Charles F. Knight honored with Eliot Society Search Award

By BARBARA REA

Charles F. Knight, chairman emeritus of Emerson, received the 2007 Search Award at the 46th annual William Greenleaf Eliot Society event April 26 at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis. The Eliot Society presents the award in recognition of an outstanding citizen of the University whose contributions have made significant advancements in teaching, research and service to society.

Awards receive a silver replica of "The Search," a sculpture designed by Helkki Seppa, professor emeritus of art, that symbolizes the endless quest for truth and knowledge.

This year's keynote address was given by Fareed Zakaria, editor of Newsweek International and author of the highly acclaimed book "The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad."

In announcing the award, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton said: "Chuck Knight and his wife, Joanne, have helped shape the present-day Washington University. Tritis is a deep-seated dedication to supporting institutions that improve lives and advance knowledge." He also recognized Knight's special service to the University as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1977-1990, an especially pivotal growth period. In addition, Knight is emeritus chair for life of Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and he helped engineer the formation of the BJC health system.

Knight's generosity can be felt throughout the University. The Danforth Campus of Charles Knight Executive Education Center, a state-of-the-art, five-story facility complete with conference rooms and classrooms equipped with sophisticated technology, as well as guest rooms, dining areas and a business center, opened in 2001. The Knights also have supported the John M. Olin School of Business by endowing a distinguished directorship in executive education.

Olin's rise as a top business school was guided by its National Council, of which Knight is a founding member and former chair. He also chaired the Business Task Force, an advisory group that preceded the National Council. Both of the University's last two major campaigns relied heavily on his leadership.

A deep commitment to supporting medical research drives his support for the School of Medicine. 

Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day

(Right) Trinity Hodges links an etching plate to run through a printing press as her mother, Traci Hodges of the John M. Olin School of Business Career Center, watches. Participants in the printing program, led by Tom Reed, master printer for Island Press, the collaborative print workshop at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, drew on PVC sheets, inked the plate and ran it through the printing press to make a print in Bixby Hall. The activity was part of the annual Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day April 26, which featured 18 different campus-wide programs offered for parents and their children. Sons and daughters attended the programs in the morning, then had lunch in The Gargoyle and were entertained by The Aristocrats, one of the University's a cappella singing groups. In the afternoon, the 113 sons and daughters shadowed their parents in the workplace.

Metabolic syndrome poses same risk in HIV-infected people, general population

By JEN DEVRIES

Since the emergence of new HIV therapies more than a decade ago, there has been a remarkable decrease in AIDS deaths. But physicians suspected these more potent medications led to unwanted side effects, such as unusual changes in body fat, elevations in cholesterol and triglycerides and other symptoms that characterize metabolic syndrome.

To help determine whether the benefits of the therapies outweigh the negative side effects, School of Medicine researchers compared the occurrence of metabolic syndrome in HIV-infected patients to non-infected people.

The researchers report in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases that the incidence of metabolic syndrome among their HIV-infected population is about 50 percent, essentially the same as in age-matched people not infected with the virus. The type or duration of HIV therapy did not affect the rate of metabolic syndrome.

Metabolic syndrome is diagnosed when a patient has at least three of the following symptoms: abdominal obesity, high triglyceride levels, low HDL (good) cholesterol, elevated blood glucose and hypertension.

Since the mid-1990s, most HIV-infected patients have been treated with highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART).

Using that therapy, there have been major reductions in morbidity and mortality from AIDS, but HAART and its major class of drugs—protease inhibitors—seem to be related to metabolic changes that increase the risk of syndrome.

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Charles F. Knight, recipient of the Eliot Society Search Award, is shown with his wife, Joanne, at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis, April 26. 

Dorothy Kittner of the business school and son, Jack, 8, make get-well cards at the Campus Y for patients at St. Louis Children's Hospital.
The Catholic Student Center celebrates renovation

BY NEIL SCHOENBERG

The Catholic Student Center said the Rev. Gary Braun, director, “The new space,” Braun said. “It will help us continue to serve the student population at Washington University and the larger Catholic student community.”

