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Inman Avenue park in Colonia to be named for Charles Shaughnessy

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WOODBIDGE, NJ -- The legacy of **Charles Shaughnessy** will live on, but those who knew him hope it won't be in name only.

The township has renamed **Inman Avenue Park** in honor of the late community activist who initiated the semiannual cleanup of the Colonia neighborhood in 1988.

Township officials and the **American Irish Association of Woodbridge**, of which Shaughnessy was a member until he died in May at age 73, will unveil the park's new sign during a ceremony Oct. 16 at 11 a.m..

"Charlie has been a pillar of the Colonia community," association past president **Joan McNichol** said. "One of his primary projects every year was to clean up that park. That's why it's a great site to memorialize him."

Mayor John E. McCormac thought it was only fitting to rename the park in the Colonia resident's honor. Friends and neighbors discussed the idea immediately after his death.

Shaughnessy was also active with the St. John Vianney Church's Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Woodbridge River Watch and other environmental and quality-of-life groups.

He is survived by his wife Margaret, two sons, a daughter and seven grandchildren.

While renaming the park certainly ensures his name will not be forgotten, McNichol said it's important to continue his legacy.

"I hope it inspires the residents of Colonia to come forward and perform community service in Charlie's spirit."



Charles Shaughnessy in 2008.
(Staff file photo)

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