Nicolet High School 50th Anniversary

Section II

History Of The Nicolet Recreation Department
1956 - Present
Serving the Community

Nicolet Recreation Department
6701 N. Jean Nicolet Rd.
Glendale, WI 53217
Phone: 414-351-7566  Fax: 414-351-4053
www.nicolet.k12.wi.us/rec/
Email: Recreation_Department@nicolet.k12.wi.us

Who’s Who at the Nicolet Recreation Department

District Administrator
⇒ Dr. Elliott Moeser

Nicolet Recreation Department Staff
⇒ Kirk Krychowiak, Director
⇒ Nate Brooks, Supervisor
⇒ Jo Winters, Secretary
⇒ Wendy Borchert, Receptionist
⇒ Cindy Schlidt, Aquatics Coordinator

Proud Member Of The Following Agencies:
⇒ National Park & Recreation Association
⇒ SouthEast Park & Recreation Council
⇒ Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association
⇒ Wisconsin Youth Sports Coaches Association
⇒ United States Tennis Association
⇒ American Softball Association

Nicolet High School District School Board
⇒ Marilyn Franklin, President
⇒ Laurel Bear, Vice-President
⇒ Kelly Herda, Clerk
⇒ Mark Majeski, Treasurer
⇒ David Kramer, Member

Nicolet Recreation Advisory Committee
⇒ Mario Angeli, Chairperson
⇒ Jill Gilbert
⇒ Marilyn Franklin
⇒ Nick Hassler, Vice Chairperson
⇒ Mayor Jay Hintze, Emeritus
⇒ Mark Majeski
⇒ Victor Kornis
⇒ Carolyn Landwehr
⇒ Dona Mortara
⇒ Thomas Lane

Table of Contents

Foreward By Mel Wade 3 - 6
Past Office Personnel 7
Directors’ Q & A 8 - 9
Then And Now 10
Facts & Figures 11
Unique Programs 12 - 14
Blast From The Past 15 - 17
Naming Rights 18
The following is a forward written by Mel Wade, recreation director from 1956-1990.

Space limitations permit mention of only the major program developments to illustrate efforts to continually keep the program fresh in accordance with community interests and trends. Unfortunately, only a few of the many dedicated and talented instructors who made this program successful can be mentioned. The many Nicolet students in Youth Council and in other organizations who contributed so extensively are too numerous to mention but their contributions were outstanding. Because of existing elementary programs and because Nicolet Recreation was a one person department until 1970, the emphasis was on the high school social and recreational programs, the adult activities program, specialty recreation programs utilizing the specialized facilities such as the gym and the pool, and summer recreation programs as well as summer school.

1955: Nicolet High School opens. Mel Goldin, math teacher, directs first summer SWIM PROGRAM before recreation department is formed.

1956-57: Mel Wade, Assistant Recreation Director at Shorewood, is hired as first Director of the new Nicolet Recreation Department to organize high school and community activities, teach General Science, and act as assistant freshman football coach. The original program includes extensive swim activities, the high school social and recreation program, as well as weekend recreation and evening adult programs. The Adult Program starts in October, with twenty-two classes, mostly by Nicolet H.S. teachers, except for Bert Rietz, square dancing, and Shirley Morley, clothing, who continues to teach until 1973. Nicolet teacher Howard Greening starts teaching woodworking and leatherwork, continuing until 1987.

1957-58: Eleven new adult classes are added, including Theatre Workshop, Great Books, Rosemaling, Bridge (Verla Battey, ’57-’74). 1811 adults are enrolled. Summer: First Nicolet Tennis Program, directed by J. Cary Bachman, starts with 305 students. Mr. Bachman and Dick Huxtable were very instrumental to the program throughout the 34 years and beyond in swimming, tennis, track, badminton, special education recreation, and in Mr. Huxtable’s case, adult evening supervision. New Programs: Golf, Girls’ Softball, Academic Summer School (14 offerings) and Summer Bus Service for all activities.


1960-61: Nicolet Theatre Company presents “Pajama Game”, “Brigadoon”, and “Seven Year Itch”.

1962-63: Article by Recreation Director on Nicolet Summer Tennis Program is published in the “NATIONAL RECREATION Magazine”, which calls it a “successful program famous beyond the boundaries of Milwaukee”. Bachman and Wade co-write mimeographed tennis program manual, later requested by 33 countries, and a University. Jean Kinnel becomes the first full time department secretary, continuing until 1976. First adult program “Open House”.

1963-64: Indoor Tennis Reservations for gym courts using innovative elastic straps for court lines. Jean Kinnel begins directing Community Women’s Chorus, followed by a mixed chorus later called the Nicolet Choristers. She directs the Choristers until 1995. Allen Caucutt teaches Drawing and Painting, continuing to teach various art classes until 1989. His classes are nearly always full, with waiting lists. Summer School offers 38 classes. The Dept. office is now in room D-

The Glendale Senior Citizens’ Club is open to anyone over the age of 55. Activities include Sheepshead, Bridge, Chorus, Crafts, Exercise, Shuffleboard, Chess, Billiards, and more. Our general meetings are held in the lower level of Glen Hills Middle School on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Programs are interesting and current. Coffee, tea, and snacks for all who attend. In addition to monthly meetings and daily activities, the Club offers tours, picnics, movies, bingo and more. Tentative activities planned for spring are tours to Janesville, Horicon Marsh, and Ten Chimneys. Call 540-2100 for further information.
102, part of the nurse’s office. First Women’s State League Tennis team places second in county league. Library open to adults in the evening.

