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Playground demolition evokes fond memories of family, friends

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - Memories are all that remain after the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center playground was demolished Tuesday.

A city official determined the playscape was hazardous after a child was injured earlier this week by a six-inch splinter from the aging wooden structure.

For a quarter century the playground provided hours of fun and exercise for children from Ansonia and throughout the area.

Fortunately there already is a plan in place to raise funds to build a new playscape. You can donate by clicking [here](#).

Our daughter, now 27, said she has lots of fond memories of the fun she and her brother, now 25, had on the wooden playscape.

She immediately made a small donation to help with the fund-raising.

I have many fond memories too. When they were toddlers my mother and I often brought them there to play and learn. It was always a part of the “nature center experience.”



When they were older, they played soccer at the nature center field and after practice we, like other parents, couldn't leave until the kids enjoyed the playground.

Seymour resident Beverly Bomba, former President of the Ansonia Garden Club, also said she was saddened by the loss of the playground.

Bomba said the Triple Trunk Heritage Birch Tree that stands within the play area holds great meaning and she was pleased to learn it will remain.

She said, “The tree was planted in September 1994 in loving memory of three longtime members of the club, Rose Hevesy, Agnes Fulton, and Lilian Hoyt, all [of] whom passed in 1994.”

Family members of the three women attended a dedication ceremony on Sept. 18, 1994, Bomba said, “and received a Certificate of Appreciation in memory of their loved ones.”

She said the Ansonia Garden Club held its monthly meetings at the Nature Center for many years. “On behalf of all (past and present) members of The Ansonia Garden Club, please keep this tree where its roots are. Its meaning is special - not only to us but to others, (children and adults) who have enjoyed the shade of this beautiful tree as it has matured throughout the years.”

Ansonia Middle School Co-Principal Terri D. Goldson, Sr. reminisced about the playground in a comment on my Facebook post Tuesday:

“The community did a great job of building that structure years ago. I'm proud to say that I was part of it along with hundreds of other community members. My children loved playing on it and so did my grand kids.

“We spent many fond lazy spring, summer, and fall days on it and have many joyous memories,” Goldson said. “I hope the replacement for it is just as or even more spectacular. Let's go Ansonia!”



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An appreciation of the Center for Cancer Care at Griffin Hospital 5K

By Ralph Villers

As someone who acts as a caregiver (of sorts) to a very kind breast cancer survivor of five years, she and I will be attending the 8th Annual 5K Walk-Run to benefit the Center for Cancer Care at Griffin Hospital on June 4.

Patti, of course, is that survivor.

I have seen the many positive experiences that she has had at the Center for Cancer Care with so many, including caring social workers, patient navigators, her 'Circle of Friends' survivor support group, aftercare exercise classes and more. And not just for Patti - the assistance of the Center for Cancer Care gives all much-needed support during their treatments.

Patti has participated in five Griffin Hospital 5K walks, four with her always supportive Team McVillers teammates.

So, that's my pitch to our Valley-Voice readers. Consider participating in this annual 5K on June 4.



(Below) Team McVillers at the 5K in 2013

Registration prior to May 17 is \$25 for adults, \$10 for participants under 13 (\$25/\$15 after May 17). T-shirts are guaranteed to the first 500 registrants.

For more info:

E-mail:

5kwalkrun@griffinhealth.org

Web:

<http://griffin5k.kintera.org>

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www.treasuredtime.org

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Annual "Doc" Bednar Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast May 30, 2016

Before, During & After the Shelton-Derby Memorial Day Parade at Walgreen's Pharmacy, on the corner of Center Street and Coram Avenue in Shelton

All-you-can-eat buttermilk pancakes will be served.



\$5 per person, \$4 per person for children under 12

Tickets can be purchased at the Boys & Girls Club, 1 Positive Place, Shelton or pay at the breakfast

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