



Wheaton Park District
Mary Lubko Center
Commitment to Excellence
2016 Annual Report



September 1, 2017
Linda Dolan
Mary Lubko Center
Manager



2016 Mary Lubko Center Annual Report

Table of Contents

Mary Lubko Center Dedication.....	3
Day Trip Adventures: <i>Creating Memories for Active Adults</i>	4
Extended Travel: <i>The Joy of Travel without the Hassle!</i>	5
Special Events: <i>Party! Party! Party!</i>	6
Fitness: <i>Commit to Be Fit</i>	7
Fun and Games: <i>Ready, Set...Play!</i>	8
Performing Arts: <i>We've Got Talent to Share</i>	9
Live and Learn Series: <i>Learning a Thing or Two</i>	10
Service Partnerships: <i>We're Here to Help!</i>	11
Staff: <i>The People Behind The Scenes</i>	12
Financial Report: <i>Committed to Sustainability</i>	13
Facility Rentals: <i>A Growing Revenue Source</i>	14
In The News: <i>Happenings at the Mary Lubko Center</i>	15
Appendix	
<i>2016 Program Listing</i>	17
<i>2016 Actual Budget</i>	18
<i>2016 Press Releases</i>	19-30

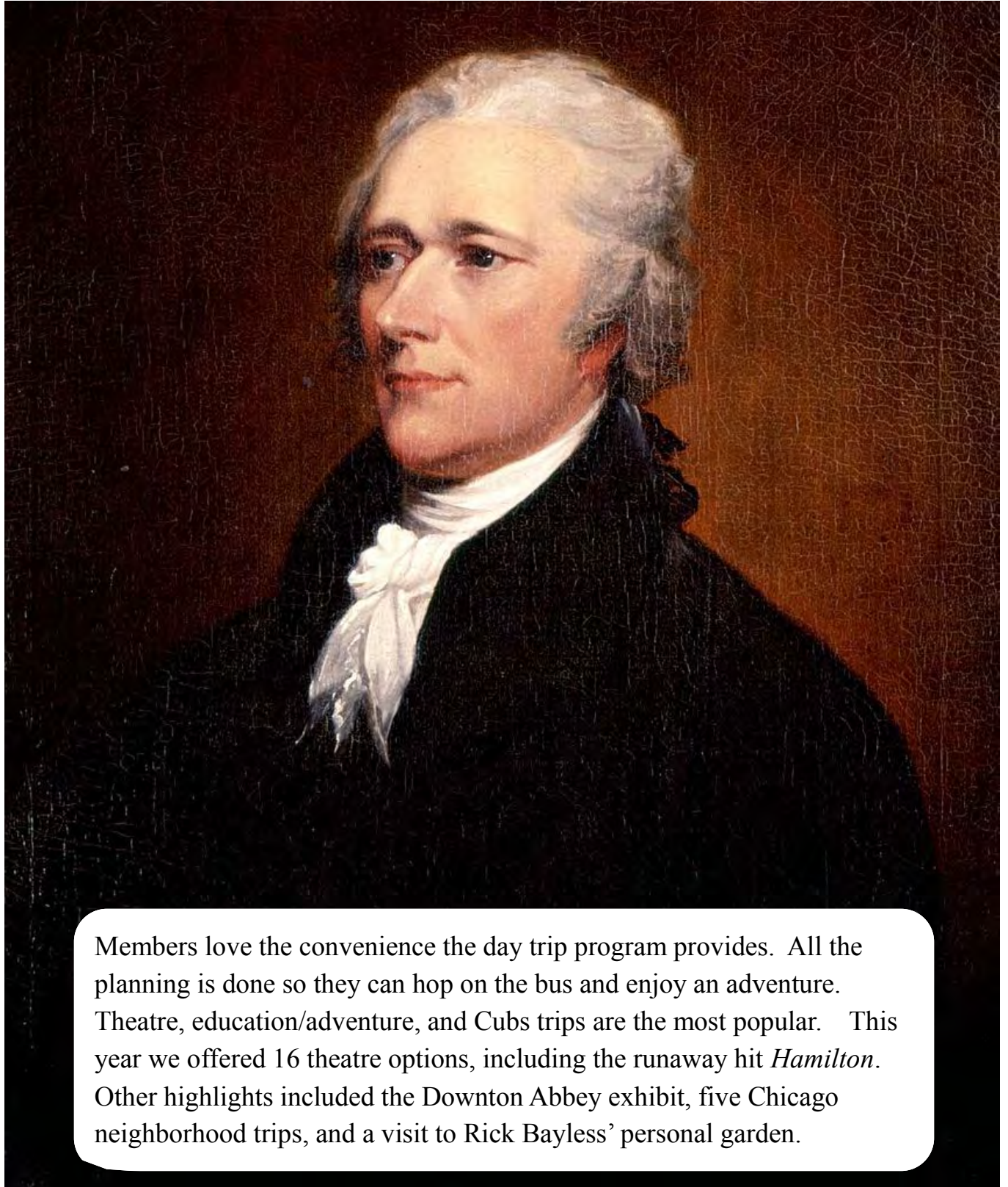
Wheaton Park District Renames Leisure Center The Mary Lubko Center



The Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners voted at the February 17 Board Meeting to rename the district’s Leisure Center the Mary Lubko Center, in honor of 22-year employee and senior citizen advocate Mary Lubko, who passed away in November 2015. As the first director of the Senior Center—as it was named then—she introduced sports programs like bicycling, volleyball, hiking, softball, cross-country skiing, tennis, bowling, and golf. Mary Lubko also created many travel opportunities, including day trips to plays, musicals, and restaurants and extended trips to far-flung locales. Over 150 of Mary’s friends and family celebrated her life and legacy at the rededication ceremony held on May 17.

Day Trip Adventures

Creating Memories for Active Adults



Members love the convenience the day trip program provides. All the planning is done so they can hop on the bus and enjoy an adventure. Theatre, education/adventure, and Cubs trips are the most popular. This year we offered 16 theatre options, including the runaway hit *Hamilton*. Other highlights included the Downton Abbey exhibit, five Chicago neighborhood trips, and a visit to Rick Bayless' personal garden.

Extended Travel

The Joy Of Travel Without The Hassle!



The extended travel program is an all win situation. Patrons have the opportunity to take quality trips they could not plan themselves, with the security knowing that all the details have been taken care of. 2016 commission revenue went up 14%. Premier is a new company we tried in 2016, and Mayflower Tours continues to be our largest vendor. Staff will continue to seek new partners to diversify the program offerings.

Special Events

Party! Party! Party!



Mary Lubko Center Members love to have a good time and celebrate the holidays at special events offered throughout the year. The Valentine's Day Dance, Sunshine Luncheon, Picnic In The Park, Awesome August, Thanksgiving Gathering and The Holiday Gala are offered each year, plus nine additional special events. The Valentine's Day Dance was held at Arrowhead Golf Club.

Fitness

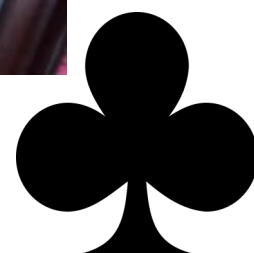
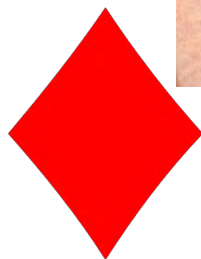
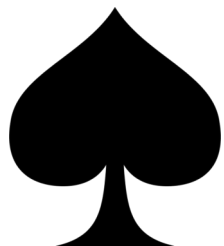
Commit to Be Fit



Better Balance is the newest fitness class at the Mary Lubko Center. Participants improve balance and reduce fall risk in this fun class taught by RN's Kerry Weatherred and Christine Carroll, who also work the front desk at the center. Other popular fitness classes include Tai Chi, Fit for Life, and Sit and Be Fit.

Fun and Games

Ready, Set...Play!



Bridge is by far the most popular card game played at the Mary Lubko Center. We offered morning and afternoon classes to accommodate the growing interest. Other drop in games include: Pinochle, Bolivia, Dominoes, Maj Jong, and Canasta, which average a dozen players a week.

Performing Arts

We've Got Talent to Share!



Seasonal performances at the Community Center starring Beyond Glee, Silvertones Chorus, The Step In Time Dancers, and George Zima's, "Memoir Of A Broadway Hooper", filled the Memorial Room throughout the year. In addition to these large concerts, The Step In Time Dancers performed fourteen outreach performances at local retirement centers.

