



June Keibler, left, Donna Veeneman, Billita Jacobsen and Charlene Marek discuss the Nov. 3 referendum at the straightaway of the former Meadowdale Raceway.

Daily Herald Photo/Ray Carlin

# Voters to assess call of the wild

## Raceway site among targets if \$1.5 million issue passes

BY MARY SULLIVAN  
Daily Herald Correspondent

While Mother Nature is about to show her colors and highlight Kane County's natural areas, some residents are making their

pitch to get voters to preserve another section of it.

A Nov. 3 referendum will ask Kane County voters if \$1.5 million should be allocated to purchase 50 acres of land for a nature preserve. The former Meadowdale Raceway in Carpentersville is among the sites being considered by the forest preserve district, should the referendum pass.

"Some of our ideas are just to have this (property) as a focal point for the communities, to have a place that is truly beautiful for people to come," said June Keebler, a member of the Committee to Save Raceway Woods.

Members of the Foxpath Association, a Kane County environ-

mental group, joined with Rick Bemm of the Dundee Park District and Frank Scarpelli, a member of the Besinger family, which owns the property, under sunny skies Tuesday to showcase the lush Meadowdale woods, located along Route 31 between Huntley and Miller roads.

The roar of the race cars and the squeal of tires has long been replaced with the rustling of leaves and chirping of birds. Proponents of the preservation want to add the sounds of outdoor recreational activities.

"We really see this as a great opportunity for the community to balance preservation with the



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recreational needs of the community," said Keebler.

The property, currently owned by Besinger Properties, was once part of Leonard W. Besinger's plans for a resort community and has been for sale for several years.

Greg Besinger, owner of Besinger Properties, has indicated that there is no urgency to sell the property, but has stated that he plans to sell the land to the first reasonable bidder who has a "solid concept."

Last December, a group of local residents launched a drive to get the forest preserve and park district to consider plans for the site. As a result, the forest preserve placed the land on a list of potential sites for preservation.

If the 50 acres are approved for purchase by the park district, an additional 50 acres could be made available to the forest preserve district.

Approximately 13 sites are being considered.