The center, also known as the Newman Center, provides religious programs, leadership training, counseling services and social activities for WUSTL students of all faiths.

Students associated with the center participate in service and learning activities, including discussing social justice issues; attending lecture series; volunteering through local, national and international organizations; and participating in alternative spring break trips.

The building that houses the center was built in 1910 as a private residence. Monsignor Gerard N. Glynn, who became chaplain for the Newman community in 1950, was instrumental in acquiring the property.

“Terry Castle, Garrett Stewart, Michael Wood, John Kerrigan, Elaine Scarry and James Wood — each of whom will be8nominees for this award — depend on the ‘Temple of Texts’ to outline their work,” Gass said. “No one is better at communicating the sublime and raw beauty of language — or as gifted a critic.”

Gass has been a prominent figure in American letters for decades as not only a critic, but also a novelist, short-story writer, essayist and founder of the International Writers Center, now known as the Center for the Humanities at Arts & Sciences. He has three times won the National Book Critics Circle Award for collections of essays.

A review of a “Temple of Texts” in Washington Post Book World explained: “No one is better than William H. Gass at communicating the sublime and raw beauty of language — or as gifted a critic.”

Gass will formally receive the award and present a lecture this fall in a ceremony at the University of Iowa.

Washington University in St. Louis

Teaching excellence

Arts & Sciences graduate teaching assistant (front row, from left) David Pennington, linguistics; Chase Johnson, mathematics; Stacey Mul, chemistry; (back row, from left) Volaine White, Romance languages and literatures; Brooke Taylor, English; and Daniel Schumacher, computer science, have been named by Washington University in St. Louis as recipients of the Joseph W. Blasingame Teaching Fellowship.

Charity evaluator gives WUSTL its top rating

For the sixth consecutive year, Washington University has been recognized by Charity Navigator — America’s premier charity evaluator — as one of its top-rated, four-star institutions, according to executive vice chancellor for Alumni & Development Programs, David T. Blasingame.

“Certainly, it is gratifying to see that Charity Navigator continues to give Washington University its highest mark for fiscal responsibility and sound management practices,” Blasingame said. “It is among the very best of the more than five million non-profits and charities this independent service evaluates today and sends a strong message to the many alumni, friends and parents who support the University with their gifts each year.”

This rating publicly recognizes the exceptional quality of the University’s leadership and its commitment to serve best the needs of its students and faculty and society,” Blasingame added. “In essence, this affirms what our donors already know, namely, that Washington University is a very special place that looks hard and good for the money that it receives from private sources given to it.”

Also this year, the University was honored for its philanthropic environment, in which donors who use the online site and the charities they support work together to sustain the University’s most persistent challenges.

Charity Navigator evaluates two broad areas of an organization’s financial health: organizational effectiveness and organizational capacity. Using a set of financial ratios, it determines current and future institutional strengths by evaluating key performance indicators, including expenses for programs, administration, and fund raising.

It also measures growth both in primary revenue and program expenses, as well as determining fund-raising efficiency. A seventh performance category analyzes a charity’s working capital ratio, determining how long an institution can sustain its current programs without generating income.

“Everyone is looking to see if a charity will use their support,” Charity Navigator says. “Our ratings show donors how efficiently they believe a charity will use their support today and to what extent the charities are growing their programs and services over time.”

Given the reputation for trust and support that the University has received from donors, Charity Navigator has recognized the University with its highest four-star rating each year. The University is one of only 45 charities — and one of just 18 institutions of higher education — to have accomplished the four-star rating each year. For more information, visit charitynavigator.org.
School's 'Planning for Excellence' calls for faculty review, input

BY BETH MILLER

The School of Medicine has launched a two-year planning process to develop a 10-year strategic plan for each of the University's schools.

Specifically, the medical school will focus on advancing human health as a key component of future activities. To reach that goal, the strategic planning has been divided into four main areas: clinical, community/population health, education and research. Each area has a committee developing goals and strategies, which will be integrated into the School of Medicine's overall strategic plan for the medical school.

Once complete, the University will make all plans available to each school and submit the comprehensive plan to the Board of Trustees for approval in fiscal year 2008.

