

# Wedding in the Park

What do you think of when you see the picture of the gazebo in the Astoria Town Park? Maybe the annual town homecoming or possibly long ago Saturday night band concerts and the little kids running around the gazebo.

On June 1, 2002, a new memory was made at the gazebo. An early summer wedding took place at 2:00 in the afternoon under sunny skies. I am told that couples used to get married there during the town homecoming but that a wedding had not taken place for many, many years.

Wesley and Stephanie wanted a different but traditional wedding and decided the gazebo was just the place. They became engaged during a hot air balloon ride, so why not have an outdoor wedding too.

Preparations began in the fall of 2001 with the city granting permission to use the park. With an unusually rainy, late spring, all nerves were on edge as the day approached and no let up in the weather. The morning of the wedding saw cloudy skies and hot weather. Typical of Illinois weather (wait a few minutes and it will change) as the decorating was taking place that morning a major downpour occurred, but the rain soon passed and the sun came out bright. The town employees worked very hard during the week before the wedding painting the gazebo and mowing the grass and the park looked absolutely wonderful.

Everyone in attendance at the wedding enjoyed sitting out in the sun with just a little breeze blowing, watching Wes and Steph exchange their vows. The wedding was beautiful as was the bride. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful park and hope to see many others make use of it too.

