

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Volunteers and Patrons Honored

2016 Patron of the Year-Judge Charles Smith

2016 Volunteer of the Year-Ken Almond

2017 Jack Benny Arts and Humanities Award-Patrick Cosgrove

Waukegan, IL (March 2, 2017) – The Waukegan Park District honored its outstanding Volunteers and Patrons at the annual Volunteer and Patron Recognition Reception on February 23rd. This reception celebrates the previous year and highlights the exceptional role volunteers play in the success of the park district.

Among those receiving special honors was Ken Almond, 2016 Volunteer of the Year. As a Waukegan Park District Summer Track and Field Coach, he has coached and mentored more than 600 youth since 1999. Many of his participants have become outstanding track and field athletes winning high school, national and youth Olympics awards.



(L to R)Waukegan Park District Commissioner Patricia Foley, President George Bridges, Ken Almond, Volunteer of the Year & Commissioner Janet Kilkelly

The Waukegan Park District Patron of the Year was Judge Charles (Chuck) Smith. Judge Smith has been a dedicated supporter of the District for decades and an original donor to the annual Joseph A. Favero Do It Yourself *Messiah*. Judge Smith and his family also support the annual American Independence Parade and Festival; in 2016, he served as parade Grand Marshal honoring his years of service to the District. Judge Smith has also been a longtime supporter of the Partners in Parks Golf Outing which raises funds for scholarships.



Waukegan Park District President George Bridges, Patron of the Year Judge Charles Smith & Commissioners Patricia Foley & Janet Kilkelly

The 2017 Jack Benny Arts and Humanities award was presented to Waukegan High School Physics Teacher Patrick Cosgrove. He was recognized for his positive influence and support of students: offering Saturday and Sunday study sessions, mentoring students as they select topics for the Chicago Metro History Fair and providing encouragement to students throughout the school year. He attends student sponsored events, performances, competitions, and athletics events and is viewed as an enthusiastic supporter. Mr. Cosgrove challenges his students to explore, experience, and

learn about their community and participate in the variety of Waukegan activities and events held throughout the year.



(L to R) Patricia Foley, Waukegan Park District Commissioner, Patrick Cosgrove, Jack Benny Arts and Humanities Award Winner, & Claudia Freeman, Superintendent of Arts

The 2016 Coach of the Year was awarded to Brian Cowart who has been a longtime coach of the Waukegan Park District youth athletic programs as well as his role in building the Jr. Bulldogs Basketball League over the past six years. His inspirational leadership helps develop and empower youth to learn not only basketball, but life skills.

More than 120 volunteers and patrons joined in the celebration. Others recognized with community service awards included:

Doug Stiles
Betsy Stiles
Joe Russell III
Diane Verratti
Gail Dever
Meg Goljenboom
Vicki Mattson
J's Bally Muck
Green Town Tavern
Jewell Electric
Office Plus of Lake County

Marriott Residence Inn
NorStates Bank
Tom Brost
Chris Trapnell
Donna Wagner
Warren Bryce
Sheri Martinez
Cody Miller
Linda Belles
Mark Kolar
Merleanne Rampale

Margaret May
Srinivasa, Drs. V and JM

American Outfitters

The Waukegan Park District wishes to thank these and all the other volunteers, patrons and partners for their support.

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 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.

1/18/17/Comm. Relations

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