Working with the National Council, the research committee has developed major themes and is seeking fac- ulty review, input and suggestions for review. The Web site will also be placed on the Web site to learn how the themes were selected and to provide constructive feedback.

The School of Medicine Update

Low-back pain management to be subject of clinical trial

BY BETH MILLER

The Program in Physical Therapy is conducting a randomized, controlled clinical trial of two new low-back pain patients to examine their effectiveness.

One treatment includes education about low-back pain contributors; the natural history of low-back pain; the role of activity in managing low-back pain problem; training in everyday activities based on biomechanical factors; and improvement of trunk strength and flexibility.

The other treatment will include education about how the specific movements and alignments found during a standard examination contribute to the participant's low-back pain and the importance of restoring active; training in the movements and alignments used during everyday activities that are related to low back pain and exercises to control symptoms and improve trunk control during trunk movement.

Study participants must be 18-60 years old and have experienced mechanical low-back pain for at least 12 months. Participants will visit the Musculoskeletal Analysis Laboratory of the Program in Physical Therapy for a standard exam and laboratory testing. Those who qualify will receive six free physical therapy sessions by trained clinicians over six months.

Treatment will be provided at the University's Physical Therapy Clinic or outpatient clinic at The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis. Follow-up in- cludes hand-written notes and completion of questionnaires at six months and one year.

Participants will be compensated for their time. For more information, contact Connie Trout, study coordinator, at 286-6557.

Tumor's genes may influence response to treatment

BY GWIN ERICKSON

Cancer studies are proving that the genetic profile of a tumor can greatly influence its response to anticancer treatments. Identifying genetic alterations in tumors could help oncologists choose the most effective of several treatment options for their patients with cancer.

Molly L. Ellis, M.D., Ph.D., the Anschutz-Bush Endowed Professor in Medical Oncology on colorectal cancer, is conducting research that aims at using the genetic profile of breast tumors to guide breast-cancer therapy and ultimately to find new drugs to reduce the disease.

"Buried in the complex genome of breast cancer is information about which treatment patients should get," said Ellis, a breast-cancer specialist with Siteman Cancer Center. "Ideally, we would like to understand how these different molecular changes occurring in these cancers and take advantage of that on pa- tients' responses to treatments."

As part of this far-reaching pro- gram, Ellis is engaged in a clinical trial launched by the American Colleges of Surgeons Oncology Group. Ellis and colleagues nationwide are hoping to answer genetic clues that help explain why giving estrogen-reducing drugs before surgery helps some breast-cancer patients more than others.

Subsets of breast tumors express the estrogen receptor, but patients will require traditional hormone therapy. For Ellis' part, he wants to find genetic fingerprints that can someday tell physicians before the trial begins which women with breast cancer will respond well to one of these therapies and which patients will require traditional chemotherapy to reduce their tu- mor's size.

"We still study the genome of each individual breast cancer in the trial and compare it with the short- and long-term outcomes of the treatment that it received."

Ellis

Architectural design for elders focus of forum

Health-care providers, re- searchers, designers, and exter- nalists will gather at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Architecture this fall to discuss the ever-evolving research arena, "Architectural Design for Elders: A Focus of Forum."

The conference is free and includes lunch. Participants are encouraged to attend the conference to register, visit wisc-wisconsin.edu or call the Center for Aging at 280-2441.

Linda Reimann said, "We asked ourselves what does Washington University do better, and what are the core competencies that are missing?"

Our charge now is to develop bold and innovative approaches that build on our strengths, add any deficits and position us to lead future developments in the ever-evolving research arena," said Reimann.

The School of Medicine Update

Pattycake, Pattycake

Three-year-old Reunven Kreiner plays pattycake with his nurse, Sarah Harkes, during a recent chemotherapy session at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Reunven had a rare bone cancer called Ewing's sarcoma that required removal of about two-thirds of his humerus, or the top part of the bone in his left arm. Douglas J. McDonnell, M.D., professor and chief of orthope- dic oncology, and Martin I. Boyer, M.D., associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, headed a team that transplanted Reunven's fibula from his shin into his arm. Reunven is now able to use his arm.

