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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Waukegan Park District to Host Virtual 2021 American Independence Parade**

**Waukegan, Illinois (May 13, 2021)** – The Waukegan Park District invites local families, organizations, and businesses to celebrate American Independence Day with a virtual parade featuring mini “floats” made of recycled shoeboxes or other boxes. The 2021 Virtual American Independence Parade: Shoebox Edition will be presented on Facebook and YouTube on Sunday, June 27 at 1pm.

The commentary during the virtual parade will be provided by David Motley and Jane Ferry, who have emceed the Waukegan American Independence Parade for years. After the virtual parade, a mini “float” contest will be held on Facebook to recognize the most popular entries.

To participate in the virtual parade and be featured in the video, participants must decorate a mini “float” with a shoebox or other box, register, and drop off the submission at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, located at 39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park, by Friday, June 11 at 5pm. All local families, organization, and businesses are welcome to participate at no cost.

More details, including the registration form and mini “float” requirements, are available at [waukeganparks.org/parade](http://waukeganparks.org/parade). For more information, contact Debra Carl at [dcarl@waukeganparks.org](mailto:dcarl@waukeganparks.org) or (847) 360-4740.

The Waukegan Park District’s Board of Commissioners and staff determined a virtual parade was safer than an in-person parade once again this year, due to the pandemic and current public health guidelines.

The 2020 Virtual American Independence Parade: Shoebox Edition, which reached over 18,000 people on Facebook and YouTube, was recognized with the 2020 Overall Outstanding Program & Special Event Award by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association.

#### **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 740 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 ten 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, 2019, and 2021.

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