1964-65: Summer: **New Gymnastics Program** (Penny Adams) plus Guitar, Track and Field, and H.S. Bridge.

1965-66: High School Social Program includes twenty-six social events. Youth Council, class officers and other school activity groups plan and sponsor events, including Prom. **Variety Knight** (talent show with a theme) “Around the World or Bust”. One social event included famous Bobby Rydell as a performer. (Yes, he lip synced his hit with the juke box). Youth Council committees were an extremely important factor through the years in sponsoring social events, advising the Director on other student events and noon hour and after school recreation as well as later promoting and operating the **Knightskeller Recreation Center**. The Nicolet Tennis Club is formed with 50 adult members (later peaking at 210 members) Two men’s State League teams are formed. New: **Modern Dance**. Mel Wade originates and organizes the **Milwaukee County Tennis Tournament** for unranked junior players with qualification through county Recreation Departments. He directs it until 1990 at which time Bob Lang directs until he leaves the Dept.

1966-67: Lois Schobert starts teaching foods classes and is still teaching in 2005. Jack Tock starts teaching art classes and teaches Art Metal beyond 1990, and John Widmar teaches Metal Shop until 1980. Summer: **Summer Bowling Instruction Program started at Echo Bowl**. Maurie Perlstein and Mel Wade create the statewide **HUSBAND-WIFE STATE DOUBLES TOURNAMENT** (first in the state), which continues for many years.

1967-68: New: Tailoring, Judo, North Shore Archery League (Milt Schwartz). Summer: New: **County Physical Fitness Meet, Scuba Diving**. Tennis Director: Jeff Unger with Wally Bronson. Nicolet Youth Council works on promoting the idea of a **Knightskeller basement recreation center**. The “D-Wing basement” was originally conceived as a cold war bomb shelter, with storage areas behind the walls for canned goods.

1968-69: The D-wing basement is remodeled into the new Knightskeller Recreation Center. Student Jim Hoffman and Mel Wade design and install an elaborate sound system. The Recreation Department office moves to the auditorium entrance to its present location. 54 adult evening classes are offered.


1971-72: State requires Nicolet (and other school districts) to become a part of a Vocational School District (MATC EVENING CENTER) Twenty MATC classes are added to the existing adult program. Bill Gromacki becomes department assistant and director of the Knightskeller. Sheila Reilly becomes Figure Rhythms instructor and continues past 1990. **High school girls’ softball starts.**

1972-73: 21 Nicolet adult classes, 42 MATC classes. Some former Nicolet classes are shifted to MATC auspices. New Nicolet Basketball School for 7-8th grade boys with Tom Puls.

1975: Beekeeping fills Little Theatre (with people not bees that is), Bicycle Maintenance and Repair, Green Thumb Horticulture. Director Mel Wade receives Professional Award of Merit from Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association.

1976: Caroline Landwehr, part time, starting in ’71 becomes full time Department Secretary and continues until 1995.
is still subbing and is on the Recreational Advisory Board. New classes: Tricks and Magic, Boating Safety, Shakespeare and the Bible, Calligraphy. Chair Caning. Summer: Hot Shot Basketball and Cheerleading Workshop.


1978: Four Microwave classes by Judy Drefahl, who teaches until 1990 and beyond. Randy Maio teaches Upholstery after Truman Atwell and Bob Nelson complete long terms in the subject. Randy was still teaching in 1990 and much later.

1979: Louise O’Brian starts “Monday Night Disco Fever”. M.B. Kilian directs Summer Tennis Program. ’79-91. Nicolet Swim Club merges with Whitefish Bay Swim Club to form the NORTH SHORE SWIM CLUB. Prior to this time Larry Larimore and Chuck Walters had long and successful tenures as coach. Roger Ridenour is head coach of the new combined Swim Club. Joe Schweitz also has a long tenure later as North Shore Swim Club Coach. Nicolet Men’s State League (Joe Vila, captain, Mel Wade, team member) finishes in three way tie for first place for the first National Championship, but eventually is awarded third due to a games won tie break procedure. Mike Danko becomes Knightskeller Director and assistant Recreation Director.

1980: Adult classes: 49 MATC, 35 Nicolet. OUT OF 22 MATCH EVENING CENTERS, NICOLET HAS HIGHER ENROLLMENT THAN ALL BUT THE FOUR FULL TIME MATC CENTERS.

1981: Knightskeller Recreation Center is closed, except for noon hour, after school and evening use, despite protests from students. It is converted into a learning center and freshman guided study program.


1983: Department hosts state wide Fishing School, co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association. (Repealed in 1984)


1986: New Mini Courses: Bird Watching, Understanding your VCR, Kids in the Kitchen, Talking Pet with your Vet (Frank Schober) Non-smoking policy is instituted. Special: Expose Yourself to 3-D Photography, by Mel Wade and Milwaukee 3-D Club, and Providing a Tennis Education for your Children (C. Bachman, R. Vetter, W. Bronson, W. Whitlunger)

1987: Special Program: “An Evening of Early History of the North Shore” with Anson Buttles (70 registered) Howard Greening completes a period of 31 years as evening Woodworking Instructor.

