

Smithville park could grow



Jim Sheller (left), Osie Feusier, Adaline Berkey and Dick Beaver are working together to promote the park in Smithville. A committee has formed to help raise funds to buy land to enlarge the park.

Community works toward land purchase

By SUE A. SMAIL
Record Correspondent

SMITHVILLE — The fund drive for the purchase of more park land in Smithville has begun.

"This is not just a once in a lifetime opportunity, it is a once in forever opportunity," said Jeanne Smucker, committee chair.

The Sheller Family, long time residents of Smithville who owned Sheller Meats for more than 50 years, has extended until June 21, a six-month option to the village for purchase of nearly 15 acres at \$9,000 per acre. The land is located adjacent to the park to the north/northeast.

"If the community ever wishes to

expand the park, this would be the only ground available that directly abuts the current park land," Smucker said.

Kicking off the fund-raising campaign are Osie Feusier, the oldest living resident in the community; Adaline Berkey, whose husband, Wilbur, was the founder of the first community summer park program for area youth; and Richard Beaver, owner of Beaver Meats Inc.

If the additional land is purchased, there would be space for additional picnic pavilions, greenspace with walking trails, upper park restrooms, re-location of tennis courts and two additional ball fields, according to citi-

zens committee member Dave Zimmerman.

The committee is headed by Art and Jeanne Smucker. Other committee members include Arden Ramseyer, Tom Rolf, Tom Poulson, Jim Franks, Terry Sears, Randy Porter and Alan Chenevey. Smucker said she hopes "other members of the community will become involved with the committee also."

The committee plans a pancake and sausage day on May 19.

Individuals can make cash donations or pledges at Village Hall or by mailing them to P.O. Box 517, Smithville 44677. Make sure to note on your check what the donation is for.