

Complete List of Publications

most clips can be viewed on my webpage
www.aprilgalarza.com

News & Feature Articles

Demo Magazine

<http://cms.colum.edu/demo/>

2008

Election Night Memories

Gazette (Chicago) Formerly The Near West Gazette

2007

Global Warming: we all can do our part to improve environment (City Beat Feature)

This article won an award in the 20th Annual Apex Awards for Excellence competition

Quarry Park Slated to Open Spring 2008 (Front Page Cover Story)

Ald. Balcer, City look to replace Bridgeport Jewel (Front Page Cover Story)

Jewel Closes its Doors (Front Page Cover Story)

Quarry Park Plans Revealed (page 2 story)

McGuane Park to host Summer Fest

St. Mary of Perpetual Help celebrates 125th anniversary

Chicago Memorial Day Parade a grand solemn tradition

McGuane Park women finally get new lockers

Problems at Bridgeport Village slow development's completion

Balcer, CDC look to redevelop old bank property, brownfield.

Bridgeport Battle sees Segvich taking on Balcer

Halsted Street the gateway to 11th Ward revitalization

2006

Park district won't budge on swim coach

Park District ousts star swim coach

Fireman Joseph Kish proves to be a true Bridgeport hero

Community leader Bland takes on Turner in 9th House District

Day of the Dead Celebrates life and lost love ones (City Beat Feature)

Art Revolution underway throughout Pilsen Area (City Beat Feature)

Roosevelt University cuts Tuition in Some Programs

Spirit: A Magazine Designed for the Diverse Woman

www.spirit-mag.com

2006

Spheres Of Influence; Someone You Should Know, Pat Michalski

2007

In the Spirit of Enlightenment; An Interview with Cindy Kelly

An Anchor of Hope; an Interview with Lisa Aprati

Healthy Conflict: Why you should argue with your Partner!

For Her Information Chicago

<http://www.forherinformation.com>

2007

A New Era For Working Moms

Essortment.com Formerly pagewise.com

<http://www.essortment.com/>

2002

Ten ways to destress before a test

Learn about skiing; techniques, equipment and instruction

Hosting a dress-up birthday party

Short Stories

Story Week Reader

http://www.colum.edu/Academics/Fiction_Writing/Publishing_Lab/SWR/2006SWR.php

2006

The End of Summer

10,000 Tons of Black Ink

<http://aprilgalarza.wordpress.com/2008/01/02/1a-llorona/>

2007

La Llorona

Quarry Park slated to open spring 2008

By April Galarza

Construction on Quarry Park, bounded by Halsted, 27th, and 29th Streets and Poplar Ave., has been underway throughout the summer. Work on the retaining walls, landscaping, walking paths, and entrance plazas was 60% complete as of July, and electrical and concrete projects were 85% complete. Officials had hoped to open the park this fall but now project it will be complete as late as spring 2008.

Claudine Malik, Quarry Park project supervisor, said any delays were due to weather and the properties of the clay used in parts of the park. Quarry Park received clay from the Block 37 construction site across from the former Marshall Field's downtown that workers will use to line the park's fishing pond and wetland shelves. The clay first had to be tested offsite and could be excavated only on dry days. "The very wet month of August delayed delivery for about four weeks," said Malik, "This delay has held up our work, but the hauling finally started in early September. Approximately a tenth of the clay has been delivered to the site."

Cooperation among City agencies has made the project "a mutually beneficial partnership [among] City agencies and a great example of the environmentally friendly practice of reusing, rather than filling another dump site," said Malik.

Bill Kelly, a resident of Poplar Ave., remembers when the quarry was a 1,200 to 1,400 feet deep hole. "The change is remarkable," he said. "There's been enough work going on, but I've been waiting ten years for this park to open. It'll be good for kids and everybody around here. What else could you do with a hole like this?"

Although some parts of the park are complete, much work remains before it can open. Grass planted in July has grown in well and covered a mound and surrounding fields in a thick layer of green. Tree and shrub plantings have not occurred, however; Malik remarked they will constitute one of the final installations.

Jim Pearson, vice president of Moore Landscaping Inc., offered to donate some trees and shrubs for the new park, perhaps maples or oaks. "I last spoke to the park advisory council in June," Pearson said. "Hopefully they will be in touch soon so I can be generous." His donation will depend on seasonal availability. According to Malik, the Target Corp. also will donate trees.



Bridgeport's Quarry Park is beginning to take shape although the project isn't expected to be completed until spring 2008.

Workers have made progress on two of the three entryways. The entrances at Halsted and 27th Sts. and Halsted and 29th Sts. received new sidewalks, and boulders artistically placed in the cement offer an interesting contrast between the natural and manmade.

New lightposts made from cement that looks like sedimentary stone now line the paths throughout the park and feature large clear glass bulbs.

Intensely bright athletic-field style lighting on high poles sits atop the park's mound. Dirt footpaths circle the mound in a wide spiral, with foot lighting parallel to the paths. Among the several completed sidewalks is one alongside 27th Street and another along Halsted Street.

The park's perimeter holds black metal grid-like fencing; in some places, such as along Poplar Ave. from 27th to 29th Streets, it stands no taller than four feet. A higher fence in similar style runs along the edge of the future athletic field overlooking the road leading to the quarry.

Other than the large cement retaining wall separating the mound from the field that will contain a lock system leading to the fishing pond, little progress appears to have been made on the wetland cells, and the man-made fishing lake appears to be little more than a shallow muddy puddle.

At 2 p.m. on a recent Friday afternoon, construction vehicles along the quarry road sat idle, without a single worker in sight, despite the balmy weather in the high 60s with clear skies.

Despite the Park District's optimistic intentions, it seems the only ones enjoying the park this year have been members of a large flock of Canadian geese occupying the grassy plain that will hold the athletic field and picnic area.

Malik insisted locals' patience will be rewarded. "I know that this is later than our originally anticipated target, but please bear in mind that this is a very large and complex project, and the end result will be well worth the wait."