Live and Learn Series

Learning a Thing or Two!



2016 offerings covered a wide range of topics and skills. Brain health and balance are always well attended popular topics. Patrons also attended seminars on hearing loss, fraud prevention, power of attorney and senior care options. Most of these classes are taught by community professionals who volunteer their time, allowing us to offer many for free or at a very reasonable rate. These classes attract new members and are an important service we provide.

Service Partnerships

We're Here to Help!



AARP Defensive Driving, income tax assistance, and Rules Of The Road refresher classes are popular with patrons.

Robin Zeldin has lead our dedicated tax team since 2010. He was looking for a way to give back to the community in a way that utilized his skills, and that was intellectually stimulating and personally rewarding. His background is in accounting and tax, including experience with the Internal Revenue Service and in public accounting with Deloitte. Robin supervises 20 tax volunteers who come from a wide range of backgrounds, such as telecommunications, finance, education, pharmacy, manufacturing, accounting and IT. All are retired and make a huge commitment to the program, including 6 days of formal pre-season training. Wheaton's average counselor has 10 years of involvement with the Tax Aide Program.

In 2016, the group filed 307 tax returns, an increase of 6% over 2015. Robin states that "The Wheaton Program is well supported by the Wheaton Park District's Mary Lubko Center staff and operates out of the Wheaton Community Center, both of which are crucial to our success in offering free tax services to the elderly."

Staff

The People Behind The Scenes



Laura and her daughters celebrated eldest daughter Alexa's graduation in May from Lipscomb University.



In November Ann traveled to Camarillo, California to surprise son Allan on his birthday, which also happens to be her birthday!



This summer Christine and her husband Greg crossed the Capilano Suspension Bridge while visiting Vancouver B.C.



Mary Ann and Dave Stetler celebrated Villanova's Final Four win in Houston with grandsons Matthew and Joe.



Linda traveled to Clermont, Florida this summer to visit granddaughter Abbey and met her newest grandchildren, twins Jack and Lily!



Kerry and her family celebrated their youngest daughter Sarah's graduation from Hope College on Mothers Day.



Patty and family enjoyed their first annual summer family vacation at Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan.