1988: Brochures now done camera ready in tabloid form in house by director. The number of non-MATC classes as compared with MATC classes has reversed since 1980. Now 18 MATC classes, 46 Nicolet classes. Chris Juetter starts to teach in the adult art program and is still teaching in 2005.
1989: Swim Instruction canceled for construction of new pool. **Hershey Track Meet.** Construction work forces Gymnastics and other programs to meet at Glen Hills, Summer Swim Instruction to neighboring communities. Mel Wade is appointed chairman and forms new Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Aquatics Committee, which helps rewrite the State of Wisconsin pool regulations and later becomes the continuing advisor for these regulations. New WSI classes offered to retrain lifeguards and instructors to comply with new regulations. All pools in Wisconsin would have been shut down if the Aquatics Committee hadn’t persuaded the state to postpone until January the requirement of completing new WSI (Water Safety Instructor certification) for a reasonable period.


Mel Wade retires as department director after 34 years. Bob Lang becomes director of combined Nicolet and Glendale departments, with Debbie Pagel (later Stolz) directing the Nicolet program and Mike Kroeger, Glendale.

Because of many socio-economic factors, the period from 1956 to 1990 described above was characterized by a rapid expansion of adult and community activities, with large numbers of participants seeking recreational and intellectual enrichment, learning occupational and homemaking skills, learning new hobbies, exploring a rich variety of artistic classes, engaging in physical fitness, honing sport skills, engaging in competition, improving money and business management techniques, and engaging in theatre, dance and musical activities. During this period, approximately 500 individual adult education instructors were the essence of the program, exhibiting such dedication and popularity that 34 of them taught for a total of from 5 to 10 years, 22 between 10 and 15 years, 9 between 15 and 20 years, 11 between 20 and 30 years, and 3 over 30 years. Some continued to teach after 1990 thus adding years to the tenure of individuals mentioned in this history of the first 34 years. This information is based on a list of adult education teachers and their years of teaching tabulated from the 34 years of three brochures per year.

Special thanks to these longest tenured instructors who worked until 1990 with those with asterisks continuing past that year: Lou Calicchio, 33* (plus 15 more to present), Jean Kinnel, 33, Howard Greening, 31; Allen Caucutt, 27; Pat Woods, 26; J.C. Bachman, 24; John Widmar, 23; Jack Tock, 23*; Tom Puls, 23*; Phil Manders, 21; David Mace, 21*; Lester Wile, 20*; Lois Schobert, 20* (plus 15 to present); Sheila Reill, 20*, Shirley Morely, 18; David Grihalva, 17; Verla Battey, 17; Pat Shires, 16; Bob Kraus 16*; Ron Jaggard, 16; Randy Maio, 15* (to present, 30); Hilda Fahrenkamp, 15; Mary Burt, 15; Jean Bronikowski, 15*; Frank Wolf, 14; Jean Reiels, 14; Judy Drefahl, 14*; Pete Bieterman, 14; Kay Williams, 13; Retta Strehlow, 13*, Stan Spooner, 13; Frances Roberts, 13, Filomena Lea, 13; Eileen Johansen, 12, Ron Jaggard, 12*, Marie Jackson, 12; Sandy Ingram, 12*, Olive Engleking, 12; Sandra Zahn, 11; Karen Olivetti, 11; Rose Mishlove, 11* (to present 26); Hans Matzner, 11; John Lieber, 11; Jim Landwehr, 11*; Truman Atwell, 11; Florence Huelster, 10; Bruce Brown, 10; Chuck Walters, 10; Al Wroblewski, 9*; Jacqueline Slater and June Biney, 9; Irene Pantaze, 9*; Bob Nelson, 9; James Kessler, 9; Shellie Blumenfield, 9; Jean Bartholomay, 9; Earl Bakalars, 9; and Marion Allen, 9* (continued to present, 24); and M.B. Kilian 8*

The Nicolet School District has been very fortunate in having a succession of talented and dedicated directors and staff for the Recreation and Adult Education Department. Times have changed in regard to community interests, finances, and use of leisure time but adjustments have made so that Nicolet is not only a high school but a valuable community-wide asset, drawing the entire community together.

**Come join us for some fun at the Fox Point-Bayside LX Senior Center**

We offer the following activities and much more:

- Bridge Lessons
- Painting With Acrylics
- 55 Alive - Mature Driving

Please call **(414) 351-6060** for more details

217 W. Dunwood Rd.
Fox Point, WI 53217
Former and Current Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mel Wade</td>
<td>1956 - 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Lang</td>
<td>1990 - 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Eul</td>
<td>1997 (Interim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Valentino</td>
<td>1997 - 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk Krychowiak</td>
<td>1999 - present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Former and Current Supervisors/Assistants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Beronja</td>
<td>1970 - 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Gromacki</td>
<td>1972 - 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galen Peterson</td>
<td>1977 - 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Danko</td>
<td>1979 - 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Cox</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeeAnn (Talasek) Bissell</td>
<td>1986 - 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie (Pagel) Stolz</td>
<td>1990 - 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly (Hynes) Valentino</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk Krychowiak</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Glenn</td>
<td>1999 - 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Casperson</td>
<td>2001 - 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan M. Brooks</td>
<td>2003 - present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Former and Current Office Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jean Kinnel</td>
<td>1961 - 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Landwehr</td>
<td>1976 - 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Voelker</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikki Scaduto</td>
<td>1997 - 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo Winters</td>
<td>1998 - present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Whittet</td>
<td>2001 - 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renee Tazalla</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Borchert</td>
<td>2003 - present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hall Of Fame Instructors/Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Former and Current NRAC Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Coblentz, Margo Haig, Elliott Moeser, James Worth, Robert Corris, Ann Kaufmann, Paul Pederson, Jay Hintze, Francie Press, Wendy Weiler, Tami Sweeney, Nancy Rosenheimer, Elliott Moeser, Dona Mortara, Michael Koren, Jean Morano, Patrice Hale, Carolyn Landwehr, Judy Mekow, Nick Hassler, Marilyn Franklin, Cynthia Beachum, Sharon McCarragher, Mario Angeli, Victor Kornis, Mark Majeski, Mike Rambousek, Bernice Austin, Jim Wick, Jill Gilbert, Lisa Jubas, Thomas Lane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Question**: What was your favorite program while you were director and why?

