

Park Happenings

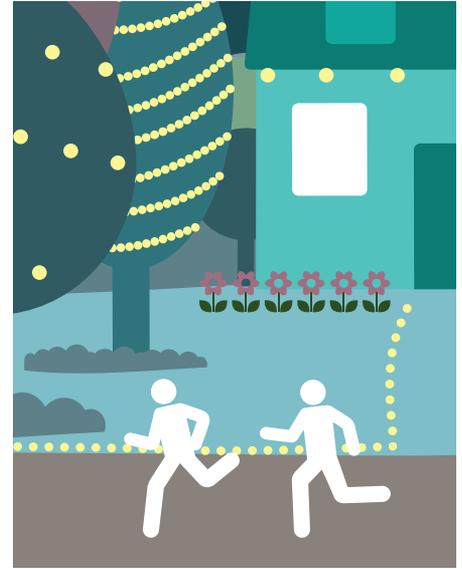
GO WAUKEGAN

The Waukegan Park District has partnered with the Lake County Health Department on its county wide initiative to improve the health of Lake County residents. Live Well Lake County is promoting the simple act of walking as means to improve health. Thirty minutes of walking daily is recommended. Go Waukegan engages the community in this healthy activity. Won't you join us and your neighbors in walking your way to better health?

A GO Waukegan walk has been planned in partnership with Waukegan Main Street. The

Holiday Wonder Walk on December 2, 2017 begins at 4pm at Jack Benny Plaza at the corner of Genesee and Clayton Street and will proceed down Genesee Street.

Waukegan Main Street and Genesee Street merchants have several activities planned including open houses that afternoon highlighted by the lighting of the Christmas Tree and caroling in Jack Benny Plaza at 5pm. See page 17.



Park Improvements

Ganster Pool

The Waukegan Park District will replace Belvidere Park's Howard E. Ganster Pool which is nearly 50 years old. Planning will occur over the next few months including a bond issue to help finance the project, construction is scheduled to begin after the swim season in the summer of 2018, and the new outdoor pool will open for the 2019 summer swim season.

Belvidere Park

Belvidere Park is one of the busiest parks in Waukegan and the Board is excited to add new amenities including several shelters in the park, outdoor restroom facilities, water spray features, an updated playground and expanded parking. The Rose Administration Building will be demolished, freeing up parkland for other uses. Watch for updates in upcoming issues of the program guide.

New Administrative Center

The Waukegan Park District Administrative Center is moving to the former Waukegan Savings Bank at 1324 Golf Road. Administration and Finance staff are planning for a move in the Summer of 2018. The new building will provide the District with much needed office and administrative space and free up precious land in Belvidere Park.

FAMILY

NEW!

Valentine's Ball



Saturday, February 17 • 6:30pm - 9pm

Ages 4-13 years • \$15 Resident/\$18 Nonresident

Price is per person. Each child must be accompanied by an adult

Where family can experience a magical night together.

The family friendly Valentine's Ball includes:

- Dinner
- Dancing
- Professional Photography
- Gift Bag for Each Child
- Prizes

Space is limited • Register early • Program #10101407-1A
Belvidere Recreation Center • For more information, call 847-360-4700

Citizen Science: National Bird Day

Join the Waukegan Park District as it celebrates National Bird Day on Friday, January 5, 2018. Did you know the world has almost 10,000 bird species? According to Born Free USA, nearly 12% of the world's bird species are in danger of extinction. Nearly one third of the world's parrot species are facing extinction in the next century. National Bird Day was created to promote awareness and shed light on the critical issues related to the protection and survival of birds.



National Bird Day is part of the longest running citizen science survey in the world that helps to monitor the health of birds. For sixteen years, birders and the public go out and count as many U.S. native wild birds as they can for the three week annual Christmas Bird count.

Celebrate National Bird Day by joining other admirers of birds in these activities:

- Birdwatching
- Studying birds
- Educating others about birds
- Adopt a bird at a zoo or sanctuary

Things you can do to reduce bird window collisions are noted on the following website:

http://www.nationalbirdday.com/ab_windows_birds.php

Waukegan Park District Receives National Recognition

Following a year-long assessment process, the Waukegan Park District was recognized for excellence by achieving national reaccreditation through the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). This accomplishment was announced at the recent NRPA Annual Congress in New Orleans, with Board President George Bridges and Executive Director Jay Lerner accepting the award on behalf of the district.