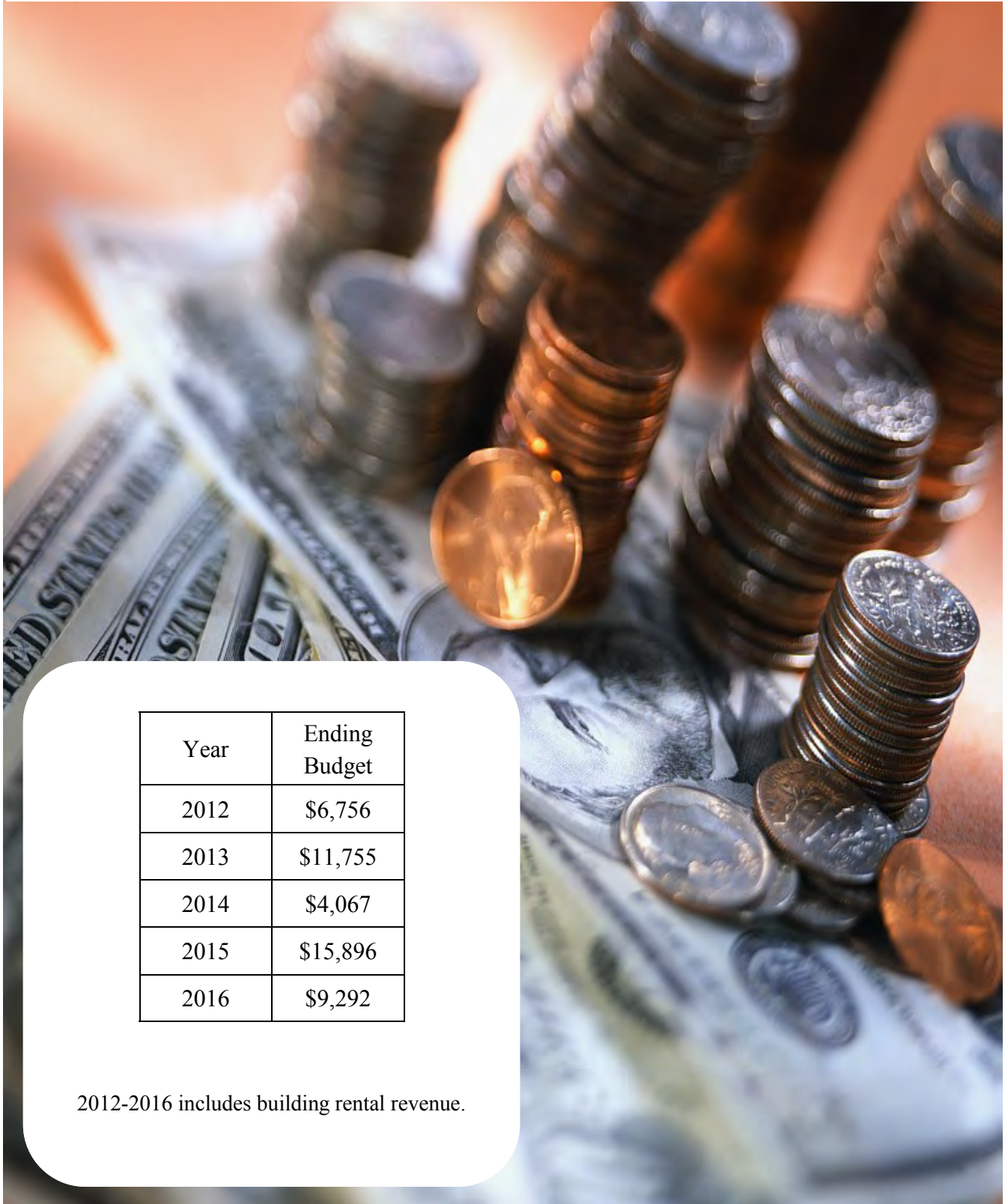


Mary Lou enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-granddaughter Erin on their annual vacation to Wisconsin.

Staff philosophy is simple and is evident in every interaction, program, event, and decision. People matter. Give them something to put on their calendar and look forward to. Offer meaningful activities that are also fun. Offer programs that enhance mind and body health. Give them an opportunity to make new friends. Let them know you care.

Financial Report

Committed to Sustainability!



Year	Ending Budget
2012	\$6,756
2013	\$11,755
2014	\$4,067
2015	\$15,896
2016	\$9,292

2012-2016 includes building rental revenue.

Facility Rentals

Growing Revenue Source!



Year	Ending Budget
2012	\$4,092
2013	\$4,820
2014	\$6,060
2015	\$8,615
2016	\$10,345

The Mary Lubko Center has been booking their own rentals since 2012. Building rentals are a wonderful resident benefit, and it brings in revenue that helps us achieve continued sustainability. It's the perfect setting for showers, weddings and family parties. A fee increase was approved for 2017 rentals.

In the News

Happenings at the Mary Lubko Center!



*Wheaton Park District bridge instructors Ron and Phyllis Fogel's next session, Intermediate Bridge, starts **January 12, 2017**. Registration is open now. Pictured: the Fogels pose with student Torrong Siddhiteja (right), who graduated from their program over the summer and wrote a letter (framed in photo) to them expressing her appreciation for the lessons.*



Laura Bessey, Travel Coordinator at the Mary Lubko Center (208 W. Union Ave. in Wheaton), organizes day trips and extended journeys for Wheaton-area adults. In the next few months, participants will visit chef Rick Bayless' private Bucktown gardens, see Milwaukee's skyline from the lake, and visit Starved Rock Lodge for a performance of songs from Les Misérables and Phantom of the Opera.



*George Zima, 89, of Winfield will share show business stories from his 14-year career as a Broadway dancer **September 29, 1-2P** at the Wheaton Park District Community Center (1777 S. Blanchard Rd., Wheaton, Ill.) with Memoirs of a Broadway Hooper. Admission is \$5; register by calling 630.665.1415.*

All Photos © Wheaton Park District 2016.

