

2014 WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

“Bringing Home the Gold” American Independence Festivities Sunday, June 29, 2014

Parade	1pm	Sheridan Road, Franklin Street to Jack Benny Drive
Festival	2:30-5pm	Bowen Park
	2:30-5pm	Children’s Activities
	3-5pm	Waukegan Band, playing a program of American Music Skate Expo with music provided by Fun Times DJ
	3:30-5pm	Radio Disney Jr. – Road Crew – Family oriented fun games, dancing, and prizes

WAUKEGAN, IL (June 23, 2014) --- Celebrate American Independence Day in Waukegan on Sunday, June 29. The step-off for the American Independence Parade is at 1:00 pm from Franklin Street and Sheridan Road, proceeding north to Bowen Park. This year’s parade theme is *Bringing Home the Gold*. In addition to celebrating the birth of our nation, we honor this year’s Grand Marshal, Mayor Wayne Motley. Mayor Motley, a resident of Waukegan since 1957, is also recognized for his public service, having been a three term Waukegan Park District Commissioner, former Waukegan City Clerk, and retired Sergeant with the Waukegan Police Department.

Immediately following the parade is the American Independence Festival from 2:30-5:00pm in Bowen Park. The festival has live music, children’s games and crafts, a skate expo, petting zoo, and pony rides and a visit from Radio Disney Jr – Road Crew where families can play and dance along to favorite Disney Junior Songs, enjoy games, crafts and prizes! Musical entertainment is provided by the Waukegan Band, which will play a program of American Music. This year, the Skate Expo entertainment will be provided by Fun Times DJ. Food vendors

begin serving in Bowen Park at 11:30am. The festivities are hosted by the Waukegan Park District.

The American Independence Festivities is sponsored by many local businesses and citizens. This support insures a high quality and exciting event. Special recognition provided to Vista Health System, First Midwest Bank, and to the family of Sgt. Leo Graham.

For more information about this event, please call the Waukegan Park District at 847-360-4700.

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 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 57 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 Districts' (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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