
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

**“Happy Birthday America and Waukegan Park District”
American Independence Parade and Centennial Festival
Sunday, July 2, 2017**

Food Vendors	11:30am	Begin serving food in Bowen Park
Parade	1pm	Sheridan Road, Franklin Street to Jack Benny Drive
Centennial Festival	2:30-5pm 3-5pm	Bowen Park Kids tractor pull, preschooler tricycle races, Waukegan Band Performance of American Music through the decades, time capsule burial, open-air photo booth, bounce house, games and crafts
	2:30-3pm	Jessie White Tumblers / Waukegan Police K9 Unit Demonstration
	5:00pm	Vintage Baseball Game at Grosche Field – Free Admission and Free Ice Cream

WAUKEGAN, IL (June 19, 2017) --- Celebrate America and the Waukegan Park District’s Centennial Birthday on Sunday, July 2. 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 *Happy Birthday America and Waukegan Park District*. In addition to celebrating the birth of our nation, we honor this year’s Grand Marshals, The Waukegan’s Women’s Club.

The Waukegan Women’s Club realized the need for Waukegan to establish a formal park system starting in the 1890s. The Waukegan Women’s Club wanted to ensure that beautiful lands would be reserved as parks for future generations to enjoy. On December 26, 1916, for the first time, women now had the opportunity to vote “yes” to the Waukegan Park District. Of the 459 votes cast for the forming of the district, over half were made by women.

This year the parade route will have three designated areas for special units to perform short routines. These locations are Franklin and Sheridan Road, Glen Flora and Sheridan Road, and across the street from Bowen Park on Sheridan Road.

Immediately following the parade is the Centennial Festival from 2:30-5:00pm in Bowen Park. This year’s festival will include live music provided by the Waukegan Band Foundation,

children's games and crafts, Arts Park, Waukegan History Museum tours, a petting zoo and pony rides. Special Centennial activities include a kids tractor pull, preschooler tricycle races, an open air photo booth (pictures \$2), roaming entertainment, burial of a time capsule and a Vintage Baseball Game played on Grosche Field at 5:00pm. Free ice cream will be served just prior to the game.

The American Independence Parade and Centennial Festival are hosted by the Waukegan Park District. The Parade and Festival are sponsored by many local businesses and citizens whose support ensures an exciting and fun event. A special thank you is extended to Vista Health System, Advanced Disposal, and Judge Charles Smith for their long time support.

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 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, Fitness and Aquatics 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 and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. 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, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 61 full-time and over 230 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), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and maintains 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.

3/3/17/Comm. Relations

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