Appendix

2016 Program Listing

Extended Travel

Feel the Warmth of the Florida Keys
Gulf Shore Breezes
Southern Charm
Cuba Experience
Panama Canal Cruise
Alaska Adventure Cruise
New England & Canada Autumn Cruise
Washington Waterways & National Parks
Fall Getaway to Grand Rapids
Seven Wonders of Oregon
California Rail Discovery
A Blue Christmas with Elvis

Day Trip Adventures

Theatre

Hairspray
Bye Bye Birdie
West Side Story
Evita
War Paint
Les Mis & Phantom
George Strait
Irving Berlin
Patty Waszak
Donny & Marie
A Tribute to Roy Orbison
Hamilton
Mama Mia
Fireside Christmas

Parties and Specials

Chinese New Year Party
Sunshine Luncheon
Valentine's Dance
Hawaiian Holiday
It's a Wonderful World of Music
Moments to Remember: The Greatest Generation
Happy Daze
Fashion Fun Show & Luncheon
Picnic in the Park
Awesome August Party
Halloween Harvest Hoopla
Thanksgiving Gathering
Holiday Gala
Memories of a Broadway Hooper
You Can't Make This Stuff Up
Music and The Brain
Meaning of Christmas as Told Through Stories and Carols

Drive Yourself

Theatre

Bye Bye Birdie

Sporting Events

Cubs VS Brewers at Miller Park in WI
Cubs VS Brewers at Wrigley

Educational/ Adventure

Downton Abbey
Assassination Theater
Polonia Chicago
Land Water & Wine #1
Shipshewana Brown Bag Tour
Chicago's Riverwalk City in a Garden Part 5
North Shore Adventure
Cruisin Milwaukee
Land Water & Wine #2
Rick Bayless Garden Tour
Discover Wheaton Gardens
East Meets West
Latino Chicago

Live and Learn

Power of Attorney for Health Care
Senior Scams and Fraud Prevention
Senior Care from Soup to Nuts
Hearing Loss Seminar
The Effects Aging Has on Your Balance
Flu Clinic
Beginning Bridge
Intermediate Bridge: Play of the Hand
Defense at Bridge
Hearing Screening

2016 Actual Budget

Total Revenue	212,446
Total Expenses	203,154
Net Profit	9,292

Budget Code and Title	Revenue	Wages	Contractual	Supply	Total Expense	Profit/Loss
0000 Grants & Donations					0	0
5500 General	0	46,714	0	4,324	51,038	-51,038
5501 - Special Events	20,563	799	14,805	1,279	16,883	3,680
5502 Silvertones	8,466	5,799	570	1,089	7,458	1,008
5505 Senior Fitness	6,257	4,135	0	0	4,135	2,122
5506 Volleyball	1,193	0	0	0	0	1,193
5508 Snappy Tappers	3,086	1,750	0	0	1,750	1,336
5511 Ladies Golf	1,591	0	435	1,040	1,475	116
5513 Beyond Glee	7,549	4,314	500	917	5,731	1,818
5515 Sponsorship	1,800	0	0	0	0	1,800
5519 Inhouse Events	8,458	4,808	0	0	4,808	3,650
5520 Nonresident	5,617	0	0	0	0	5,617
5522 - Adventure	48,600	2,493	40,556	0	43,049	5,551
5523 Tai Chi	10,084	7,310	0	0	7,310	2,774
5531 - Theatre	58,778	3,021	48,729	0	51,750	7,028
5545-Drive Yourself Theatre	2,360	183	2,010	0	2,193	167
5560 - Sport Trips	7,257	505	4,819	0	5,324	1,933
5563 - Commission Only	10,442	0	0	0	0	10,442
5596 - In House Extended	0	0	250	0	250	-250
Building Rentals	10,345	0	0	0	0	10,345
SubTotals	212,446	81,831	112,674	8,649	203,154	9,292

2016 Press Release #1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Brett Peto, Wheaton Park District

630.510.4987 or bpeto@wheatonparks.org

DATE: July 14, 2016

WHEATON PARK DISTRICT'S MARY LUBKO CENTER 'SAVES LIVES' WITH DAYTRIPS

Wheaton, Ill.—Doctors, paramedics, and psychiatrists save lives, but according to Laura Bessey, Travel Coordinator at the Wheaton Park District's Mary Lubko Center (208 W. Union Ave. in Wheaton)—which provides local senior citizens with activities and services—so do daytrips.

The center offers dozens of trips every year, from jaunts through Chicago's hottest neighborhoods and tickets for theater productions like *Hamilton* to boat tours along Milwaukee's shoreline and brown bag journeys across northern Indiana's Amish community.

For many, these trips are something to look forward to, but for some, they're lifesaving.

