
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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To: All Media

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Jay Lerner Promoted to Superintendent of Recreation

Waukegan, IL (August 23, 2013) Jay Lerner has been promoted to the Superintendent of Recreation for the Waukegan Park District. Lerner began his career at the district as the Recreation Specialist for Youth Athletics in September 1998, was promoted to the Recreation Supervisor of Athletics in 1999, and moved into the Manager of Sports and Fitness role in 2010. Janet Kilkelly, Board President of the Waukegan Park District stated, “It is gratifying when an internal candidate rises to the top of a nationwide search for an executive team member. His previous experience at the district prepared him well for the role of Superintendent of Recreation.” Lerner’s new responsibilities will include operational management of the Waukegan SportsPark, Field House Sports and Fitness Center, Belvidere Recreation Center, all adult and youth and athletic programs, special recreation, aquatics, camps, and many special events.

Among Lerner's important roles at the Waukegan Park District over the years was the management of indoor and outdoor athletics, liaison to Youth Sports Affiliates and the Waukegan Public School's Athletic Department, and organization of several large special events including the American Independence Parade and Festival, Turkey Trot, and Halloweenfest. The Field House Sports and Fitness Center's reputation as a premier indoor tournament facility is largely due to his efforts, recruitment of tournament organizations, oversight, and management. His leadership at the Waukegan SportsPark resulted in an incredibly successful first three years, with multiple large tournaments, many returning annually, and a host of other activities. These two sports venues not only attract tournaments, but also generate millions of dollars annually for local businesses.

Jay earned a Bachelor of Science in Recreation with concentration in Sports Management and a Master of Science in Physical Education with concentration in Recreation. He is a Certified Program Planner through the Learning Resource Network and received certification as a Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). He completed Professional Development School, Revenue Development & Management School, and Executive Development School through NRPA. He received the 2004 Waukegan Park District Recreation Department Employee of the Year and the 2008 Board of Commissioner's Award.

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. 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 and special populations are included. 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 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.