
Village Of Four Seasons

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

by Thomas Laird

The board of trustees for the village of Four Seasons studied the results of the year 2000 Census. The Village was growing much faster than anyone believed. The population was rapidly approaching 2,000 full-time residents with at least 25 percent of those "kids" under 18 years of age. Four Seasons is located on the Lake of the Ozarks surrounded by both golf courses and water. There are activities all year long for adults but little for "the kids." The Village board made a decision to change that.

In the year 2001, planning began on construction of the first playground open to the public on the peninsula where Four Seasons lies. Land adjacent to the Village Hall was purchased, prepared and Phase 1 saw the installation of MIRACLE playground equipment. Included were a large size climbing and tunnel area, swings, spring animals, a wooden "pirate ship" and a gazebo.

Phase 2 has included the construc-

tion of a full-size basketball court and a skate park. The skate park is the first in the area to be designed solely for skating. The playground area is enclosed by a walkway providing a barrier to keep the KIDDYKUSH groundcover under and around the play area. Adjacent to the surrounding walkway are park benches. New bathrooms were built to accommodate the users of the park.

The entire basketball court and skate park are enclosed in fencing for safety. Added safety is provided by the Camden county sheriff whose substation is adjacent and overlooking the entire playground complex.

The playground fits perfectly into the long-term plan by Village trustees who have recognized the impor-

tance of recreation. The Village also has over 6.2-miles of paved hiking and biking trails that start at the Village park property. All of the Village park, hiking and biking trails have been built without grant funding or property tax dollars. All infrastructure expenses, as well



Pictured above is the first playground open to the public on the peninsula where Four Seasons lies.

as law enforcement and day-to-day operations of the Village, are derived from a small sales tax.

Future plans include lighting of the playground in the year 2004. The Village sponsors "Sunday Evening in the Park," featuring local musical and singing groups performing in the large gazebo. Additionally, the Village board is seeking the acquisition of land to build both soccer and baseball fields in the future.

Governing in a resort community with a population that is expected to double in the next five to ten years and that draws over 250,000 visitors each year can be a challenge. Providing for the safety and well being of such a large group without a property tax is the goal of the Village board. The board and the residents have demonstrated they are up to the task.□

Thomas Laird is the administrator/clerk of the village of Four Seasons.