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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District Commissioner Janet E. Kilkelly Recognized with the 2020 Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award**

**Waukegan, Illinois (January 2, 2020)** – The Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) recognized Waukegan Park District Commissioner Janet E. Kilkelly with the 2020 Mike Cassidy Commissioner Community Service Award at the 2021 IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference. The annual award is presented to a commissioner whose volunteer service to their community emulates the vision and voluntary efforts demonstrated by late Freeport Park District Commissioner Mike Cassidy to improve the quality of life for those in his community.

Commissioner Kilkelly was first elected to the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners in 1997 and has served as the President, Vice President, and Treasurer. While serving on the Board of Commissioners, the Waukegan Park District has been awarded the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2013 Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), and named an Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency.

During her tenure, the Waukegan Park District has expanded park and open space and has constructed state-of-the-art facilities, such as the Field House Sports, Fitness & Aquatics Center and Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark. Additionally, several key parks in the community have been transformed, including Clearview Park, Eugene P. King Park, and Corrine J. Rose Park. Commissioner Kilkelly has also advocated for the continuation of existing programs and supported the growth of new programs for individuals of all ages.

In service to her community, Commissioner Kilkelly currently serves at the Waukegan City Clerk and has previously served as a Waukegan Township Trustee.

Commissioner Kilkelly stated, "No one is an island and having a professional staff to guide and execute the vision of the Waukegan Park District has resulted in a Gold Medal Award and several regional facilities and parks. My family and I are committed to giving back to our community by getting involved and giving of our time and resources. The result has been returned tenfold and I so appreciate the community for believing and trusting in me four times to represent them on the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners. Thank you to the Illinois Association of Park Districts for this award. I am tremendously honored."

Jay Lerner, Executive Director, congratulated Commissioner Kilkelly and stated, "Commissioner Kilkelly has gone above and beyond the call of duty as a park commissioner. She is an enthusiastic supporter of the Waukegan Park District and is fully committed to enhancing the quality of life in Waukegan through parks and recreation. Her leadership and giving spirit over the last 20+ years truly makes our community a better place."

## **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, splash pads, 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 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 employs 63 full-time and over 230 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and is recognized by the IPRA as an Exceptional Workplace. Accreditation is maintained 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). The District has received Government Finance Officer Association awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for eight consecutive years. The District was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, and 2019.

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