

# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Ty Rohrer, Waukegan History Museum Supervisor, Appointed the Illinois State Historical Society Advisory Board**

**Waukegan, IL (May 7, 2016)** . . . Ty Rohrer was recently appointed to the Advisory Board of the Illinois State Historical Society at the Society's Annual Meeting held in Springfield. Rohrer is the Supervisor of the Waukegan History Museum (formerly the Haines Museum) located in Bowen Park.

Mr. Rohrer received two bachelor's degrees from the University of Illinois, one in History and the other Anthropology; in 2006, he obtained a master's degree in History from the University of Illinois Springfield. Prior to his arrival at the Waukegan Park District in October of 2006, he worked at the Springfield Art Association and interned at the Illinois State Military Museum in Springfield. Rohrer's special interest in Abraham Lincoln and Illinois' rich civil war history was inspired by his hometown of Lincoln's connection with the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Ty conducts more than 125 presentations about Waukegan's rich history to Waukegan schoolchildren annually. He also works closely with Waukegan High School students who participate in the annual Chicago Metro History Fair.

Besides a permanent exhibit of what life was like in the late 1800's in Waukegan, there are rotating exhibits on display at the Waukegan History Museum. The current exhibit is Waukegan Then and Now which will be replaced by Wet v. Dry, Prohibition in Waukegan opening in June 2017.

The Waukegan Park District and the Waukegan Historical Society's unique partnership present and showcase the city's history. Capturing history from a city the size of Waukegan is no small task according to Rohrer and requires the support of residents who donate items and volunteer.

### **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 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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