

# Hill, but no ski resort promised by developer

## Ski hill down drain?

The Economist received an unconfirmed report Tuesday at press time that Landfill Inc. intended to abandon the plans for the Palos township garbage-ski-hill. A petition withdrawing the rezoning request that would have allowed the operation is expected to be presented to the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals today, Wednesday.

BY LOIS ZAKARAS  
At 1 p.m., next Monday, in the Palos Park Village hall, the curtain will rise on the third act of the Palos township garbage hill drama.

Act two cleared up one misconception held by those following the zoning petition that asks for a landfill operation at McCarthy rd. and Will-Cook rd. The developer does not intend to provide the facilities that would turn the completed project into a ski resort. This would be left up to the Cook

County Forest Preserve district.

It was brought out that the district has the option, not the obligation, to develop a ski hill.

Further it was noted that ski lift facilities alone could cost approximately \$190,000. In addition there would be costs for chalets, sanitary facilities and parking lots which the Forest Preserve district would need to provide. It was pointed out that a similar facility being built in DuPage county is costing \$4 million (state and

federal funds are being requisitioned.)

It is unclear as to whether or not the Forest Preserve district has made any commitment other than to approve a ski type facility for the site.

Present at the first hearing was Richard Buck, representing the district. During his testimony he made no mention of agreements nor of possible expense to the district for ski facilities. He stated that the Forest Preserve district was willing to allow dirt storage on nearby district property. He also said that the area is lacking in winter sports facilities and the idea of having some is favored.

Buck was not cross examined during the second session.

Buck is at present on leave from his job at the district because of illness. A fellow employee in the architectural-landscaping department told the Economist Thursday that no one else in the department was completely up-to-date on the matter.

It is expected that the condition in which the

developer intends to leave the property, should he be allowed to undertake the project, will be questioned in great detail Monday.

The first of the well-attended hearings before the Cook County zoning board of appeals lasted five hours. It consisted primarily of testimony on the part of nine witnesses for the developer.

Hearing number two exceeded the first by a couple of hours and was comprised of cross examination of those witnesses. Conclusion of the cross examination, presentation of witnesses opposing the proposals, and statements from the audience will constitute Monday's agenda.

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