**Answer: (Kirk Krychowiak)** Tee Ball. I started the tee ball program in the Summer of 1999 with 33 kids and 4 teams. All the participants were from Glendale. Over the years I have watched it grow to more than 200 players and 18 teams of boys and girls ages 4-6. There are now children registered from Glendale, Fox Point, Bayside, River Hills, Whitefish Bay, Brown Deer, Milwaukee and Mequon. The kids run around wearing min-major league replica uniforms. The program is instructed by a mix of NHS students, former NHS students and adult volunteers. When I first began the program, I wasn’t even married and this past summer, I was able to coach my own son, Bryce on one of the teams.

**A: (Mel Wade)** I enjoyed working with the high school students, the Youth Council, and other organizations while I was in charge of the high school social program from 1956 until 1970.

**A: (Bob Lang)** Perhaps my favorite program, which came about in the early 90's was "A Taste of Fine Arts". This intergenerational program featured vocal, band and orchestra students from Nicolet High School. Senior Citizens came free of charge for a delightful afternoon which featured not only the very best performance from the students, but also free bus transportation, cookies and soda! Businesses from the area were always generous with their donations! I hope that this program is still happening because it did so much to build bridges among the community and the youth. The seniors would often comment to me that "A Taste of Fine Arts" was their favorite happening during the year because it presented them with an opportunity to visit Nicolet and realize all over again the wonderful activities the students are involved in these days!

**A: (Kelly Valentino)** Swim lessons, I have always loved to watch kids learn and grow and with swim lessons you can really see the difference from the first class to the last class.

**Q:** What was your most rewarding experience during your tenure at the recreation department?

**A: (Krychowiak)** Simply surviving a tough early going after the unexpected departure of former director Kelly Valentino. Ms. Valentino was a respected professional with difficult shoes to fill. Receiving the WPRA Silver Star Award for the Parent/Teen and Youth Softball programs was definitely a highlight.

**A: (Wade)** One of the rewarding experiences was the success of the tennis program and its many facets because of the strong interest in the community and its high quality tennis directors and instructors. Many participants including myself have benefited through our participation in this fine life time sport.

**A: (Lang)** Being approached to administer the Nicolet Recreation and Adult Recreation Department was quite an honor. I knew that Mr. Mel Wade had grown and nurtured the Department into one of the finest anywhere. Being asked to follow him, while continuing to serve the Recreation and Community Services Department in the Glendale-River Hills School District, would be quite a challenge.

**A: (Valentino)** Meeting so many wonderful colleagues. I start naming them, but I would be afraid I would forget someone - it’s been a while.
Q: What were some of the recreation department’s accomplishments while you were director?

A: (Krychowiak) The implementation of the successful consolidation with the Glendale Recreation Department. I came to Nicolet in 1998, right when the merger between the two recreation department’s was first getting under way. The recreation department’s budget has grown from $215,000 before the merger to over $500,000 with the tax levy increasing just $15,000 during that same time frame.

A: (Wade) Some accomplishments were: starting from scratch and developing a successful, well attended program, with high quality Instructors and program staff for 34 years; Designing, naming, and bringing about the Knightskeller Recreation Center; National recognition for the tennis program by Recreation Magazine; a Lifetime Sports Award from the National Park and Recreation Association; and the Professional Award of Merit from the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association.

A: (Lang) The "Learning Never Ends" program that Deb Stolz and I introduced to Nicolet was an awesome array of programs that gave individuals new and fresh offerings that they could participate in on a given evening. With this program we discovered some local and talented people that came forward to share their passions with the community. Since volunteers were the presenters, there was no expenses (and if I recall properly, that was a constant challenge; offering new and exciting programs, that would increase revenue, with little or no new expense!).

A: (Valentino) First, having the Rec. Dept. separate from the Athletic Dept, which is how it was going to be structured when I first began. It was important to show just how viable and necessary the services of the Recreation Department were to the community and how different it was from the dynamics of the Athletic Department. Second, would be the combining of the Glendale Rec. into the Nicolet Rec., this was a feat.

Q: What was the biggest challenge that you faced?

A: (Krychowiak) Changing the community’s perception of our department. In order to successfully expand and grow as a recreation department, we needed to reach all four communities: Glendale, River Hills, Bayside and Fox Point and let people know that we are not just a recreation department that serves NHS students, but we are the entire community’s recreation outlet. Our program sites expanded into each of the six middle and elementary schools in the area. We also added private schools such as St. Eugenes and St. Johns to our regular program schedule. There are currently 19 different program locations throughout the community offering Nicolet Recreation programming. We quickly became the “recreation department on wheels”. And all of this growth and expansion had to be done without the benefit of more tax support.

