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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**To:** All Media

**Contact:** Theodora Anderson  
Community Relations  
Waukegan Park District  
(847) 360-4726  
[tanderson@waukeganparks.org](mailto:tanderson@waukeganparks.org)  
[www.waukeganparks.org](http://www.waukeganparks.org)

**Waukegan, IL (March, 2, 2010)**...The Waukegan Park District held its annual Volunteer and Patron Recognition Reception on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, at Bonnie Brook. Al Nowakowski, AAA Tent Masters was recognized with the prestigious Patron of the Year Award. “Mr. Nowakowski is a long time supporter of the Waukegan Park District and a true Waukegan booster,” concluded Bill Durkin, Waukegan Park District President as he congratulated Mr. Nowakowski on his award. Mr. Nowakowski currently serves on the Polar Bear Plunge planning committee and provides tents and equipment at deep discounts for the Polar Bear Plunge and the American Independence Parade. He was also recognized last fall by the Illinois Association of Park Districts, receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> Place as Best Friend of the Illinois Parks.

Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Andrew Frazier. Mr. Frazier has coached youth basketball in Waukegan since 1984. He not only teaches the game, but serves as a mentor, life coach, father figure and role model for his players-24 have gone on to play college and/or professional basketball. Upon receiving his award, Mr. Frazier stated that he, “was happy he could serve his community and ‘the kids’ by doing something he

loved.” Mr. Frazier was previously honored last fall by the Illinois Association of Park Districts, receiving third place as Sportsman of the Year.

Joan Pfau Callahan was the recipient of the Jack Benny Award for the Arts and Humanities. When making the presentation Patricia Foley, Waukegan Park District Vice President referenced Mrs. Callahan’s support of the arts, the historical society and her many other leadership and volunteer roles in the community. Her daughters, Charlotte, Melissa and Amy were there to accept their mother’s posthumous award.

Twenty one other volunteers and patrons received Community Service Awards for their exceptional efforts and commitment to the Waukegan Park District during 2009. They were: University of Illinois Extension & Vista Program, Academy of Our Lady School, Country Lane Homeowners Association, Rudd Farm Homeowners Association, Karin Nikopoulos, North Shore Gas, Vista Health System, Up North Pub, Rashmi Quick Mart, Sweet Tomatoes, Jane Hager, Vijay Joshi, Wayne Schimpft, Sandy Pokett, Vicki Flowers, Dan Drury, Cindy Braze, Denyse Waters, Elinor Leech, Lynda Guynn, and Ron Nickelsen. The Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners and the Senior Staff extended their thanks to the approximately 130 volunteers and patrons in attendance.

### ***About the Park District***

Established on December 26, 1916 the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, which includes the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and the 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. The District operates recreational centers, the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack

Benny Center for the Arts, an outdoor swimming pool, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, basketball courts, the Waukegan Skate Park, and the Waukegan BMX track. 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, the Bowen Park Opera Company, and the Haines Historical Museum. Sixty-seven authorized 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 maintains IAPD Distinguished Agency accreditation and is also accredited with the Park District Risk Management Agency and maintains a Level A Loss Control Program.