

May 12, 2022- Historical Information from Marian & Bill Powell, 8813 Stark Rd.

Hi neighbors,

We signed off on the purchase of our current home in Willow Woods in December 1965. We paid \$29,500.00 for it! Bill had transferred to Motorola in Reston earlier in the year and was commuting back to New Jersey on weekends. The kids and I joined him in May of 1966. Everyone was very excited to have a pool within walking distance. Our kids were 5 and 3 years old and we spent lots of time at Ilda where we got to know our neighbors. The kids swam on the team for many years and we were involved in swim team activities as officials. One of the highlights was that Melissa Belotte, an Olympian swimmer competed at our pool with her No. Va. Team before she became famous. Bill served on the Pool Board for a couple of years.

Ilda managed to hire some great coaches over the years. One summer early on the coaching team was over the top in getting the kids fired up. When the early morning pool practices were too chilly they decided to warm up the kids by a run around the neighborhood. So with bull-horns in tow and lots of little kids they took off around the neighborhood running. Kids loved it but neighbors wondered what was going on. Once it was explained I don't think anyone objected.

This same group of coaches and life guards came up with an after-hours game called Yakamuzzi. It took place in the diving well with a team effort of jumping off the high board and catching a ball thrown from the deck. It had some sort of scoring plan. They organized a league which included other guards/coaches from the neighboring pools. Next thing you know the parking lot was full of participants cheering their local team on. Little did the pool board know how large this league became but it all worked out ok in the end.

The pool hosted an adult party each year which was always great fun. For some reason costumes were involved and attached are some pictures of our creations. The people were Carol and Paul Heaton, Kay and Frank Healy who lived on Starr Jordan, Diane Moulis who lived on Guinea Rd., Rita and Larry Tompkins and Bill Gavin who lived on Stark Pl., Gene Gies and us from Stark Rd., and Ellen and Tim Regan who lived on Stark Rd and Moreland during their time in Willow Woods.