A: (Wade) The biggest challenge was, after directing a very large Nicolet Adult Education program for the first 14 years until 1970, having to mesh a state mandated MATC program with the existing program. This effectively doubled the offerings, the preparation, the challenges due to separate registrations, fees, schedules and staff, and the enrollments. In 1980, for example, there were 35 Nicolet and 49 MATC classes offered in one semester. Approximately 500 dedicated adult education instructors were part of the adult education during the 34 years.

A: (Lang) The newly proposed shared services recreation program between the two school districts would certainly be the biggest challenge I faced while working in Glendale. As the Director of two separate and autonomous Departments, from 1990 to 1996, the "Shared Services Program" required me to report to two District Administrators, two School Boards and two Recreation Advisory Committees. That’s a lot of people to be accountable to simultaneously, not to mention the staff and community! Believe me, there was never a dull moment and overall it was a momentous challenge.

A: (Valentino) Definately the logistics of making the merger with the Glendale Rec and the Nicolet Rec. work out to best serve the community.
A look at what participants paid throughout the years compared to what participants pay now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Then Price</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Now</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>Swim Lessons</td>
<td>$33.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>$0.25</td>
<td>Open Swim</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>Adult Basketball</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>Driver Education</td>
<td>$270.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Ballroom Dancing</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>Golf Instruction</td>
<td>$24.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>Indoor Tennis</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>Chess</td>
<td>$79.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>Water Colors</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Intro to Computers</td>
<td>$61.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>$49.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Football Clinic</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>First Aid</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>$42.65</td>
<td>Stained Glass</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>$26.20</td>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>CPR</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>Dance Instruction</td>
<td>$49.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>Flag Football</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
19 - Number of locations that the recreation department currently runs activities at.

580 - Total number of annual program sessions the recreation department offers.

151 - Number of different programs the recreation department currently offers.

275 - Number of 2004 Sheepshead Tournament Card players, representing the largest Sheepshead Tournament in the midwest.

127 - Number of part-time and seasonal employees during the 2004-05 school year.

5,853 - Number of separate program related registrations during the 2001-02 school year.

16,123 - Number of people that have registered since 1996.

$15,595 - Amount of rental fees produced by the recreation department in 1996-97.

$97,543 - Amount of rental fees produced by the recreation department in 2003-04.
Here’s a look back at unique programs for each decade and their descriptions:

**1950’s**

⇒ **Advanced Square Dancing**  
This activity is designed for regular dancers and for those who have mastered the fundamentals. New dances and a lot of straight dancing for fun will be featured.

⇒ **Leatherwork**  
The leatherwork work course will begin with leather tooling on calfskin and later lead into carving heavier hide into key cases, belts, hand bags and other fine articles.

⇒ **Photography**  
A course in which techniques of composition, tone and color balance, the making of slides, and other methods will be discussed. Introduction to darkroom methods will also be included.

⇒ **Synchronized Swimming**  
A brand new activity featuring water techniques and stunts ending in a water ballet for girls ages 12 and above.

⇒ **Typing**  
The basic purpose of the course in typing will be the development of a reasonable mastery of the typewriter keyboard by means of the touch system. The majority of the time will be spent to this end by means of drill material which will stress the development of the useable skill and the development of speed and accuracy. The IBM electric typewriter will be used in the classes.

**1960’s**

⇒ **Rosemailing**  
Rosemailing is a fascinating creative art which comes to us from Scandinavian areas. Many beautiful and useful articles and gifts of various materials will be decorated.

⇒ **Archery**  
Both instruction for beginners and recreational shooting will be featured for men and women on three fine separate ranges for both beginners and advanced archers. Resident fee for both instruction and general shooting is $3.00. Single night shooting will be accepted at $0.75 per night only if class capacity of 50 is not reached.

⇒ **Millinery**  
Our Millinery courses include the designing and construction of new hats, with emphasis on the correct type of hat for the individual, and the remodeling and renovating of old favorites. The new fashions will be featured.

⇒ **Home and Hostess**  
This class will include a variety of material of interest to homemaker or hostess. Among subjects to be presented are: flower arranging principles and designs. The first hour usually will be lecture-demonstration supplemented by color slides, or short movie.

⇒ **Knitting**  
The class is designed for beginning knitters as well as advanced. Crocheting, needlepoint, and knitting will be included. If you desire to start work the first meeting, you may bring yarn and needles.
Here’s a look back at unique programs for each decade and their descriptions:

1970’s
⇒ **Decoupage**
Decoupage is the seventeenth century art of embellishing objects, from stamps boxes to furniture, with cutout paper designs. Artistic talent is not required but patience and the love of perfection is. Class members will create the elegant purses and boxes you have seen in expensive shops around town.

⇒ **Flower Arrangement Workshop**
With the use of fresh flowers and plastic and dried materials, you will learn to create charming arrangement for the home. Instruction will focus on principles of color and design as applied to flower arrangements, essential techniques, and basic designs.

⇒ **Macrame**
This ancient art of creative knotting is enjoying a renaissance at the present time. The basic tools are simple. Very attractive pieces can be made with inexpensive materials which can vary from a ball of twine to silk cord.

