

Washington Messenger

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Robert Rush Park to be Dedicated May 27th



Open house and dedication ceremonies for the Robert Sheldon Rush Park and Nature Trail will be held Sunday, May 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. on Mine Hill Road in Washington Township.

Washington Township officials will be presented with deeds to the 113-acre park and trail and to a newly-constructed log cabin which will be used for the display of wildlife and nature photographs made by the late Robert Rush.

The Robert Sheldon Rush Foundation, Inc., is founder and sponsor of the facility. After dedication, the trail, park and cabin will be open for public use, according to Florence Rush Schumann, foundation chairwoman.

The trail will run along the south side of the Pohatcong Creek from Mine Hill Road to near Route 31, a distance of 1.3 miles. The township will become owners of the property, but the foundation has agreed to maintain the facility with funds from a trust set aside for that purpose.

"Robert had a great love for nature and held strong feelings about preserving the environment," Schumann said. "During his life he took hundreds

of wildlife and nature photographs. Initially, they will be on display in the log cabin.

Mr. Rush was a prominent Washington attorney who died in 1985 at the age of 43.

He was a life-long resident of the area, and an active supporter of community organizations such as the Washington Rotary Club, Warren County Mental Health Board, Warren County Family Guidance Center and Hospice of Warren County.

In his personal life, he chose to focus on photography as a way to express his love of nature and wildlife.

He graduated from Seton Hall University of Law, was a member of the American, New Jersey and Warren County Bar Associations and served as the Borough of Washington attorney and prosecutor.

The land was donated for the park by the WVGC Development Corp. The log cabin was donated and built by Toll Brothers of Fairway Estates, builders of many homes in the township area.

"Initially, we planned to use an old log cabin near Pohatcong Creek as the entrance to the park but when the builders tried to move it to a new lo-

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St. Joseph Groundbreaking Set for May 5th

The Most Reverend Edward T. Hughes, Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen will be on hand to officiate at the ground breaking and blessing of the site for the new St. Joseph's Church.

The event will take place on Saturday, May 5, at 3 p.m. at the site on Carlton Avenue. Local officials and all parish members are cordially invited to attend the ceremony.

Plans for a new church began back in 1986. The church will have a capacity for 550 people. It is expected to be completed by midsummer of 1991.

Leather Craft Shop Opens

A new and novel business has made its debut in downtown Washington. "Mountain Leather" opened its doors early this week at 27 Belvidere Ave., opposite Quick Check.

The proprietors, Phil and Cheryl Barberi, moved to Washington from Logan, Utah, five years ago.

Phil has been doing leather work for 20 years, and ten years ago Cheryl became interested in the craft.

Since residing in Washington they have been selling their leather goods at craft shows and markets. Recently the demand for their work reached the point that caused them to open the new business at a convenient location where they could better serve their expanding list of customers.

The Barberis make and repair everything from fine wallets to saddles, and they love every minute of it. They do all of their sewing on an old Singer pedal machine, which may be seen (and heard) at their new shop.

The store stocks handbags, wallets, hats, sunvisors, belts (any size), biker bags, tool pouches, saddle bags, and a full line of torquise jewelry....nice to own and appreciated as gifts.

The Barberis take pride in custom orders, you give them your design idea and they make it "come to life" in leather.

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Robert Rush Park Dedication

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cation, it collapsed due to years of deterioration," Schumann said.

The trail and park will be open for public use, but the cabin will only be available on weekends, she continued. It is expected the trail will attract schools for nature walks and studies.

"We expect to have all the trees, flowers and other vegetation identified as well as a list of the kinds and types of birds and animals that inhabit the area during each season," Schumann explained.

The entities which have donated cash to the foundation include WVGC Development Corp. and anonymous contributions.

In addition to Schumann, members of the foundation include Robert A. Petrallia and Stephen Zizmor of the



WASHINGTON KIWANIS Baseball Team - 1953 — Top row: Jack Gibson, Robert Secula, Bert Castner, Dick Supplee, Robert Johnson, Billy Gibson. Middle row: Jim Bodine, Glen Petty, Dick Wiseburn, Wayne Duryea, Billy Kerr. Bottom row: Ronnie Kovacs, Billy Hill, Jerry Transue, Leo Saubier. The late Elmer Gesner was the coach. (Photo courtesy of Willard Gibson).

WVGC Development Corp., Stephen Spears, Sr., a member of the Washington Borough Police Department, Barry D. Mueller, a member of the Washington Township Committee, Lynnann Coger of Washington, James Broscious, an attorney of Washington, Wayne Hotchkin

of White Township, an expert on native forests, Susan Sloan of Washington Borough, a member of the Audobon Society and an expert on native birds and wildlife and Richard E. Harpster, a retired newspaperman.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the open house which will be from 2 to 4 p.m.

The ceremonies, which will include presentments to township officials, unveiling of a plaque and dedicating the facility in the name of Robert Rush, will be at 3 p.m.


Wording on the plaque reads, in part, "As a perpetual reminder to all of his commitment to enlightened land use, to the planned preservation of open space and to his love for the natural beauty of Washington Township, his home."

Mine Hill Road is an extension of Belvidere Avenue. The cabin is near the Washington Valley Golf Course.

Workshop Set

Ideas will be gathered for next year's program at a workshop meeting of Northwest Jersey Affirmative Action Officers Alert on May 11.


The workshop will be held at the Women's Center at Centenary College from 9 - 2 p.m. There is no charge but pre-registration is required prior to May 7th. Call 852-9365.



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