

Gilbert Park Field Dedications

The Park District of LaGrange and LaGrange Little League invite you to attend a dedication ceremony at Gilbert Park this Saturday, June 19 at 11:00 a.m. The Park District of LaGrange and LaGrange Little League are dedicating the two baseball fields at Gilbert Park. The beautiful new fields at Gilbert Park were put in last year by PDLG and LGLL.

The fields are being dedicated in honor of John Yelnick and Bob Burson. John Yelnick lived at 105 North Peck, two blocks from Gilbert Park. Mr. Yelnick was a sponsor of LGLL teams for many years and was also a youth sports coach. He held practices for his teams at the north end of Gilbert Park. He started a pig roast fundraiser at St. Francis Xavier that now bears his name, over 30 years after he started it with two pigs on a spit in the parking lot of the school. The only thing bigger than the smile of this mountain of a man was his heart. He felt all kids should be given a chance to play sports and he cared deeply for the children in our community.

Bob Burson coached football and baseball at LTHS where he was a physical education teacher. He lived on Poplar, two blocks from Gilbert Park. During the summers he was in charge of the LaGrange Parks and Recreation Department's (now the PDLG) summer recreation programs. He was the head of Big Ten referees. Bob Burson inspired his players to give it their all, yet he was quick to remind his players when the breaks didn't go their way, "Remember, it's only a game." A wonderful perspective to instill in children involved in youth sports.

The dedication ceremony Saturday begins at 11:00 a.m. Following the dedication ceremony, the Tball players in LGLL will then each play one inning of baseball. Please join us for this fun and special day.