⇒ **Figure Rhythms**
Slim and firm your figure the enjoyable way through exercising and dancing to music. Exercises will emphasize over-all body movements which help you to acquire more efficient posture, grace and poise for daily living.

⇒ **Oscar Robertson Basketball Clinic**
A late breaking development as our bulletin goes to press is the Oscar Robertson Basketball Clinic. Tentative plans are to have a three day clinic sponsored by the Pabst Brewery in association with the Greater Milwaukee Association on the dates of June 26, 27, and 28.

1980’s
⇒ **Microwave Cooking**
The preparation of quick foods for entertaining situations such as brunches, luncheons, dinners and parties.

⇒ **Judo For Sport and Self Defense**
Learn the A.A.U. and Olympic sport of Judo from the Wisconsin Judo Association’s top black belt instructors. You will receive training in the throws, holds, and skills necessary to successful competition in the sport of Judo. Basic self-protection will also be taught.

⇒ **Behavior Modification For Weight Control**
This course will be geared to the concept of wellness and fitness for life involving nutrition, behavior modification, physical fitness, and exercise. Each student will have his eating habits and diet evaluated by the instructor in order to develop a life-long plan of weight control.

⇒ **Juggling**
Offered for the first time in our schedule, this class is a unique opportunity to obtain training in the fine art of juggling from a professional. Amaze and amuse your friends for fun and profit!

⇒ **Swimnastics**
Exercises will all be conducted in the water using kickboards and pull buoys. This is an excellent way of firming up the body, and seems to be advantageous for those suffering from the effects of certain injuries, surgery or muscle and point ailments.
Here’s a look back at unique programs for each decade and their descriptions:

1990’s
⇒ Jazz and Aerobic Dance For High School Age and Adults
The Nicolet Recreation Department Summer Dance Program returns to Nicolet High School to a brandnew dance studio this summer after meeting last year at Glen Hills School. Classes will consist of a combination of two or three dance forms including ballet, tap, jazz, tumbling, or aerobics.
⇒ Handwriting Analysis
More and more attention and validity have been paid to the subject of handwriting analysis recently. It has been proven that it is possible to determine personality characteristics by studying an individual’s handwriting.
⇒ Chakra Meditation
This class will focus on Chakra meditation, guided imagery, relaxation and chanting. We will use the Chakras, the seven vital energy centers in the body, as a map to explore who we are, how we became the way we are, and what we can do to become who we want to be!
⇒ Country Line Dancing
Experience the excitement of the hottest dance form sweeping the country. Learn the latest most popular country line dances including “Chattahoochee, Tush Push, Swamp Rat” and more.
⇒ Wing Chun Kung Fu
Wing Chun Kung Fu is one of the most popular forms of Kung Fu - the ancient Chinese art of self defense and health. With it’s origin in the famous Shaolin temple in China, this art is fun and easy to learn and anyone can do it!

2000’s
⇒ Going for the Gold - Promising Picassos Art
Let’s go for the gold in this Winter Olympics drawing program. Feel the thrill of victory as we complete drawings of our favorite Olympic athletes and the medals they compete for. Markers, crayons and colored pencils will be used to bring the Winter Olympic Games to life.
⇒ Pilates
Balance both body and soul with Pilates, a total conditioning program. Performance of the routine on a regular basis provides deep abdominal control for a flatter stomach, better posture and aids in the prevention of back problems. Increase your flexibility and improve your mental clarity with this total fitness program.
⇒ Digital Scrapbooking
This class is designed to help organize all of those photos that you have taken with either your digital or film camera. You will create a digital scrapbook that is stored on a computer CD and can be viewed just like a regular photo album on your computer or TV.
⇒ French: “Croissant de Club”
Bonjour! Does your child know a few words of French? Meeting once a week, the “Croissant Club” will enlighten your child to the Francophone world! Topics will include basic conversation, strengthening vocabulary, and perfecting the all important french accent!
⇒ 55 Alive-Mature Driving
55 Alive is a program designed to help improve driving skills and prevent traffic accidents. Topics include physical changes in the older driver, interactions in traffic, and accident prevention measures.
• Nicolet started in 1955, “When barns still dotted our town and cabbages grew alongside Bender Road”. (From Nancy Luessler’s Herald column)

• Late Start: Bette Wade, one of the first four English teachers, remembers that the first Nicolet school year started a few weeks late because of construction delays. The first year workmen came in during a class session and installed a blackboard.

• Some people remember that in 1956, the far reaches of the “D-wing” were inhabited by little people—the kids from yet unfinished Parkway school, often escorted down the hall by Principal Roger Tietz.

• Mr. Cupery, the first superintendent, a gentle man and a good listener, was much appreciated for his regular “fireside chat” visits after school with staff members. Mr. “C”, as students and staff affectionately referred to him, lived and had his office in the “House in the Woods” near the river back of Nicolet. Mr. C. had been a biology teacher in northern Wisconsin, loved nature, and “was pleased when a worker found eggs in a nest during Nicolet’s construction. The worker, a Native American, told him that it was a good omen if the eggs could be protected until they hatched. Mr. C. was happy to report that the birds came through just fine.” (From Nancy Luessler’s Herald column)

• Nicolet Woods History: As reported in the 1975 “Nicolet Today”, the three and a half acre Nicolet Woods has been one of Nicolet’s most valuable teaching assets. As biology teacher, Milton Schwartz stated, “Being a keen observer of Nature tells you a lot about man and his future existence on this planet.” According to Mr. Cupery, the tract was not part of the original purchase but was acquired in 1953-54. The House in the Woods was originally a summer home for a wealthy family. After the purchase, Superintendent Cupery’s family occupied the home for ten years. Following this period it was used as an American Studies program and later purchased by the present residents Tom and Ginny Jenkins, whose children attended Nicolet. The land, which became the Nicolet property, was owned by George Smith, according to an 1839 map, and later by E.I. Schramm, as shown by an 1876 map.

