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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“Got American Spirit”  
American Independence Festivities  
Sunday, July 3, 2016  
1-5pm**

**WAUKEGAN, IL (June 22, 2016)** --- Celebrate American Independence Day in Waukegan on Sunday, July 3. 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 *Got American Spirit* and the festivities are hosted by the Waukegan Park District.

In addition to celebrating the birth of our nation, we honor this year’s Grand Marshal, Judge Charles Smith. In February 2016, Mr. Smith concluded 15 years of service as a Waukegan Park District corporate attorney and secretary. The Board of Commissioners is recognizing his many contributions over the years, including his expert knowledge and counsel, his loyal patronage and support of programs, facilities and services and dedication to the District and Waukegan community.

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. Special units include: Jesse White Tumblers, South Shore Drill Team, Waukegan High School Band, Elite Striders Drill Team, Racine Drum and Bugle Corps and more.

Immediately following the parade is the American Independence Festival from 2:30-5:00pm in Bowen Park. The festival has live music, children’s games and crafts, petting zoo,

pony rides, skateboard expo, a Jesse White Tumblers demonstration and a visit from the Waukegan Police Department K9 Unit where families can watch a K9 unit demonstration up close. Food vendors begin serving in Bowen Park at 11:30am. Musical entertainment is provided by the Waukegan Band, which will play a program of American Music. The American Independence Festivities is sponsored by many local businesses and citizens whose support insures a high quality, exciting event. Special recognition is extended to Vista Health System for their longtime continued support.

**Event Schedule:**

11:30	Food vendors open	Bowen Park
1pm	Parade	Sheridan Road, Franklin Street to Jack Benny Drive
2:30-5pm	Festival	Bowen Park
	Children’s Activities	
2:30-3pm	Jessie White Tumblers / Waukegan Police K9 Unit Demonstration	
3-5pm	Waukegan Band, playing a program of American Music	
	Skateboard Expo with music	

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 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 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 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 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.

5-11-16/Comm. Relations

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