

# Making a splash

## Couple's donation will ensure 'children and water and play and summer are perfect together'

STORY Dave Hinton PHOTOS Anthony Zilis

### MAHOMET

Bill Peithmann fondly remembers bundling into the car with his sister and traveling the 16 or so miles from their Farmer City home to the beach at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve in Mahomet for some swimming.

"We had the rime of our lives," Peichmann says. "We went up to the concession stand (for treats) and we'd watch the bigger kids" on the large slide.

"Those things are long gone, bur children and water and play and summer are perfect together."

That's why when the opportunity arose for Peichmann and his wife, Lisa, to donate to rthe new splash pad at Mahomet's Barber Park, they didn't have to think twice: "We didn't hesitate."

Lisa Peithmann agrees.

"We were given the opportunity to make a donation, and it just seemed to be the thing to do," she said. "It's water and summer and kids. What more could you ask for?"

The couple also took the opportunity to dedicate their gift in the memory of their yellow lab, Chandon, who was like a member of the family. Chandon's image is part of a bronze dedication plaque at the splash pad, which was just recently inaugurated along with a new amphitheater and inclusive playground.

Lisa says Chandon was more than a friend; she was also a comforter.

"For a number of years I suffered with migraines, and I would be on the couch,



From left, Lisa and Bill Peithmann and their friend Alice Miller, all of whom gave large donations for improvements at Mahomet's Barber Park, stand in front of the splash pad named in the Peithmanns' honor.

and she would lie as closely to the couch as she could," she says.

Each person in the family had their role. While Lisa was Chandon's main caregiver, "if there was a loud noise, she made a beeline for Bill" for protection.

The playground bears the name of Mahomet Lions Club, while the amphitheater is named for Fisher National Bank.

Also making a good-sized donation was the Peithmanns' neighbor, Alice Miller, whose gift to the park in general is in memory of her husband, Lee.

"We moved to Mahomet 32 years ago to raise our son here and have been overwhelmed and appreciative of the people who live in Mahomet," Miller says. "It's a very engaging and supportive community."

She said her husband, who served on the village board and helped with the establishment of a tax-increment-

financing district, spent a lot of time at Barber Park with the Lions Club selling candy at functions.

"I wanted to do something to support the youth of Mahomet and honor my husband," Miller says.

The Peithmanns said they haven't yet tried our the splash pad bearing their name. It features three age-appropriate zones, including a water table and giant dumping bucket.

While Lisa has "every intention of playing in the splash pad," Bill isn't so sure: "We're at the grandparent age when we do a lot more watching than doing."

Bill, who moved his law practice to Main Street in Mahomet in 2012, is a big believer in the community.

"Mahomet's a wonderful place," he says. "I love Mahomet. It's got a lot of positive energy. It's a community full of people who like to do the right thing." X