

# No Standing News

Since we have no standing, we stand with those left standing

Volume I

Number 09

September 25, 1998

## Well, here we go again!

By Percey

**A**s a subscriber to the Rolla Daily News, I try to read it faithfully every day, front to back, to stay up on all current events whether it be news from around the world or news in our own back yard. I even try to read while the kids are pulling me off the couch, wanting my attention. I recently found some interesting things, in the Rolla Daily News.

The recent articles that caught my eye pertained to Rolla's parks. Now stay with me! I know that the whole thing with Buehler Park is getting sickening to some people. Nevertheless, I remain concerned with how they are spending my tax dollars for these parks. And I hope that you are as well. We just passed a sales tax increase for the new rec center to be built. And what did they promise us? The tax money will be spent exclusively on the new rec center. Then why did our City Administrator suggest to the council that we use "\$55,000 of the sales tax for Parks and Recreation"(RDN 8-25-98), when they told us it would be kept separate from Parks and Recreation? We haven't even collected the tax yet, and they already want to break their promise to us.

The Mayor and some City Council members stood up for us taxpaying citizens, and said, "No way. We promised the good people of Rolla that we would keep that money separate from Parks and Recreation and only spend it on the proposed rec center, and renovate our leaky, existing pool." As

Bill Morrison said in his August 27th editorial, "ATTABOY! Mayor Morgan and City Council, for keeping paws off the rec center money." I give an "ATTABOY" and "way to go" to Mayor Morgan and the council. We have the understanding that this money is only for the rec center and renovation for our existing leaky pool. Morrison also said in the article that "every penny will be accounted for." He doesn't mention in his article just exactly who will be held responsible for making sure the money is all there, just exactly who will be "in charge". Perhaps we can assume the city finance director, City Council, or our city administrator will get the honors, to assure that the good citizens of Rolla can keep faith in our city leaders.

I really wanted to go to the Budget meeting the other night. But as you know, those meetings can be ever so boring, and all those figures floating around make my head swim. So I settled on getting my facts from the Rolla Daily News. I'm putting my faith in the RDN to report the facts. And more importantly, putting my faith in city leaders that they won't let me down with this rec center. After all, we need a place for our children to spend time without getting in trouble, to keep them off the streets. And, of course, the rec center will be for people of all ages. That's another promise I remember: that the rec center would be for everyone. Remember the committee calling themselves the "Recreation for Everyone Committee". They said this rec center would be for everyone!

I think I will have to agree once more with Mr. Morrison. He went on to say in his editorial that, "park projects will have to be cut, due to the fact that we have lack of funding". Why should we

develop whatever park land is undeveloped? Morrison did say, "he was not certain what park projects would have to be cut". Wish he would have done some fact finding for us. He goes on to ask the question in the editorial, "If the city can't afford to develop these neighborhood parks, why does it continue to require park land be dedicated whenever there is a land subdivision"? He calls that a "no-brainer". He does make a good suggestion, though. "Instead of asking for property, or even accepting property, the council should demand cash in lieu of property". Sounds like a good plan to me, also. Well, if they demanded cash instead of property, they could use the cash they receive to finish developing the so-called undeveloped parks we have around here, or do the so-called park proposals that Mr. Butz referred to. Mr. Morrison suggests, "accept the land now and patiently wait for a time when enough money is in the coffers to develop the parks". A question comes to my mind: just how much undeveloped park land could we have sitting around Rolla? I can't imagine that we could have all that much. Well, Mr. Butz did say that \$55,000 would help to cover all the parks and project proposals. Must be more than just an obscure bramble thicket. Now I'm curious.

I guess I need to load the kids in the car and go count our parks. What a minute, what if the undeveloped parks are not marked. I could spend the whole day driving around town, trying to guess what is supposed to be park land. I guess it would be better to take a trip to our local library and do some research on this. I just can't imagine at this time what undeveloped park land Mr. Butz is talking about. If I find anything interesting I will let you all know about it.

A big "thank you" to Mr. Nash for letting me use his No Standing News platform. It's kind of nice to have another news source here in town.

Views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of No Standing News, nor of its Editor-in-Chief.

-----  
To receive " No Standing News " by e-mail, free of charge, send a message to [rwnash@rollanet.org](mailto:rwnash@rollanet.org) with the word SUBSCRIBE in the Subject line.

To unsubscribe this list, send a message to [rwnash@rollanet.org](mailto:rwnash@rollanet.org) with the word UNSUBSCRIBE in the Subject line.

-----  
Editors note: Copies of No Standing News can be obtained from the Rolla Public Library who is a subscriber. Also see our web siteat: <http://www.rollanet.org/~rwnash/nsn.html>

-----  
I encourage distribution of " No Standing News ". Please feel free to copy and distribute any issue.

-----