"One woman told us we've made the biggest difference in her whole life," said Bessey. "She wrote a letter to the Daily Herald saying the Wheaton Park District saved her life. She goes on every trip and has formed a large circle of friends outside of the trips. They [guests] view us as friends or family."

The arrival of the center's quarterly newsletter, *Time of Your Life*, is often a social event, said Mary Lubko Center Manager Linda Dolan.

"We have four women who gather around with the newsletter as soon as they get it and figure out where they're going next," she said. "It provides something to talk about, to look forward to. We think people will have a happy life if they have happy people in it."

The friendliness may be attractive, but so is the lack of stress.

“We do all of the planning,” Bessey said. “Nothing is required of them. The motor coach stops at the door. People feel safe with us, and it’s a great way to meet new friends.”

On the way are three opportunities to do just that.

First up is Les Mis & Phantom on **August 2**, a trip to hear husband-and-wife team Phil and Amy bring *Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Misérables* songs to life at Starved Rock Lodge. Phil and Amy are accomplished vocalists, musicians, and recording artists who have performed their repertoire of duets and solos across the Midwest. Lunch at the lodge is included.

Travel is often an educational experience, and “people want to continue to learn,” said Bessey.

On Cruisin’ Milwaukee, departing **August 10**, guests will learn about the charming fifteenth-century St. Joan of Arc Chapel on the campus of Marquette University, see new progressive housing and business developments, visit the Milwaukee Public Market, and be dazzled by the view of the lakeside city’s skyline from the water, especially the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Because of the size of her groups, Bessey gets exclusive access to “places nobody else can go,” like Chicago-based chef Rick Bayless’ private Bucktown gardens.

With the Rick Bayless Garden Tour on **September 15**, foodies can amble through the Bayless Organic Garden, featured on the PBS Series *Mexico—One Plate at a Time*, and see where the lettuces, vegetables, and herbs for Bayless’ three award-winning downtown restaurants—Frontera Grill, Topolobampo, and XOCO—are grown.

They can also walk a portion of The 606, an elevated park and trail system following the now-defunct Bloomingdale Line through Logan Square, Humboldt Park, Bucktown, and Wicker Park.

Bessey generates ideas for trips about a year ahead of time and plans them six months out.

“I look at what’s coming to Chicago,” she said. “Sometimes participants ask to go certain places. And I also look for word-of-mouth, the next big thing maybe not everyone’s heard about.”

One challenge is finding high-quality restaurants that accommodate large groups.

Another is dispelling the notion that participants will be uncomfortable traveling alone.

“We like to pair up anyone who’s traveling by themselves with another person,” Dolan said. “It takes courage to go by yourself, and we want everyone to be comfortable.”

And these trips aren’t just for Wheaton residents. Any adult can purchase a yearly household membership for \$15, which lets them participate in all Mary Lubko Center-sponsored programs for the resident rate. Members also receive four issues of the center’s quarterly newsletter.

The fall issue, releasing in September, will feature “six brand-new day trips to choose from, plus a variety of parties, programs, and classes,” Dolan said.

To become a member of the Mary Lubko Center, register for trips, and learn more, visit wheatonparkdistrict.com, call the Mary Lubko Center at 630.665.1415, or stop in at 208 W. Union Ave. in Wheaton during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30A-3P.



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2016 Press Release #2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Brett Peto, Wheaton Park District

630.510.4987 or bpeto@wheatonparks.org

DATE: September 1, 2016

BROADWAY VETERAN GEORGE ZIMA TO PRESENT 'MEMOIRS OF A BROADWAY HOOFER'

Wheaton, Ill.—George Zima, 89, of Winfield, brims with stories—he writes letters to Dick Van Dyke and once had a role as a dancing cow, which opened the door to shows like *Sesame Street* and *Captain Kangaroo*—and he'll tell them **September 29, 1-2P** when he presents *Memoirs of a Broadway Hooper*, a retrospective of behind-the-scenes stories from his 14-year dancing career on Broadway, at the Wheaton Park District Community Center (1777 S. Blanchard Rd., Wheaton, Ill.).

Zima started dancing at just eight years old with his sister.

“Our parents encouraged us to take music lessons and dance lessons,” he said. “I used to dance in back of my sister, and pester her. She would say, ‘Ma! Georgie’s bothering me.’ So Mom says, ‘Well, teach him how,’ so she taught me how.”

