supported by a quarter-million tax on all property in the five-county region. This amounts to 25 cents per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation.

**THE COUNCIL SAID THEY** were very impressed with the "redevelopment plan" and agreed to appoint a committee to investigate the legal, financial, management and operational considerations of this project. The committee would include an appointee of Mayor Roman S. Gribbes, parks and recreation, planning and development, and representatives of the City of Detroit departmental representatives plus the staff of the HCMHA.

The presentation was made by David O. Laidlaw, director

of the HCMHA which has eight parks serving the citizens of Wayne, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland and Washtenaw counties. Many Wayne County residents are frequent visitors to such well-known Metropolitan Parks as Lower Huron Metropolitan Park near Belleville, Kensington Metropolitan Park near Milford, Stony Creek Metropolitan Park near Utica and Metropolitan Beach near Mt. Clemens.

The purpose of the presentation was to determine if the council was interested in the possibility of the HCMHA redeveloping and operating Belle Isle.

**IF BELLE ISLE** were transferred to the authority, it would also require a vote of the people in the City of Detroit.

Laidlaw said, "The Belle Isle Redevelopment Plan, as envisioned by the authority, might well cost \$40 million or more. Thus, the HCMHA would have to investigate additional sources of funding since the present tax revenue is already committed to its present eight parks and construction of new ones already started.

A new HCMHA park opening early this summer is Willow Metropolitan Park, covering 1,900 acres between New Boston and Flat Rock, which is expected to see only limited use since development of this site is expected to continue for the next several years.

**THE HCMHA** was sanctioned by the Michigan State Legislature in 1939 and approved by the vote of the people in the five counties in 1940.

Presently, the HCMHA is provided with \$4.6 million per year in tax revenues, with \$2.7 million contributed by Wayne County.

Tax revenues from the other counties are: Oakland - \$1,006,540; Macomb \$609,000; Washtenaw - \$276,995; and Livingston - \$56,000, plus about \$300,000 in revenue from park operations.

Kurt R. Keydel, appointed to the HCMHA Board by the governor and serving as a representative-at-large, pointed out that the one-fourth mill tax base of the authority is a concept established over 25 years ago and is perhaps unrealistic in terms of the increased costs of land, construction of new facilities, and operating and maintaining parks under today's conditions.

"Therefore, increased funding might be needed, necessary to meet the increased recreational demand for both present and future metropolitan parks, not only Belle Isle," remarked Keydel.

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## AREA DEATHS AND FUNERALS

**LAURA RUTH LAW**, Mrs. Law, 78, of 2600 Ford Road, Livonia, died Feb. 18. Funeral services were held Feb. 19 at the Mass-Ferguson Funeral Home and at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington with the Rev. Hugh C. White officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery.

**Mrs. Law** is survived by two grandchildren, Mrs. Barbara Senk and Thomas Law.

**FLORENCE A. LUKY**, Services for Mrs. Luky, 86, of 320 W. Main St., Northville, were held in the Schrader Funeral Home, Plymouth, with Rev. Robert Shook officiating. Burial was in Woodmen Cemetery, Detroit.

**Mrs. Luky** died Feb. 22. She is survived by a son, Howard of Plymouth.

**WILLIAM G. WOREK**, Funeral services for Mr. Worek, of 2944 James, Garden City, were held Monday, Feb. 23, in St. Raphael Catholic Church, Garden City, with burial in St. Hedwig Cemetery.

**Mr. Worek** died Feb. 19 in Garden City Osteopathic Hospital at the age of 62.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia, two sons, David and Bruce; two brothers, Ben and John; and one grandson.

**SHIRLEY GRIGSBY**, Funeral services for Miss Grigsby, of 3290 Parkville, Garden City, were held Monday in St. Raphael Catholic Church, Garden City, with burial in Parkview Memorial Park.

She died Feb. 19 at the age of 15. She is survived by her father, Harold; two brothers, Charles and Michael; and a sister, Barbara Fox.

**GEORGE BLAKE GILLIES**, Funeral services for Mr. Gillies, 56, of 546 Sheldon Road, Plymouth, were held in the Schrader Funeral Home with Rev. Henry J. Walsh officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery.

**Mr. Gillies** died Feb. 20 after a brief illness.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, a son, George, two daughters, Mrs. Carol Simpson and Mrs. Maria Parnell, and six grandchildren.

**NINA MEANS**, Funeral services for Mrs. Means, 86, of 331 Adams, Plymouth, were held in the Schrader Funeral Home with Rev. Paul Carpe officiating. Burial was in Walker Cemetery, Salem Township.

