

# HCMCA 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 Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMCA).

"This is a grand opportunity for all units of government, federal, state, county, city and the HCMCA to demonstrate intelligent analysis and solution to a perplexing problem," said William E. Kreyer, Wayne County's representative on the HCMCA 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 transportation for the recreational needs."

In contrast to the Common Council opinion, HCMCA 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. Gribbs, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, and representatives of the City of Detroit departmental representatives plus the staff of the HCMCA.

The presentation was made by David O. Laidlaw, director

Laidlaw said, "The Belle Isle Redevelopment Plan, as envisioned by the authority might well cost \$40 million or more. The HCMCA 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 HCMCA park opening early this summer is Willow Metropolitan Park, covering 1,200 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 HCMCA** 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 HCMCA 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 HCMCA 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. Lee, 78, of 2600 Ford Road, Livonia, died Feb. 11. Funeral services were held Feb. 11 at the Mass-Peter Funeral Home and at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington with the Rev. Hugh C. White officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

Ms. Law is survived by two grandchildren, Mrs. Barbara Smek and Thomas Law.

**Flornice A. Luksey**-Services for Mrs. Luksey, 88, of 520 W. Main St., Northville, were held in the Schrader Funeral Home, Plymouth, Feb. 19. Robert Shanks officiating. Burial was in Woodmont Cemetery, Detroit.

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

**William Gowren**-Funeral services for Mr. Gowren, of 2284 James, Garden City, were held Monday, Feb. 23, in St. Raphael Catholic Church, Garden City, with burial in St. Hedwig Cemetery.

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

He is survived by his wife, Doris; a son, George; two daughters, Mrs. Carol and Mrs. Starline; and six grandchildren.

**Shirley Gaisbury**-Funeral services for Miss Gaisbury, of 3204 Daniels, Garden City, were held Monday, Feb. 23, in St. Raphael Catholic Church, Garden City, with burial in St. Hedwig Cemetery.

She died Feb. 19 at the age of 61. She is survived by her father, Harold; two brothers, Charles and Michael; and a sister, Barbara Fay.

**George Blake Gillies**-Funeral services for Mr. Gillies, 56, of 646 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 and Mrs. Starline; and six grandchildren.

**Nina Means**-Funeral services for Mrs. Means, 80, of 531 Adams, Plymouth, were held in the Schrader Funeral Home with Rev. Paul W. Gifford 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. Filiastrat**-Funeral services for Mrs. Filiastrat, of 1847 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. Filiastrat 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, Joseph and Arthur; three sisters; one brother; and three grandchildren.

**Amy G. Edsall**-Services for Mrs. Edsall, 72, of 2151 W. Wheeler in Farmington, were Feb. 21 in the Thayer Funeral Home in Farmington. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery, Walker. Balligan, Baptist Church officiated at the service.

Mrs. Edsall, the wife of Louis E. Edsall, 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, Louis B. of St. Paul, Mich.; one sister, Janice Schenkel of Temple City, Calif.; one brother, Wesley Gantz of Texas; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Mary C. Tucker**-Services for Mrs. Tucker, 85, of 2022 Spradford Dr. in Farmington, were Feb. 23 in the Thayer Funeral Home in Farmington. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery, Walker. Balligan, 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 Baggman of Farmington; two sons, Paul H. of Washburne 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 Tenney, LeAnn, Mich. Burial was Feb. 19.

Ms. Fritz died Feb. 19.

She is survived by her husband, Will; one son, and two daughters.

**Hugh MacArthur**, Mr. MacArthur, 79, formerly of Farmington, died suddenly Feb. 4 in his home in Cayuga, Mich. where he had lived since 1964. He was born in Michigan on Dec. 18, 1890.

The Rev. Walter C. Daltow of the First Baptist Church of Farmington conducted services in the Heeres-Sandquist Funeral Home. Burial was in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens.

Mr. MacArthur is survived by his wife, Christina; sons, Gordon of Hillman, Mich., and George of Bowling Green, Ohio; a daughter, Mrs. Ivelia Hill of Lansing; a brother, George MacArthur of Farmington; 18 grandchildren; and 29 great-grandchildren.

**Bell** A rosary will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the Mass-Peter Funeral Home, 2000 Middle Belt, Burial will be in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in St. Hedwig Cemetery.

Mrs. Hill is survived by her husband, Emory, son, Donovan; daughter, Mrs. Frederick (Joan) Adria; a brother, Joseph Deering; and nine grandchildren.

**Maurice T. Reidy**, Mr. Reidy, 65, of 1018 Lewis 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, Janet, Mary, Carol and Maureen Reidy.

He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Helen Hester, and Mrs. M.J. McManis; and a brother, John J. Reidy. He had one grandchild.

**Margaret E. Riley**, Mrs. Riley, of 2223 Woodrow, Westland, died Thursday, Feb. 19, from the R.C. and G. 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 78.

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

**Willam Neal Sparks**, Funeral services for Mr. Sparks, of 2101 Metropolitan 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, Lauretta; son, William Jr.; four daughters, Mrs. Lovita Wood, Mrs. Rena Houston, Mrs. Lauretta Jean Rivard, Mrs. Mary Jane Deschamps; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Alfred P. Reidy Sr.**, Mr. Reidy, 73, of 1842 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; and 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 3008 Oakton, Livonia, died Wednesday, Feb. 23 in Providence Hospital after an illness of about a month.

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

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