"I was able to completely remove cancer from the bone without removing the bone," said McDonnell. "The bone is unique because it can still grow."

For more information, contact the University of Missouri-Kansas City at 816-235-1000 or visit umkc.edu.
University Events

Mozart—In the service of Peace and understanding.

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Senior Laurel Sagartz has helped lead Division III pitching lists with her 41st career strikeout while striking out eight. Sagartz is the all-time leader in all seven pitching categories for Fontbonne University. On April 29, senior Laurel Sagartz became the all-time leader in all seven pitching categories, passed Liz Smith (1983-85) and is now eighth place on the all-time Division III pitching list with her 41st career strikeout while striking out eight. Sagartz is the all-time leader in all seven pitching categories for Fontbonne University.

Senior defensive lineman Drew Martin of Webster University, selected a second-team All-University selection by the UAA. Martin, who had not previously turned in a better mark in the hammer throw than 45 meters, led Division III, while his 1.10 meter lead in the discus (40.78 meters), led Division III, while his 1.10 meter lead, was 10th in rushing defense (66.7 yards per game). His discovery and proof of "Ride of the Valkyries" to cartoon character Bugs Bunny singing "Kiki di wabbit," "Ride of the Valkyries" by Richard Wagner (1813-1883) is one of the most recognized motifs in Western music.

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Adams

Exhibition focuses on the vital role of water

from Page 1

the natural landscape. The arid terrain of the American Southwest is contrasted with lush views of the California coastline as well as lakes and mountain streams ranging from Yellowstone National Park and the Sierra Nevada to Adams' beloved Yosemite National Park. Together, these works underscore the importance of the environment to Adams' work, as well as the ways in which his photographs contribute to raising awareness of pressing environmental issues such as water scarcity.

Also on view will be images of Adams at work and a 1944 portrait of Alfred Stieglitz, a mentor to Adams.

In addition, the exhibition will feature a short film that includes never-before-seen interview quotes taken from the oral history "Conversations with Ansel Adams," as well as rare 1927 footage — shot by Virginia Best, then Adams' fiancée — of Adams at work and a 1944 portrait of Alfred Stieglitz, a mentor to Adams.

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Search

Knights' influence felt University-wide

from Page 1

The Charles R. Knight Emergency and Trauma Center, created in 2001, is a 52,000-square-foot facility housing 61 beds and a comprehensive environment for specialized care. The Knight Emergency and Trauma Center provides critical care as part of Siteman Cancer Center, and the Charles R. and Joanne Knight Distinguished Professorship in Orthopaedic Surgery provides a leading global technology and research in this growing area.

Most recently, the Knights announced their intention to provide long-term funding for Alzheimer's research at the University. Knight began his 27-year tenure as CEO of Emerson in 1973. At the time, he was the youngest CEO of any U.S. billion-dollar company; he became chairman in 1974.

Under his leadership, Emerson evolved from a domestic manufacturer to a leading global technology and solutions provider, as sales increased more than 16-fold. He stepped down as CEO in 2000 and retired as chairman in 2004.

This study suggests that as HIV-infected patients live longer, they've begun to develop problems that probably are related neither to their disease nor to the therapy.

Ph.D., associate professor of medicine

"But it didn't seem that HIV therapy was influencing their risk for metabolic syndrome as much as the more traditional risk factors that everyone faces," he added.

"In the past, we've seen that these people were more likely to be obese, with most HIV-infected patients being far from "normal," she added.

But as HAART medications have improved, the metabolic changes have become less pronounced. In addition, because physicians are aware of potential side effects such as elevated cholesterol and triglycerides, they work to manage those problems and put many HIV-infected patients on cholesterol-lowering drugs along with HAART therapy.

Mondy said that HAART drugs have improved and physicians have found ways to stay on top of the side effects. HIV has become more of a chronic disease than the "acute" illness it was first described as. Many HIV-infected patients were far from "normal," she added.

Nancy Yarasheski, Mondy and their colleagues crunched the numbers, they found that HIV-infected patients with metabolic syndrome were more likely to be older, white and have a high body-mass index. The type or duration of HIV therapy was not an independent risk factor.

