
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan History Museum Companion App Highlighting William Ganster's Architecture

Waukegan, Illinois (August 10, 2021) – The award-winning Waukegan History Museum Companion App will be highlighting several locations that were designed by William Ganster, a prominent local architect, in Waukegan Quests, a new feature on the app allowing users to participate in challenges to earn digital badges and medals.

Ganster was an award-winning architect who designed several landmark buildings in Waukegan, including the Waukegan Public Library and Lake County Tuberculosis Sanatorium. His father, Dean Howard E. Ganster, was a former Waukegan Park District Commissioner.

Users will be required to create a profile to participate in the Waukegan Quests. Users can complete the challenges in one day or throughout multiple days during the challenge window. To prove the mastery of the monthly quest, users will receive a digital badge on their profile screen once all the challenges for the month have been completed.

In 2020, the Waukegan Park District partnered with the Waukegan Historical Society to share local history through the Waukegan History Museum Companion App found under “Activities” on the Waukegan Park District’s mobile app, which is free and available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. The Waukegan History Museum Companion App can also be found at waukeganparks.org/historycompanion and waukeganhistorical.org.

The Waukegan History Museum Companion App also gives users the opportunity to participate in virtual history exhibits and self-guided history tours of different locations in Waukegan, including parks, statues, and historic landmarks. Users are also able to read short histories and see photographs of individuals and places with important significance in Waukegan’s history. The Waukegan History Museum Companion App is curated by Bryan Escobar, Arts & History Specialist.

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About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 53 properties and more than 742 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, Jack Benny Center for the Arts, Waukegan’s Greg Petry SportsPark, Waukegan Skate Park, BMX Track, SplashZone, Percussion Playground, 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. We offer something for everyone!

The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA). The District employs 64 full-time and nearly 200 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and is recognized by the IPRA as an Exceptional Workplace.

Nationally accredited by the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and State accredited through the IAPD Distinguished Agency Accreditation. The District has received Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for ten consecutive years and received the coveted GFOA Triple Crown Award recognizing the District's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 2019. The Waukegan Park District was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, 2019, and 2021.

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About the Waukegan Historical Society

The Society is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit that was established in 1968. For the past 50 years the Society has promoted Waukegan's history through education programs, scholarship, exhibits, and events. The Society operates, in partnership with the Waukegan Park District, the Waukegan History Museum and the Raymond Research Library and Archives. School outreach is a priority of the Society. In the past five years, over 700 free programs on Waukegan's history have been presented in the schools to over 22,000 students. The Society supports student scholarship in history. Over 1,600 high school students from Waukegan and the surrounding communities have utilized the Society's Library and Archives for the Chicago Metro History Fair, with several projects advancing to the National History Day competition. For the past two years, the Society has received awards from the Illinois State Historical Society for its innovative exhibits.

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