

Chowing down: Botsford Continuing Health Center's annual Father's Day cookout seems to be a happy occasion for (from left) George Elvis Segraves, grandson Douglas Slowik and Elaine and Ray Slowik.



## Dad's Day

### Annual cookout at Botsford is big hit

The juicy steaks, baked potatoes and lemonade were great, but what was even more enjoyable was spending time with dad.

"This was the first time we have had the chance to be together for a long time," said Douglas Slowik of Botsford Continuing Health Center's Father's Day

Cookout held recently. Slowik, visiting from North Carolina, dined with his parents Ray and Elaine and his grandfather George Elvis Segraves, a resident of the long-term care facility.

The Slowik family was among many families and friends who

gathered together on the sunny Friday evening for live music and dinner.

"This event is becoming a tradition for us," said Barbara Childs, who travelled from Lapeer to see her father, BCHC resident John Urda. "It's great to be with dad and the dinners are always nice."

## Dog tied

### City to keep dogs harnessed in park

BY TOM BAER  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington's Shilwassee Park isn't going to the dogs — not unleashed ones, anyway. The City Council said so Monday.

Farmington's Council unanimously voted down a proposal that a little-used portion of the park be set aside for unleashed dogs to romp and socialize with the owners close by.

Some city pet owners had presented the plan to council a few weeks ago. About 10 of them were on hand Monday to see their plan go down to defeat.

Linda Andridge, whose 9-month-old German shepherd, Raini, takes her exercise in Shilwassee Park, was one of the supporters.

"I feel real bad about it," said Andridge, a receptionist at a Novi medical facility. "I can under-

stand why some people are afraid, but I think it's just wonderful for the dogs to socialize and run together."

"I think they were concerned mostly about . . . how can I say this? . . . the dog's leavings. But, you know, some people who walk their dogs on a leash don't clean up after their dogs."

Councilman Dick Tupper said he voted no "on the advice of people who have experience in this kind of thing."

Added Tupper, "There were just too many unknowns. If we could count on only the people who were at the meeting using the park, maybe I could have gone for it. But there are just too many other dog owners who are not responsible."

Councilwoman JoAnne McShane said she was disappointed that a compromise

couldn't be worked out.

"I think it's too bad that society's come to this," McShane said. "You can't compromise . . . instead, you're put between a rock and a hard place. The lawyers are the ones who put the kibosh on this. They were concerned about liability."

But McShane, who has done some homework on the issue, said there are places where dogs can be unleashed to run in public parks.

"I've learned that in Santa Monica, Calif., they have a dog park where dogs can run free. It's for the residents of that city. There's a license and a fee. It's policed and it seems to work well."

Farmington's new leash law, enacted in April, had put a stop to pet owners letting their dogs run unleashed in the park.

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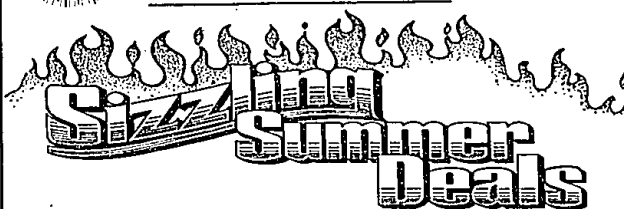
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