Ironically, another important risk factor for metabolic syndrome was a high CD4 cell count. The CD4 count rises and falls as the patient's immune system gets weaker and stronger. Higher CD4 counts were associated with better outcomes.

"As CD4 counts went up, weight also seemed to climb," Mondy said. "There's that old saying about being fat and happy. When the cell count was up, and doing well, many tend to gain weight, and that can put them at risk."

Mondy said it's important to replicate these findings, but she said researchers in this study were able to look at the effects of the estimates of African-American men and women.

Among HIV-infected African-American women, the rate of obesity was almost seven percent. She said with rates that high, it's time to start investigating the efficacy of exercise and other weight-loss schools in HIV-infected people.

"The mortality risk from HIV still outweighs all other risks," Mondy said. "But as therapies have improved, longer lives are living longer; clinicians have to be concerned about these other health problems."
Senior Stevens wins biology prize

Elsbeth Stevens has been named the winner of the 2007 Stalker Prize. This prize is named in the honor of the late Harrison D. Stalker, Ph.D., who was a professor of biology; a leading evolutionary biologist and inspired teacher; and a true enthusiast of the fine arts and music. The award is given to the graduating senior in biology, arts, and humanities whose undergraduate career was marked by outstanding scientific scholarship, as well as contributions to the University in areas of artistic expression and/or community service. Stevens will graduate with honors in biology and in Spanish. She spent a semester in Chile to strengthen her Spanish and experience the culture of the country.

Stevens has co-authored two primary research papers with Gammon M. Earhart, Ph.D., assistant professor of physical therapy in the School of Medicine. The papers report on studies that examine changes in perception of exercise in patients with Parkinson’s disease. She is an active volunteer for community-service projects, which include working in the child-care ministries at her local church, tutoring Hispanic children in elementary school and helping Hispanic English as a Second Language in a volunteer program at the University. Stevens also volunteers at the St. Patrick Center, the largest provider of homeless services in Missouri. Stevens also volunteered as a Spanish translator at the Good New Ministry Clinic, as well as an intensive care unit at St. Francis Hospital & Health Centers in Indianapolis. She plans to attend medical school in the fall. She will be recognized at an honors reception on May 16 in Room 162 of McDonnell Hall.

Of note

Fred A. Racette, M.D., associate professor of neurology, has received a five-year, $2,133,527 grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for research titled “Epidemiology of Parkinsonism in Walloons...” Tiani Chen, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science and engineering, has received a one-year, $199,589 grant from the Department of Energy for research titled “Efficient Large-scale Nonfr...” Susan B. MacKinnon, M.D., the Sydney M. Ir. and Robert H. Shorenblum Professor of Surgery, has received a five-year, $2,228,395 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for research titled “Nerve Alloplastation for Traumatic Nerve Injury...” Douglas A. Wien, Ph.D., professor of earth and planetary science, has received a one-year, $251,614 grant from the National Science Foundation for research titled “SGE: A Rapid Geophysical Resource Identification and Development Tool...” Fred Prior, M.D., associate professor of radiology, has received a five-year, $6,125,544 subcontrac...
Brian K. Phillips is an urban planner. Having lived in one of the most infamous urban planning disasters in U.S. history - in housing, he understands firsthand that succesful development of city neighborhoods must include a careful balance of quality architectural design, green space, and economic and racial diversity.

As executive director of the Washington University Medical Center (WUMC), he's working to bring all these factors to bear on the redevelopment of the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood at the School of Medicine's doorstep.

Phillips spent his early childhood in St. Louis' Pruitt-Igoe public housing project, the meanest concrete city that concentrated, at its peak, more than 12,000 residents - overwhelmingly African-American and poor - in 33 high-rise apartment towers.

The youngest of six children, he was 4 when his parents moved their family out in the early 1970s. But Phillips still remembers the dark hallways, the broken doors, and the overpowering smell of urine in the buildings' public areas.

"We moved because my mother was adamant about making sure that wherever we lived, her kids would have the right opportunities," Phillips says. "Prauit-Igoe was the place where I experienced social inequities in urban planning. But it quickly became a nightmare."

