

Jammin' Daddies take to the stage

By **MARLENE HUNT**
STAFF WRITER

If you see folks walking around in the Vernon Hills area sporting special T-shirts featuring the "Jammin' Daddies" — it's to remind you that the three dads are performing Saturday July 28 under the stars at the beautiful Arbortheatre Memorial Park.

Vernon Hills wants people to know that a great lineup of free musical events continues after Summer Celebration ends.

The Jammin' Daddies will offer their own versions of acoustic rock and roll music at 7 p.m. at the park situated at 50 N. Fairway Drive.

Their current repertoire includes music by such artists as the Eagles, the Doobie Brothers and Van Morrison, Steve Miller, Chicago, the Beatles and BBMac.

What started as a neighborhood sing-a-long grew into one of the area's hottest new musical groups, fans say.

The three dads — all with previous professional music experience — who spend their free time playing acoustic guitar and singing three part-harmonies are Mark J. Putterman, a real estate executive; Judd Sager, former owner of a major local recording studio, and Ken Plotkin, a designer and display engineer.

Since the Jammin' Daddies are real dads they enjoy playing at venues that allow all age groups, Putterman said.

"Most of the songs we do are hits from the 70's, 80's and the 90's," said Sager. "When we play we try to do stuff people recognize and they sing

along with us. Perhaps, we'll include an original song as well."

The three dads used to play guitar in the backyard for their families and friends. Then they decided to form a group.

"Our first engagement was for a private holiday party in the northern suburbs," Sager said. The next gig was at the La Tazza Bella coffee house on Taylor Street in Chicago. "People figured out what we were about and we all had a lot of fun. From there, our reputation just grew."

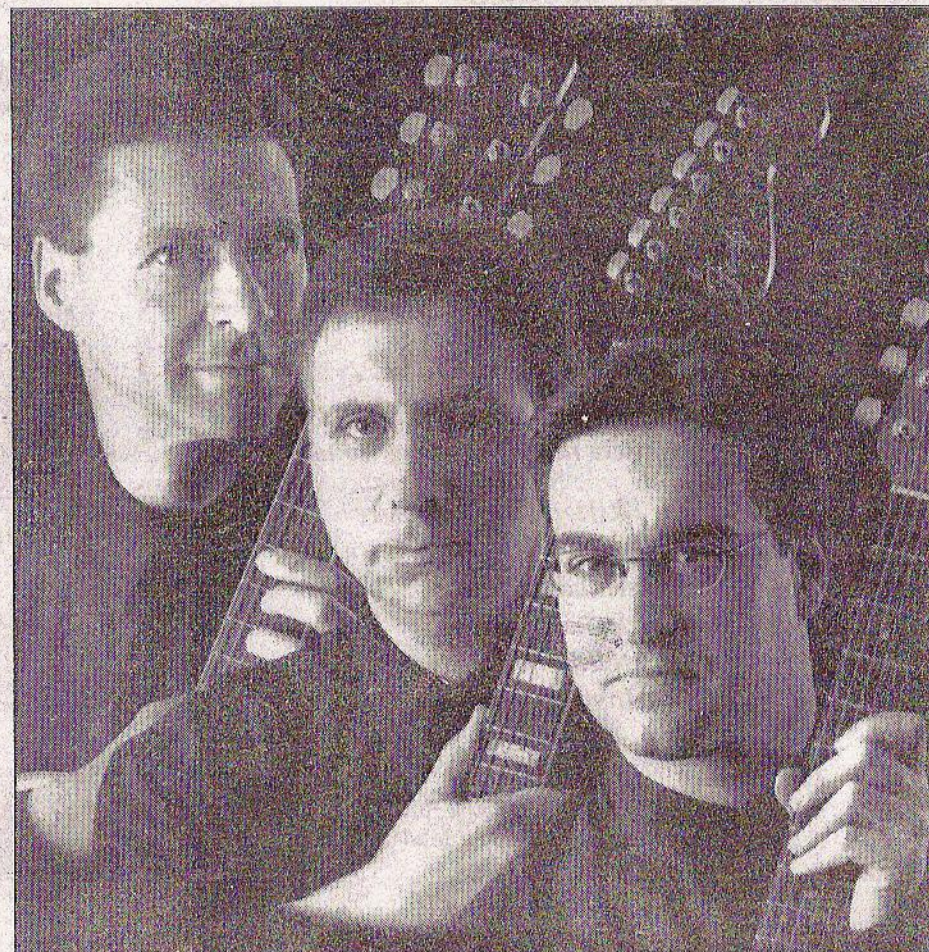
Last summer the Jammin' Daddies began a schedule of evenings concerts in different communities. "The crowds got bigger and all of a sudden kids came forward and started to do dance steps and cartwheels," Plotkin said. "And the audience started singing along with us."

"It was kind of like the early days of Ravinia because people brought along picnic baskets and blankets and just enjoyed our music," he said.

Besides playing live before their audiences, the Jamm' Daddies pre-record drum, base and other instruments on a tape. "The tape is the background and people are astounded at the amount of music they hear," Sager said.

The dads say they play simply for fun: "None of us do this for a living," said Plotkin. "We do it for the love of music. The day it stops being fun is the day the band ends," he said. "But now we are just having so much fun."

Their children often like to participate doing dance steps to complement the music. Plotkin and wife Jaime



The Jamming' Daddies will be performing at the ArborTheatre in Vernon Hills July 28.

have two boys Marc, 11, and Joey, who is eight.

Judd and Sheryl Sager have four children: Stacy, 16, Jeremy, 14, Rachel, 11, and David who is seven.

Mark and Caryn Putterman are the parents of 10-year old Allie and eight year old Ross.

The families live in the Stevenson High School District. Except for Stacy, the other youngsters attend schools in District 103 in Lincolnshire.

In case of rain, the performance will take place at the Vernon Hills Park District Sullivan Center, 635 N. Aspen Drive.