

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Mayor Wayne Motley Named 2014 American Independence Parade Grand Marshal**

**Waukegan, IL** (May 28, 2014) The Waukegan Park District announced that it has selected Waukegan Mayor Wayne Motley as the Grand Marshal for the American Independence Parade. The parade, which will be held on June 29, 2014, starts at Sheridan and Franklin and travels north on Sheridan Road to Bowen Park. Parade step off is 1pm. Bowen Park has food vendors beginning at 11:30am and is the site for Festival activities following the Parade. A band concert of patriotic music, children's games, inflatables, petting zoo and skate park exhibition and competition are featured in the festival. New to the festival lineup is a show from Chicago's Radio Disney Jr. The Disney Road Crew will entertain children, ages 3-7, with music, interactive games, dancing and awesome prizes from 3:30-5pm.

Wayne Motley's service as Waukegan Park District Commissioner began in 1995, after a campaign that championed the development of soccer fields to support the growing sport in Waukegan, and ended in 2013 with his election as Mayor of Waukegan. Mr. Motley served in multiple board leadership roles including four terms as president. During his eighteen years as a commissioner, with his leadership and support, the Waukegan Park District experienced unprecedented growth and recognition including receipt of the 2013 National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal award. His tremendous impact on the community ranges from

improving fitness and access to recreational programs and services; adding parks, playgrounds, and sports fields, and positively influencing the community's health and wellness, quality of life and economy. Wayne voiced the best interests of Waukegan residents, especially when supporting the referendum and the Waukegan SportsPark. At the opening of the Waukegan SportsPark in 2011, his service was recognized by his fellow commissioners by naming the park's through street Wayne Motley Drive. In 2011, the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park Recreation Association presented Wayne Motley with the Mike Cassidy Community Service Award, its highest honor awarded to park commissioners. The Waukegan Park District Commissioners wished to honor Mayor Motley's service to the community by naming him Grand Marshal of the 2014 American Independence Parade themed *Bringing Home the Gold*.

Parade entry and vendor application forms are available on the website. For more information about the 2014 American Independence Parade and Festival, please visit the website or call 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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