Building neighborhoods

Brian K. Phillips is helping revitalize the Forest Park Southeast area.

The ultra-modern design was intended to keep city residents from fleeing to the suburbs, but cost overruns prevented the addition of planned playgrounds and a number of international cheap materials led to the buildings' deterioration, which quickly gave way to crime and drug-dealing.

And Phillips' own family was not immune from the violence. His brother was robbed at a convenience store in one of the complex's elevators as he held Brian, then an infant, in her arms. (The gun was actually pointed at him.)

"He always tells me I cost her her last $10," he jokes.

But today, in an area a few miles from the former site of Pruitt-Igoe, Phillips is overseeing an urban success story in the making.

The WUMC, a partnership between the medical school and BJC HealthCare, has pumped more than $50 million into a transformation of the neighborhood, which has been paying off.

To date, more than 200 apartments and homes in the neighborhood have been renovated, and new restaurants and shops have opened, many along the Manchester Avenue business district.

The driving force behind the neighborhood's revitalization is WUMC's ongoing investment.

"The effect of the neighborhood has been amazing," Phillips says. "We continually get calls from people around the country asking us how we did it and what initiatives we undertook and what we're doing.

The neighborhood was on the south and east of the Washington University Medical Center campus, surrounded by Interstate 44 to the south, Kingshighway Boulevard to the west, Interstate 64/highway 40 to the north and Vandeventer Avenue to the east.

A little more than a decade ago, gangs, drug-dealers and gun violence overtook Forest Park Southeast. Much of the old housing had been neglected or abandoned.

Phillips has played a key role in the neighborhood's transformation by building consensus among neighborhood groups and the medical center and working with developers to make sure that projects move forward.

"Brian has certainly proven himself to be the right person to lead the neighborhood's revitalization," Brian said Richard A. Rofell, vice chancellor for capital projects and a board member of WUMC. "The challenges he faces vary dramatically from day to day, but Brian adapts well to new situations. He deserves a great deal of credit for the success we've seen in positive change in the neighborhood that we have witnessed."

The University and BJC have a vested interest in ensuring that neighborhoods surrounding the medical center are stable.

"I look at the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood as the institution's front door and the Central West End as their flank," Phillips says. "We have a responsibility to make sure the neighborhoods are stable and safe. Our goal is to bring Forest Park Southeast to the level where private investment is attractive, and that is happening now. The transformation on Manchester is all happening with private investment.

The WUMC has been involved in revitalizing the Central West End to stabilize that neighborhood since it was established in the 1970s. But Forest Park Southeast's turnaround began in 1996 when the University was awarded a five-year, $2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of an experimental program to assist neighborhood revitalization efforts.

The University is one of only five nationwide that received the federal funds, which traditionally had gone to counties and WUSTL, pooled its resources with BJC to help stabilize the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood.

"I learned that to build community, you have to include everyone, not just the majority group, right from the beginning," he says.

"While some may have thrown up their arms in frustration, others saw the real possibility of reshaping and stabilizing the neighborhood," Phillips says. "For example, in the northern section of the neighborhood, two-family homes were turned into single-family residences.

The houses were valued at about $150,000, but with the subsidy, they could be sold for $89,000 to low- and moderate-income families."

Phillips also assisted the Regional Housing and Community Development Agency in buying out the largest absentee landlord in northern Forest Park Southeast. The landlord's 175 buildings were rehabbed into 73 affordable apartments and 11 homes for sale.

"Our initial focus on low- and moderate-income housing has been important," Phillips says, "because with the right assistance comes the real possibility of residents being paid out of the market. We wanted to keep the diversity in the neighborhood and stabilize low-income housing."

Now, in this area of the neighborhood bounded by Interstate 44 to the south, Kingshighway Boulevard to the west, Interstate 64/highway 40 to the north and Vandeventer Avenue to the east, has come the realization that the area is ready for more action.

"We thought the key to revitalizing and stabilizing the neighborhood was to reopen that school," Phillips says. "We brokered a deal with the school district to reopen Adams Elementary, and in exchange, we built an adjoining community center and city park that includes baseball fields."