George’s parents sent him to dance school, where he studied ballet, tap, and acrobatic dancing.

“Throughout elementary school, as a little guy, doing ballet dancing wasn’t very popular with my buddies,” Zima said. “I’d get home from dance class and go out and play baseball with them, and they’d put me out in right field. No action. So I’d practice my tumbling. I didn’t get teased anymore.”

Out of high school, he tumbled into a vaudeville duo act with his sister Mickey.

“The name *Zima* is a Slovak name. It means *cold ice* or *winter*,” he said. “So we became George and Mickey Winters, *Youth on a Spree*. During the war, we toured the West Coast and played vaudeville

theaters and all the supper clubs. We went from Los Angeles all the way north, hitting every city, to Vancouver. Mickey got married and that broke up the act.”

Zima hung up his dancing shoes for several years, obtaining a degree in education at Northwestern University and starting a second career.

“I became a phys[ical] ed[ucation] teacher, but the monetary rewards weren’t there, so I got a master’s degree in school administration in 1955,” he said.

But one year later, he could no longer ignore his “passion of dancing,” and so went to Beverly, Mass., where he landed a role in summer stock theater.

“We did six shows in seven weeks. It was backbreaking work, but I loved it,” Zima said. “Then my wife and I were gonna come back and she was going to be a teacher and I was going to be a teacher, and it didn’t work out that way. I stopped off in New York and saw my first Broadway musical show, *Li’l Abner*. It was exhilarating. I loved Michael Kidd’s dancing.”

After the show, Zima visited the famous choreographer backstage and learned one of the dancers had just given his two weeks’ notice. Kidd auditioned him the next day.

But Zima was supposed to start teaching in September, so he called his superintendent.

“He said, ‘Go ahead and start dancing. You’ll always be a better teacher for it,’” said Zima. “One year stretched out to 14 years. I always intended to go back, but one thing happened after another. I had three kids. I did five Broadway shows.”

When *Li’l Abner* closed on Broadway, the company performed for 13 weeks at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, and Zima then returned to New York for *The Most Happy Fella*.

Five-time Tony Award-winning choreographer, director, dancer, and theater producer Jerome Robbins asked to see him after the show and offered him a part as a dancing cow in *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*, starring Ethel Merman. Zima’s daughter was born during the show’s two-year run, prompting the Walter Winchell headline “Gypsy Cow has Baby Girl.”

“That cow was one of the best things to ever happen to me,” he said. “For seven years, I was in *Captain Kangaroo*. That put me in touch with *Sesame Street*. I was Pete the Street Sweeper, sweeping all the dirt outta Sesame Street. That opened the door to doing more commercials and television work.”

He went on to work as a stuntman and dancer for Jackie Gleason, Art Carney, Ed Sullivan, Perry Como, and more. After he finished his last Broadway shows, *Pal Joey* and *Milk and Honey*, in the late 1960s, Zima earned his doctorate from Columbia University and served as principal at a few elementary schools in New Jersey and Illinois until retiring sixteen years later in Winfield.

“Do what you’ve always done, but do less of it,” he said. “I joined Wheaton Drama and the West Towns Chorus and started teaching tap dancing. I continue to do all three.”

Along with bowling, golfing, singing, and acting, Zima leads tap dancing classes for the Wheaton Park District. The beginner class meets **every Thursday, 5-5:45P, September 8 through November 17**. The intermediate and advanced classes meet **every Saturday, 9:15-10A and 10:15-11A, September 17 through December 5**.

Registration for each session is \$55 per person. To register, visit wheatonparkdistrict.com.

“I’m very proud of my students,” Zima said. “Some of them formed a performing group called the Step-in-Time Dancers, who perform for community groups.”

He may be turning 90 this December, but Zima doesn’t seem to have made many compromises.

“I can still do cartwheels, only now I cheat,” he said. “I put my hands down. The knees hurt? Take an Advil. Go out and dance. What more could I ask?”

Registration is required for *Memoirs of a Broadway Hooper*. Admission is \$5; register by calling 630.665.1415.

To learn more about George Zima’s tap dancing classes and *Memoirs of a Broadway Hooper*, visit wheatonparkdistrict.com or contact Linda Dolan, Manager of the Wheaton Park District’s Mary Lubko Center, at 630.510.5030 or ldolan@wheatonparks.org.



