
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District to Host Congressman Robert (Bob) Dold at Bowen Park

Waukegan, IL (June 30, 2015) – Congressman Bob Dold will visit the Waukegan Park District Bowen Park Rangers day camp program, 1800 N Sheridan Road, on Wednesday, July 1 at 12pm. He will see firsthand the USDA Summer Food Service Program in action and meet some of the Waukegan children who benefit from the program.

The Waukegan Park District has been involved in the Summer Food Service Program in partnership with the Northern Illinois Food Bank since February 2014 providing meals and snacks in our programs at no extra cost to the participants. To date the District has distributed over 6000 meals to children ages 5-14 years old that are registered in after school and summer day camp programs. The meals, made available through federal funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Illinois State Board of Education, are healthy, complete, and balanced. An example of an after school meal would be a ham and cheese sandwich on a pretzel bun, fruit, baby carrots and chocolate milk. In addition to the meals provided, the Waukegan Park District implements a nutrition enrichment program which encourages healthy eating.

Across the nation, and in Illinois, millions of children benefit from the healthy food they receive from the Summer Food Service Program. Local park and recreation agencies like the Waukegan Park District use this program to provide healthy meals and snacks to children who might otherwise go hungry in the summer months. When children are served healthy meals, these agencies are not only

helping to address the immediate need of hunger, but are also engaging these children in other educational and enrichment activities about healthy eating.

For more information, please visit www.waukeganparks.org or call 847-360-4700.

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 735 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include 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, disc golf course, dog exercise area, 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, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 59 full-time 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 national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

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