

Focus on Recreation

Allendale Will Buy a Lake

By JOHN PANGBURN

Staff Writer

ALLENDALE — The Borough Council has adopted an ordinance authorizing the \$1-million purchase of the 70-acre Crestwood Lake property after a brief public hearing.

It was a big moment for Norman S. Lane, senior member of the council, who has had a major responsibility in the project since its inception five years ago. There have been a number of plans involving varying amounts of the private swimming club property. Last night's action calls for purchase of the lake and all undeveloped land not zoned for residences.

"It is not given to many councilmen to see the fulfillment of such a long project," Lane said as the governing

body adopted the necessary bonding ordinance. "I feel the possibilities are limitless."

In 1966, The Duro-Test Co.'s plan to buy the entire 100-acre Crestwood Lake area and give 36 acres of it to the borough fell through. The council studied the possibility of purchasing the 36 acres, but decided it should not spend public funds.

The only affirmative action taken then was to have Lane approach the owners and determine whether the land was available.

Last night, Lane's job was finished. The council agreed to buy 70 acres of the Crestwood Lake private club, including the lake, for \$1,035,000.

As outlined by Mayor Albert Merz, the first use of the facilities will be the lake and recreation part. Later, as needed, various municipal buildings

will be constructed there, a borough hall, library, police headquarters, ambulance corps building, and possibly a borough garage.

Merz said the council wants the recreation facilities to be self-supporting, and the Citizens Advisory Committee is now determining what fee residents should pay. It is also studying the operation of the lake and of recreation facilities in towns such as Ramsey and Ridgewood.

"The council does not plan to spend a lot of money on development; we do not yet have all the answers on what to do with the land," the mayor said.

Councilman John Winship said that Crestwood Day, an open house-like program, would be scheduled for Sept. 11 to give residents a chance

to see what they have purchased. The mayor noted that the borough would not have official possession of the park until sometime in October.

Winship said many town organizations such as Girl and Boy Scouts would be able to use the new borough parkland. Some have already scheduled programs there.

Merz said he felt the council's action will, in the long run, prove to be the most economical use of the Crestwood

property. He thanked the advisory committee, the council, and other residents for their work on the project.

Councilman G. Fred Brackett announced the resignation of Ptl. Paul Kreuzkamp who plans to move to Florida. Police Chief Frank Parenti has been authorized to seek a replacement.

It was announced that borough landlords must register their property with the borough clerk.