

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Park District Offers Programs and Activities When Schools Are Closed

Waukegan, IL (September 25, 2014)... If the Waukegan Schools should be closed due to a teachers' strike, families can look to the Waukegan Park District for their child care needs. The Park District will offer programs when school is not in session, Monday through Friday.

The Field House will also be open between the hours of 5am-9pm, Monday-Friday, offering open gym activities and the fitness center. For Waukegan Park District residents the open gym daily fee is \$4 for youth 17 and under and \$5 for age 18 and older. The open gym fee for non-residents is \$6. Open gym participants must be at least 11 years of age or accompanied by a parent/guardian.

The We Have Off (W.H.O.) Program for ages six through 12 will be held at the Belvidere Recreation Center in a safe, supervised environment. Activities include arts and crafts, sports, indoor and outdoor games and trips to the Field House Sports and Fitness Center for wall climbing, batting cages and gym play. To accommodate working parents, the program would run Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am until 6:00 pm. The cost for each single-day session is \$30 per child for Waukegan Park District residents or \$35 per

child for nonresidents. Sibling discounts are available. Children should bring a sack lunch, water bottle and an afternoon snack each day.

For more information, please call (847) 360-4700 or visit the District's website at

www.waukeganparks.org

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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