• When the victorious returning swim team’s bus broke down near Bay Shore in 20 below weather, young coach Roy Gromme walked to Nicolet and finding the school closed went to the Mr. C’s house for a key. Trembling from the cold and in awe of his boss, Roy said he felt as if he was getting God out of bed. In Roy’s mailbox next day was an envelope and a key to the school in case of further emergencies.

• Completing the Cycle: In the 1955 and 1956 the football team practiced and played games inside the unique highly banked bicycle velodrome, now a parking lot in Brown Deer Park. The freshman football team, anchored by 220 lb. “Tiny” Diedrich, powered to three 0-0 ties that year.

• Ring Bell? The 1956 Youth Council purchased an antique “Nicolet Spirit Bell” that was rung every time Nicolet scored a touchdown. The prolific scoring in the first few years caused the bell to go from clang to clunk and the “liberty bell” soon was relegated to historical lore.

• A word to the wise: In the early years a custodian with a penchant for language, said to the cafeteria director, “Mrs. Winter, have you cleaned out the coffee urinals yet?” To someone who asked for supplies, he replied, “You have to fill out an acquisition”. To Mr. Handrich, who asked for a coat hook to be installed in his closet, he agreed, “O.K. but keep it strictly on the I.Q.”

• The Music Men: When Bob Johnson and Dave Johnson were both involved teaching instrumental music, they were known as “Johnson and Johnson, the two Band-aids”

• Good news/bad news: The 1970 senior class, by foregoing expensive decorations and food at their prom, donated $1300 and organized the building of a playground at 24th and Cherry. Miller, Waltz, Diedrich Architects and Associates donated its time to help plan the area and many workers and area residents helped to erect the playground in the summer of 1970. Its most popular feature was a maze of telephone poles and it also had a slide,
benches, ropes and a wading pool. It was very well received by residents and well used by two nearby elementary schools. The project won an award from the S.E. Wisconsin Section of the American Institute of Architects for its contribution to the visual environment. Four years later the bad news came when a city crew tore down the playground prior to turning the park over to the county. The action was described by a member of the Midtown Neighborhood Association as, “like going into somebody’s house and taking everything and throwing it on the street”. (Journal/Sentinel-Gregory Stanford) See pictures.

- “Nicolek Acquires Computer”: An 1975 Nicolet Today headline reported,“A new and awesome component was added to the curriculum at Nicolek this past summer.” Director of computer education David Mace stated prophetically that,”Everyone’s life is affected by the computer”, and that he planned, “within the next three or four years to have every student have an opportunity to interact with the computer. See picture.

- The Nicolet Today reported in 1976 that three years in a row a mother mallard duck had her family in the former courtyard by the old pool and had to be escorted and headed toward the river by Maintenance Department Supervisor, Mike Stockinger.

- Nicolet Ark: On an April Saturday in the late seventies a heavy rain flooded Nicolet, with the basement area and the auditorium stage area being particularly hard hit, with about three feet of water. Some of the upstairs rooms had about an inch of water. Many students came and helped mop up after the damage.

- The Streakers: In the early seventies, three students from Custer high school came to “streak” Nicolet, but it should be in the Guinness Book of World Records as the shortest and least observed streak in history. The only ones to observe them, since classes were in session, were Recreation Secretary Jean Kinnel, Administrator Doug Irwin, who confined them to his office, and the policeman who apprehended the one who escaped to the parking lot. (Sorry, no pictures)

- What’s in a Name? Milt Schwartz was a bit apprehensive when a drivers’ education student registered under the name of Elsie Skidmore. In a similar vein, an applicant for a lifeguard position had the name of Alice Drown.

- When a prospective student’s parent called to inquire about enrolling and was told that Nicolek was named after Father Nicolek, an early French explorer in the area, she expressed happiness that her child could attend such a “parochial school”.

- Senior Pranks: Some of the more memorable senior pranks were: a jeep that was found in the commons area, the front flag pole found piled to the top with automobile tires, and the shepherd incident, where two sheep were brought into teacher Mike Uihlein’s classroom early one morning. After a predictable accident, the two were herded into the pool courtyard, where the problem was compounded when several students got the idea of milking the sheep, chasing them with buckets at the ready, only to sheepishly discover that the two rams didn’t appreciate the attempt.

- Old Faithful: Nicolet teachers are noted for their friendliness, but during a day-long visit by one particularly annoying, potential teacher, who was sitting with six other teachers in the teachers lounge, where the bathroom john was nicknamed “The Geyser”, because of its gigantic upsurge when flushed. When the applicant inquired as to where she could find a bathroom, six accommodating hands in unison quickly pointed to “Old Faithful”.

