
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

Press Release

Waukegan Park District Awards Five Scholarships

WAUKEGAN, IL (June 17, 2019) The Waukegan Park District Board of Directors released \$5,000 from the Waukegan Park District Memorial endowment fund to increase access to education for future leaders in the community. The endowment comes from funds that have been received as private donations and gifts to the District. Five \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to District residents who will be attending college or trade school in Fall 2019.

The search committee members stated “This has been an uplifting experience for us. We had 23 applicants for the scholarship and met many community leaders. We feel very confident that the future of our community is in good hands. While there were many great candidates, these five young leaders rose to the top and embody the mission and vision of the District.”

The candidates have led environmental efforts in Waukegan and abroad, provided service to immigrants, veterans, and those in need. People who have beaten the odds of childhood cancer, raised children, worked two jobs, obtained a GED, and now want to serve selflessly, pursuing their dreams driven by a love for our community.

Of the five, two are pursuing public service in local law enforcement, two are studying environmental science and one is pursuing a business degree with the intent of opening a local business to share his culture and heritage. In the Fall of 2019, our recipients will be studying at the College of Lake County, Grayslake Illinois; Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois; University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha Wisconsin; Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

The recipients of the 2019 Waukegan Park District Memorial Endowment Scholarship are Adrian Ayala, Guadalupe Bueno, Luis Steven Garcia Gonzales, Xitlali Ramirez, and Kelvin Trejo.

To find out more about contributing to the Memorial Endowment Fund, please contact Ben Richards at brichards@waukeganparks.org

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 737 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, Fitness and Aquatics Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, 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 62 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, awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and recently named a 2019 Gold Medal Finalist.

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