

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All Media

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2013 American Independence Festivities

Waukegan, IL (July 2, 2013)...The Waukegan Park District held its annual American Independence Parade and Festival on Sunday June 30 with nearly 4,000 parade spectators, marching units, and festival attendees. This year's parade welcomed 69 entries; all exhibited patriotism and enthusiasm, which contributed to the exciting celebration. Vehicles, floats, and walking units displayed the parade theme, Home Sweet Home Waukegan. Colorful, creative decorations, signs, and banners expressed pride and love for our country as well as our hometown, Waukegan. Crowd favorites included the Waukegan High School Marching Band, Navy Band, National Champion Jazz Steppers, Nuclear Reaction, Lake County Mounted Posse, and the West Allis/West Milwaukee Lancer Band.

Immediately following the parade was the American Independence Festival, from 2:30-5:00pm in Bowen Park. The festival provided an American music themed concert by the popular Waukegan Band, children's games and crafts, a skate expo, petting zoo, and pony rides. Although significant budget cuts were made earlier this year minimizing performance fees, eliminating the review stand and several festival activities, the parade and festival demonstrated that it is the people that make Waukegan a special place, our hometown.

The Waukegan Park District thanks the many civic leaders, businesses, clubs, and organizations who proudly participated in the parade and communicated so well that Waukegan is indeed Home Sweet Home. A special thank you is extended to all American Independence Festivities sponsors, partners (most notably Thrivent Financial) and volunteers for making this year's event a success. For more information about the American Independence Festivities, please call Dayna Wick at (847)782-3625.

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, which includes 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. The District operates 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, 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 and special populations are included. Many special events are offered throughout the year, many are complimentary. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. The award-winning District employs 57 full-time staff 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 named a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013.