- Hoop Dreams: Nicolet basketball coaches became excited when a young and athletic seven footer, took part in open recreational basketball. Students spread the rumor that he was an all-state player from Texas who was transferring to Nicolek. Hoop hopes were dashed, however, when he turned out to be member of the Marquette U. basketball team.

- The Nicolet Swim Club conducted an elaborate money raising campaign, directed by Mrs. Imey Schley and Mrs.Jean Shaughnessy, which raised about $20,000 for a timing system in the pool. Swimmers wore T-shirts with a fish logo and the slogan, “I Swam My Finny Off for Nicolek”.

-16-
• **Putting a damper on:** One of the most creative but unfortunate activities planned by the Nicolet Youth Council was the gigantic squirt gun fight scheduled to take place after school, with the freshman and seniors opposing the sophomores and juniors. Numerous boxes of squirt guns, from miniatures to fire extinguishers were confiscated by teachers during the school day, and the deluge was eventually reduced to a trickle.

• **Confidentially, it shrinks:** A new student immigrant from Viet Nam became a Nicolet Host, but being small of stature, required a special small size sport jacket. When told he had to have it cleaned, he washed it in the washing machine and dried it in the dryer, only to find that it was now smaller than he.

• **Successful alumna?** Former short time Nicolet Student Oprah Winfrey is one of the most successful ex-Nicolet students.

• **Mr. J. Cary Bachman** retired from tennis coaching after 41 years and 34 state team titles, coaching the boys from 1957 to 1993 and the girls from 1976 to 1998. His girls’ team record of 302-50 had more victories than any other team in the nation at the time of his retirement, with the next coach in line having 143 victories. Bachman won 13 state titles with the girls. His boys’ record, 574-123, is second on the list of boys’ coaching victories in the nation. He won 21 state team titles. (From Journal, Lori Nickel)

• **Social and Recreational Programs:** Students may remember some of these examples of social activities at Nicolet sponsored by Youth Council and other class and activity organizations: Freshman Welcome Knight, Knight Klubs, Variety Knight (“Around the World or Bust”), Battle of the Bands, Dad’s Date Knight, Winter Carnival and Broom Ball, Sadie Hawkins Dance, and Morp (Prom spelled backwards) The Winter Dance, and The Spring Fling. Prom was held mostly in the cafeteria (originally called the cafetorium before the auditorium was completed), or in the commons and the cafeteria. Post Prom, sponsored by the Glendale Women’s Club, was held, among other places, at the Grain Exchange, The War Memorial, and the Renaissance Center. Other activities were the after school “Hunger Pit”, noon hour and after school recreation in the cafeteria and later in the south gym balcony prior to the construction of the Knightskeller. Recreational basketball and intramurals were popular as were pool, foosball and table tennis tournaments.
Naming Rights, 1954 Style: As reported in the March 25 Herald, the name of the new high school was to be chosen in 1954, from a naming contest held in Oct. of 1952 among area elementary schools. Of 380 names submitted, the winner was “Nicolet”, shortened from Jean Nicolet, and honoring the French explorer who was the first white man to set foot in the State of Wisconsin. Several in a survey answered later that the name, “was a name worthy of fighting for!” Other top name candidates were, “North Shore” (thought to be too common and complicated if an additional school were built), and “Odanah”, an Indian name for town. The winning name dropper was a Fox Point/Bayside elementary student reported as “5E-22”, who became a person with a real name when he attended Nicolet.

Who was Jean Nicolet? The 7th issue of the Nicoletter explained that, “Jean Nicolet was a Frenchman who came to the New World to search for a route to the Orient. He reached Lake Michigan and since the lake stretched away in the distance farther than eyes could see, Nicolet asked the nearby Indians what it was. They replied that it was a race of men without beards. This convinced Nicolet that Chinese lived there, since they had no beards. He set sail across Lake Michigan in his canoe and finally came in sight of what is now Wisconsin. It was here that his crew put on their elegant Chinese robes which they had brought so as to be dressed properly.

The group traveled west on Wisconsin ground, but to their regret, found no Chinese, only a tribe of Indians. These Indians told the explorers that there was a mighty river much farther west which touched the shores of the Chinese. Jean Nicolet was convinced the Orient lay ahead, so he went back to report his findings and everyone thought that the western way to the Orient was on the verge of discovery.

Pools of Titanic Proportions:

Pool One: The Nicoletter (4th issue) reported that, “Finally after Christmas the report came through that the pool was completed and filled. It was half full, that is, of greenish black water with a sub-zero temperature. The next day it was filled completely and the next—empty. The cause was vaguely reported as a crack.”

Pool Two: In January of 1990, after the first person entered the new pool, tiles began falling off the side and swim programs were cancelled for the semester.

Entrance Murals: Nicolet art teachers, Veronica Burns, Ed Turner, Jim Wachholz, and Bob Peterson designed and completed the beautiful copper entrance murals in the main and auditorium entrance in the spring of 1976. The murals honor the 20 years of service by Nicholas Cupery after his retirement in the fall of 1975 as Superintendent and Consultant for the Nicolet School District.

The Critic: Prior to the copper murals in 1976, Nicolet participants may remember the planter and modernistic painted map of Nicolet in the main entrance which was to become a ceramic art work, but never completed. In 1956, math teacher and swim coach Mel Goldin, noticing a visitor studying the map, attempted polite conversation by commenting, “It would take a genius to figure that out”. The visitor turned with icy glance and replied, “I am the artist”.

-18-