

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **\$50,000 Donation Helps Close Fundraising Gap for Barber Park Improvements**

(MAHOMET, Illinois – November 4, 2021) The Village of Mahomet Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) is pleased to announce a \$50,000 donation from the Alice Elder-Miller Family for improvements at Barber Park.

This significant donation will help support the addition of a fully inclusive playground, splash pad and amphitheater that will open in 2022. MPRD announced a fundraising campaign earlier this year with a goal of raising \$250,000 to support the nearly \$1 million dollar project. The Village was awarded \$400,000 from an OSLAD grant program through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to help fund this project. Previously, the department announced several large gifts and naming rights partners for each amenity including the Bill and Lisa Peithmann Splash Pad, the Lions Club Playground and the Fisher National Bank Amphitheater.

Additional contributions, sponsorships and individual donations of all sizes are welcome and continue to help support the project. “This powerful donation exemplifies the generosity of our community and the support for quality-of-life amenities. We are so grateful to Alice and every single donation that we have received so far, we truly couldn’t move forward without the community support”, said MPRD Director Dan Waldinger.

The gift was given in honor of Alice Elder-Miller’s late husband, Lee Miller, who previously served on the Village Board of Trustees and as a past chairman of the planning and zoning commission. Lee also helped build the Barber Park Pavilion as a member of Mahomet Lions Club. “I am very pleased that our family can be part of this wonderful community enriching project. I was seeking a way to honor Lee, and this was such a perfect fit. He loved Mahomet and would be so happy to see the development of Barber Park. He spent time in the pavilion selling candy as a member of the Lions Club as well as watching our son play soccer on

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Barber Park fields,” said Elder-Miller. “Thirty years ago, we chose Mahomet to be the community in which to raise our son. We embraced Mahomet and Mahomet embraced us right back. Mahomet is a community full of loving, generous, and caring individuals.”

MPRD hopes to cross the finish line for the fundraising initiative of the first phase by January 2022. The project will be complete by the summer of 2022. MPRD has received approximately \$225,000 of the \$250,000 fundraising goal to date. Any additional donations above and beyond will help offset the parks capital budget even further and will help support future phases of the park. We are building a positive, healthy, inclusive environment inspiring our entire community to play, imagine and connect together. MPRD is seeking additional donations to see this project through completion. To learn more about the Barber Park project, or find out how you can donate, visit our project website at

[www.facebook.com/mahometsprayandplay](http://www.facebook.com/mahometsprayandplay) or contact us at (217) 586-6025.

MPRD is thankful for the volunteers serving on the Barber Park fundraising team for their ongoing support of the project. The fundraising team includes Stephanie Denby, Mark Kesler, Ryan Heiser, Luke Reiff and Carrie Ummel.

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