
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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To: All Media

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Waukegan Park District Honors Employees

Waukegan, IL (January 25, 2012) Top honors were awarded to two Waukegan Park District employees at the annual employee recognition dinner. Sally Sandine received the 2011 Board of Commissioners Award for her superior efforts and achievements in serving the Park District. Board President Patricia Foley praised her exceptional and unwavering commitment to excellence and customer service and stated, “Sally is truly dedicated to serving the district; she is a tremendous resource for our employees, board members and customers.”

Greg Petry, Executive Director, in describing his Executive Assistant stated, “Sally’s organizational skills have been vital in achieving awards and accreditations for the Waukegan Park District. We rely on her keen proofreading skills to ensure print materials are without error and represent the professionalism of the district. Ms. Sandine has been employed with the Waukegan Park District since 2006.”

The 2011 Employee of the Year was Jessica Mitchell, who began working at the Waukegan Park District in 2008 as a Recreation Specialist for Adult and Family Programs and Services. Ms. Mitchell has added a number of new programs including Brain Fitness, Financial Education, Don't You Know You're Beautiful, a series of family and adult trips and K-9 Trace and Pace, a program for dogs and owners. In addition, she leads the Girls on the Run Program. Alicia Mentell, Superintendent of Recreation described Mitchell as not only a team player, but a real leader, "She is positive, energetic, and adult trip participants constantly rave about her as a person. To put it mildly, they love her."

Among employees recognized for service were Chuck Kisonis with 35 years; Greg Benson and Ervin Jacobs each with 25 years and a group of employees with 5 and 10 years of service.



Jessica Mitchell,
Waukegan Park District
2011 Employee of the Year



Sally Sandine,
Waukegan Park District
2011 Board of Commissioners Award Winner

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, which includes 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. The District operates the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages including special populations. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. The award-winning District employs 60 full-time staff and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The District holds IAPD Distinguished Agency and Park District Risk Management Agency Accreditations and maintains a Level A Loss Control Program.