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accredits agencies for excellence in management, operation and service. The accreditation assures policy makers, staff, the general public, and taxpayers of district excellence by providing an independent evaluation against established benchmarks to measure quality and implementation of national best practice standards. There are 151 standards for national accreditation and the rigorous process includes three phases: a self-assessment report by the District, on-site visitation and the Commission's review and decision. Once accredited, agencies submit annual reports and their accreditation is valid for five years.

"It's easy for us to say to the people of Waukegan we have a great park district," said Executive Director Jay Lerner, "It's another thing for the District to be able to prove it by achieving accreditation through

CAPRA. Our top priority is to deliver consistent, high quality public service and this recognition assures that we are definitely doing that." Noting the exclusive nature of the accreditation, there are only six other CAPRA accredited agencies in Illinois and 155 in the entire country.



Sally Sandine coordinates the CAPRA process for the Waukegan Park District

Board President George Bridges stated, "Receiving prestigious national recognitions such as CAPRA national accreditation, Distinguished Agency state accreditation and the Gold Medal Award indicate the high caliber of leaders and employees at the District and their tremendous commitment to serve the community of Waukegan."

Park Happenings

Introducing Waukegan Park District Fitness and Aquatics Staff

Kaitlin Fischer, Manager of Sports and Fitness, is responsible for the management of all Youth and Adult Sports and Fitness Programs. Kaitlin also manages the indoor and outdoor athletic courts, fields, facilities and tournaments at the Field House and SportsPark, generating more than \$350,000 annually. Kaitlin has distinguished herself at the Waukegan Park District, beginning in 2014, as a Recreation Specialist for Youth Athletics, promoted in 2016 to Recreation Supervisor of Athletics, and in 2017 selected as the Manager of Sports and Fitness. She was responsible for increasing participation in youth sports, especially girls. New programs include Lady Bulldogs basketball, Girls Softball, and Dance and Cheer, Field Hockey and Lacrosse. Reporting to Kaitlin are: Andy Cook, Recreation Supervisor for Fitness and Aquatics, Maria Horvath, Recreation Specialist for Fitness and Patrick Coleman, Recreation Specialist for Youth Sports.

Maria Horvath, Recreation Specialist-Fitness, was promoted from a Fitness Attendant to Recreation Specialist-Fitness in June 2017. She has been with the park district for two years, taking on many additional responsibilities in the fitness center as needed, including helping with the Running Club and Youth Fitness programs. Maria manages the fitness center staff, program, facilities, budget and equipment. Maria worked at the YMCA prior to her employment with the park district. Maria has a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from UW-Park-side. Maria and her family live in Waukegan.



Andy Cook, Maria Horvath, Kaitlin Fischer, Shelby McDonald and Quincy Bejster.

Quincy Bejster, Manager of Field House Operations, Membership and Aquatics, is responsible for directing aquatics staff and programs, budget and general operation of the Field House as well as membership, which has grown to more than 6,000. His first job with the District was an Athletics Intern while a student at Western Illinois University in 2005. After graduation, he worked for the Peoria Park District, the Parks and Recreation Department in Warrensburg, Missouri and the Village of Orland Park Recreation and Parks Department before returning to the Waukegan Park District as the Recreation Supervisor for the Field House in 2013. Quincy was promoted to his current role this spring. Reporting to Quincy are two Recreation Supervisors, Shelby McDonald-Field House and Andy Cook-Aquatics.

Shelby McDonald, the Recreation Supervisor-Field House, has worked for the park district since 2015, starting as a Recreation Specialist-Field House. She oversees front desk operations, which has included adding a third workstation and several more registration

staff, jumpstarted the Field House Running Club and Mile Club, implemented new member appreciation programs, added additional hours and staff to the Child Center to accommodate the growing need, coordination of the George Bridges 5K, and is coordinating the GO Waukegan Be Active program, just to name a few of her accomplishments.