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Photo © Wheaton Park District 2016.

2016 Press Release #3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Brett Peto, Wheaton Park District

630.510.4987 or bpeto@wheatonparks.org

DATE: December 9, 2016

BRIDGE CLASSES SUIT WHEATON PARK DISTRICT INSTRUCTORS

Wheaton, Ill.—For Wheaton Park District bridge instructors Ron and Phyllis Fogel, whose next session of Intermediate Bridge begins **January 12, 2017** at the Mary Lubko Center (208 W. Union Ave., Wheaton, Ill.), a marriage of 33 years and counting started with a hand of cards.

“I met Ron at a bridge club,” Mrs. Fogel said, “and we started playing together, started dating.”

Mr. Fogel took interest when she played differently than he was accustomed to.

“She got my attention because every time she came to the table, she’d revoke,” said Mr. Fogel, referring to an uncommon practice where a player fails to follow suit when they’re able.

They’ve played across the country and around the world, from California, New York, and Hawaii to Atlanta, North Dakota, Florida, British Columbia, and more.

“When I was working, I traveled a bit, and instead of sitting at the bar, I’d call the bridge club and they’d always fix you up with a partner,” Mr. Fogel said.

He started teaching the game when a friend moved away.

“She had several [bridge] classes going at the College of DuPage (COD) and she asked me to fill in,” he said. “I did, and I liked it. I taught fifteen years at COD” before teaching at Leyden Park District, Willowbrook Evening School, Triton Junior College, and his own private lessons.

When Mrs. Fogel retired from a 34-year career in the public school system, she joined her husband in teaching at the Wheaton Park District, starting in 2013.

“You build a sense of community,” she said. “When I was with my second graders, I said, ‘We’re readers and writers.’ Here I say, ‘Good morning, bridge players.’”

Former student Torriong Siddhetija of Hinsdale appreciated the Fogels’ teaching style.

“They deal all the hands. They have handouts for everybody. Once Ron goes through everything, they have a question-and-answer [session] to see if you understand what they taught you,” she said. “After we’ve done a worksheet, we start playing the hands.”

Homework is simply play bridge, “even if it’s dealing hands at the kitchen table,” Mr. Fogel said.

When Siddhetija started class with the Fogels, she thought it would last six weeks.

It’s been a year and a half so far, which she credits to their passion for the game, so much so she wrote a letter to them, now professionally framed and displayed in their home.

““You both are fantastic teachers, great storytellers, and our role models in the way you play bridge and in life,”” she wrote. ““Wherever we may go from now in the bridge world, we will always remember that we had Ron and Phyllis as our teachers in this cozy little classroom.””

Siddhetija presented the letter on the last day of class as a group effort.

“I asked a bunch of people in the class to read a paragraph or a sentence,” Siddhetija said. “About ten people read it and took turns and it turned out really cute.”

Mrs. Fogel had tears in her eyes as students stood and read in the Mary Lubko Center’s warm, wood-paneled Coach Room that serves as the cozy little classroom where Siddhetija learned “the best game ever.”

“It makes you think,” she said. “I wanted to have something to do with my friends. At first, we had three people, but I recruited more and more, and now we have eight or nine people, through six class sessions, each six weeks long.”

Each session sees 32 students, said Mary Lubko Center Manager Linda Dolan.

“It’s safe to say that bridge is by far the most popular game played here,” she said. “Everyone loves learning with Ron and Phyllis. They are incredibly talented instructors and their enthusiasm is contagious.”

The Fogels wouldn’t teach anywhere else.

“This is by far the best place we’ve taught,” Mr. Fogel said. “Everyone is so helpful. The students are so interesting. I’ve never had classes like these.”

Intermediate Bridge will meet **January 12** through **February 16, 9:30-11:30A** and **1-3P**, at the Mary Lubko Center. To register, visit wheatonparkdistrict.com or call 630.665.1415.



*Wheaton Park District bridge instructors Ron and Phyllis Fogel’s next session, Intermediate Bridge, starts **January 12, 2017**. Registration is open now. Pictured: the Fogels pose with student Torriong Siddhiteja (right), who graduated from their program over the summer and wrote a letter (framed in photo) to them expressing her appreciation for the lessons.*

Photo © Wheaton Park District 2016.