**Mrs. Means** died Feb. 21 after a brief illness.

She is survived by a brother, John Gardner, and a sister, Mrs. Agnes Collins.

**MARGARET O. FILIATRAUT**, Services for Mrs. Filiatraut, of 1507 Brown, Garden City, were held Saturday, Feb. 21, from John Saniou and Son Funeral Home and St. Raphael Catholic Church, Garden City. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

**Mrs. Filiatraut** died Feb. 18 in Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn, at the age of 78. She was a Garden City resident for 21 years and a retired employee of Detroit Diesel.

She is survived by two daughters, Margaret and Clara; three sons, John of Garden City, Joseph and Arthur; three sisters; one brother; and three grandchildren.

**AMY G. EDDALL**, Services for Mrs. Eddall, 72, of 3151 Woodward in Farmington, were Feb. 21 in the Thayer Funeral Home in Farmington. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery.

**Mrs. Eddall**, the wife of Louis E. Eddall, died Feb. 18 after a two-year illness. She was a resident of Farmington for 26 years.

She is survived by her husband, Louis; a son, Lou B. of St. Paul, Minn.; one sister, Janet Schenkel of Temple City, Calif.; one brother, Wesley Gantz of Texas; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**MAY C. TUCKER**, Services for Mrs. Tucker, 85, of 2027 Springfield Dr. in Farmington, were Feb. 21 in the Thayer Funeral Home in Farmington. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery, Waller Ballguy Baptist Church officiated at the service.

**Mrs. Tucker** was a resident of Farmington for 15 years. She died Feb. 19 after an illness of three years.

She is survived by a daughter, Frances Bregman of Farmington; two sons, Paul H. Whitmore and Jack of Royal Oak; a sister, Mary M. Mason of Oakland, Calif.; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

**MABEL FRITZ**, Funeral services for Mrs. Fritz, 85, of 2801 Wayne Road, Westland, were held in the Schrader Funeral Home with Rev. William Kulman officiating. Burial was in Lutheran Cemetery of Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit.

**Mrs. Fritz** died Feb. 19. She is survived by her husband, Will, and two sons.

**WILLIAM NEAL SPARKS**, Funeral services for Mr. Sparks, of 1101 Westview, Farmington, were held Monday in St. Raphael Catholic Church, Garden City, with burial in St. Hedwig Cemetery.

**Mr. Sparks**, owner of Sparks Greenhouse, for 26 years, died Feb. 19 at the age of 79.

He is survived by his wife, Laura; a son, William Jr.; four daughters, Mrs. Louisa Wood, Mrs. Bessie Houston, Mrs. Lauretta Jean Howard, Mrs. Mary Jane Deschamps; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**ALFRED P. REID SR.**, Mr. Reid, 73, of 15401 Kinloch, Redford Township, died Feb. 19 and funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday from Hammond-Haas Funeral Home on Five Mile.

Interment was in Grandview Cemetery.

Survivors are his wife, Mae; four sons, Alfred F. Jr., William Jack and Robert; He is also survived by a sister Mrs. Alice Sanders and 11 grandchildren.

**VERNA E. HILL**, Mrs. Hill, who lived at 3000 Oakwood, Livonia, for 12 years, died Feb. 23 in Plymouth Hospital after an illness of about a month.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Damian Catholic Church, Joy Road, west of Middle

Belt. A rosary will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the Mass-Burill Funeral Home, 800 Middle Belt. Burial will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Detroit.

**Mrs. Hill** is survived by her husband, Fred; a son, Donald; a daughter, Mrs. Joseph Deering; and nine grandchildren.

**MAURICE T. REIDY**, Mr. Reidy, 65, of 4818 Irving Lane, Livonia, died Feb. 19 in St. Mary Hospital.

Funeral services were held Feb. 23 at St. Genevieve Church with burial in Mt. Elliott.

**Mr. Reidy** is survived by his wife, Hazel and five daughters, Diane, Noel, Mary, Carol and Maureen Reidy.

Also surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Helen Herren, and Mrs. M.J. McElroy, and a brother, John J. Reidy. He had one grandchild.

**MARGARET C. SERVICES** for Mrs. Riley, of 2323 Woodward, Westland, were held Thursday, Feb. 19, from the R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Garden City and in Chicago. Burial was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Lexington, Ill.

**Mrs. Riley** died Feb. 18 in Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn, at the age of 52.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Marcia Blauz; two sisters, Mrs. Bessie Shaw and Mrs. Edith Foster; and four grandchildren.

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