Andy Cook, the Recreation Supervisor-Fitness and Aquatics, has worked at the Waukegan Park District since June 2017. Andy is responsible for managing all district pools and aquatics programming, staff and services. He is also responsible for managing fitness facilities, staff, equipment and services. Andy has a Bachelor's Degree in Sports Management from Eastern Illinois University. While at EIU, Andy was a lifeguard and aquatics supervisor. He did his internship at North Central College as a facilities and event coordinator for the athletic department. Andy has worked in the fitness center industry for more than five years, most recently as the Assistant General Manager at Charter Fitness in Carol Stream.



Jon Beckmann Promoted to Superintendent of Finance and Administration

Jon Beckmann, MBA, CPRP, Superintendent of Finance and Administration at the Waukegan Park District started working there in 2012. Since then, he has been promoted to roles with increasing responsibility. Initially, he was hired as the Accounting/Payroll Specialist, promoted in 2014 to the Accounting and Payroll Supervisor, and to Manager of Finance and Administration in 2016. Jon worked closely with former Superintendent of Finance and Administration, Jim Glogovsky and since Jim Glogovsky's retirement announcement, Jon has assumed additional responsibilities within the department. Some of Jon's accomplishments include: maintaining the \$31 million dollar operating and capital improvement budget, administering the District procurement card program of over \$1.5 million annually and coordinating the annual audit with the external audit firm. In addition to his Finance and Administration responsibilities, Jon chaired the District's Partners in Parks Golf Outing committee the past three years and grew the event to more than 100 golfers, doubling the revenues for District scholarships and programs. He has also served on the Districtwide Safety and Sponsorship Committees. Prior to joining the Waukegan Park District, Jon worked in recreation roles at both the

Deerfield and Gurnee Park Districts.

Jon has a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Organizational Development and Strategic Leadership from North Park University. He double majored at Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Insurance/Risk Management. He is a member of the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association and serves on the Professional Education Committee. On that committee, he plans statewide training on topics related to payroll & human resources, pensions, and management & leadership. He is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) and a member of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association Finance Section.



Jon Beckmann

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT
OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

MISSION STATEMENT

The Waukegan Park District is committed to providing parks, facilities and leisure opportunities to our culturally diverse population through leadership with community involvement, dedicated staff and sound management.

VISION STATEMENT

An innovative park district that creatively adapts to our evolving community and provides exceptional parks, recreation and cultural arts that benefit all.

VALUES STATEMENT

- **Accountability...** We will work to achieve the most effective and efficient use of our financial resources while striving for the best return on the use of our assets.
- **Excellence...** We will strive for the best in everything we do.
- **Integrity...** We will practice steadfast adherence to a high moral and ethical code, and we will reliably deliver on what we say we are going to do.
- **Service Oriented...** We will focus our efforts on our customers and will operate the District based on the needs of the community.
- **Working Together...** We will work WITH one another.
- **Sustainability...** The Board and staff will use a collaborative and cooperative team based approach that results in the best possible decisions for the long term greater good of the entire community.



8.6.16

Stay Safe This Winter

The Waukegan Park District provides ice rinks for your use. There are three rinks maintained by the District during the season at Victory, Belvidere and Arbor Parks. The rink at Belvidere Park has lights and there are several skating programs scheduled; ice skates are available for rent at the Belvidere Recreation Center (see page 11). Please note that due to thin ice, Park District ponds and streams are not available for skating.

If you skate elsewhere, stay off the ice and stay away from the water's edge of lakes, ponds and streams unless it has been checked by an adult for thickness and safety. Ice should be at least 3-4 inches thick before going on it. Children should be supervised by adults when playing on ice. Skate in areas that have been approved and posted for ice skating. Avoid skating alone and stay where others can see you.

Remember ice thickness is never consistent on lakes and ponds, beware of thin areas, cracks, seams, pressure ridges, slushy and darker areas. If ice doesn't look safe, it probably isn't. Never skate after dark in unlighted areas and follow safety signs and advice. Keep pets on leashes when out for walks. Know what to do in case of an emergency.



Consumers Cooperative Association
www.myconsumers.org/about-us/consumers-cooperative-association

Consumers Cooperative Association was organized in 1970 and serves as the “Common Bond” for Membership at Consumers Credit Union.