

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

INCREDIBLE BATS!

Waukegan, IL (October 22, 2014)... Learn about bats at a free family event on Friday, October 31, from 6-7:30pm at the Waukegan Park District Belvidere Recreation Center. There's no better way to celebrate Halloween night than with one of the evening's signature creatures – bats! This extraordinary show features an Egyptian Fruit Bat, and an African Straw-Colored Fruit Bat! You won't want to miss the opportunity to see these amazing creatures up close.

The show includes a presentation about bats-one of the most misunderstood and beneficial creatures on earth, followed by a Q&A session and a bat craft for children to make and take home. Children are welcome to come dressed in their Halloween costumes as well!

Pre-registration is required for this program, please do so by October 27, 2014. Participants can register online at www.waukeganparks.org with program #1009 or in person at any Waukegan Park District facility. Thanks to the support of NRG Energy, this fantastic Halloween event is offered for free! For more information, please 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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