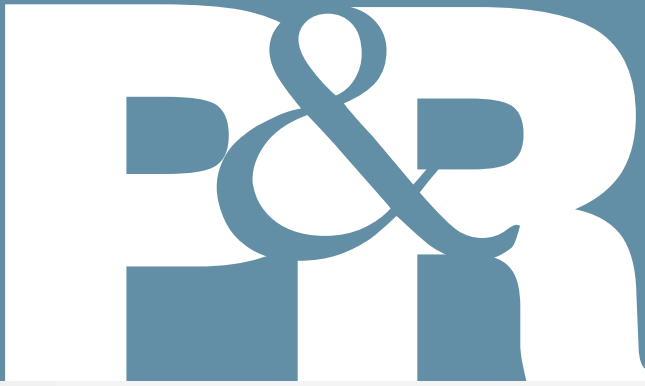


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PARKS AND RECREATION

The magazine of the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association



Best of the Best Gala Legislative Breakfasts 2010 Legal Calendar

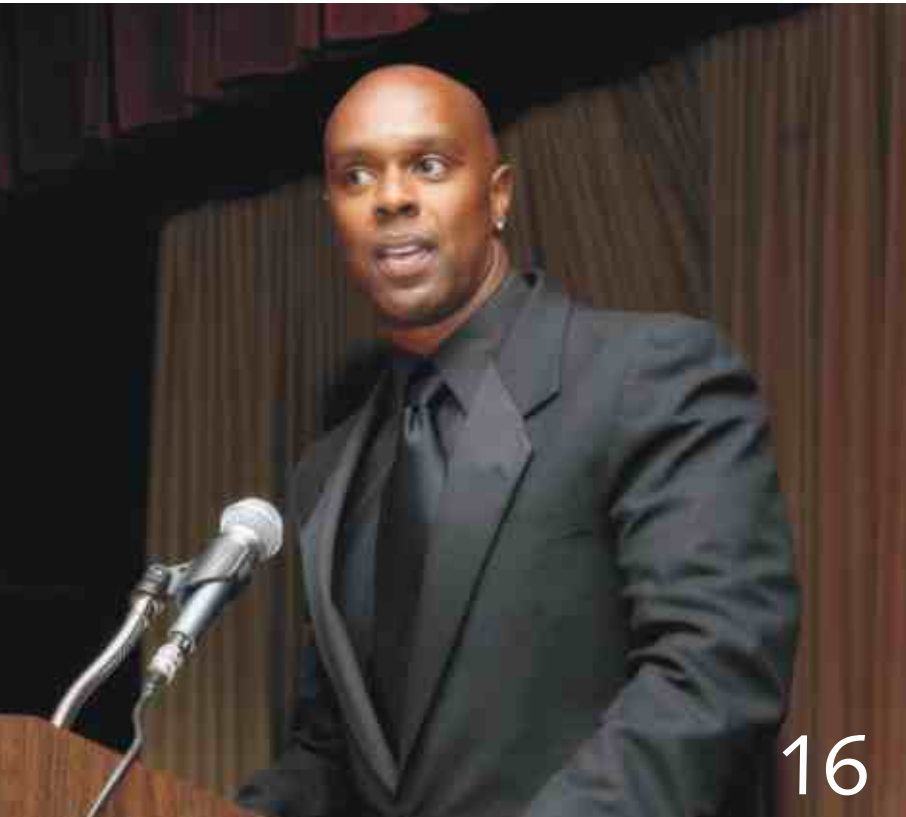


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Each set of park district plates generates \$25 to a grant program for after school programming at park and recreation agencies throughout the state.

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FROM THE EDITOR



The killing frost has come and gone, and maybe, by the time you are reading this, the first snow has flown over your parks.

But there are always those few days that occur after the first frost (or even after the first snow) when the sun still seems high and wind not too sharp. On those days, you'll find a few hardy breeds at your outdoor basketball or tennis courts or maybe at your driving ranges trying to squeeze another hour out of summer no matter how long gone the calendar says it is. When I see them, I think of my dad.

On Saturdays like those, he'd call up the steps to my bedroom saying, "Get your racquet."

Then we'd slink past my mom on our way out the door because we knew she had a list of chores that she preferred we do. Dad would look at her and say, "There won't be many more nice days like this."

She'd throw her hands up in the air, and we'd leave, guilty and giddy like 10-year-olds playing hooky.

That's all well and good when it's say, 45 degrees and sunny. But, when it's 31 and spitting snow you wondered – or at least I wondered out loud – why we were out there. The ball was a rock. My knees wouldn't bend. And I worried about slipping in the wet snow. And all my dad said was, "The snow's not sticking. You know, there won't be many more nice days like this."

Looking back, I can safely tell you that I neither gained nor improved my tennis skills at any sub-freezing practice session.

One thing I did learn is that the weather doesn't signify a nice day. And fate doesn't determine how many of them there will be. We do.

On all those less-than-optimal days, my dad made the choice to make the best of what the day offered. For him, that meant getting in some form of physical recreation.

I also learned that that attitude can be infectious and rewarding. By November 1 each year, the parks department gathered up seven nets from eight of our little town's tennis courts. But they left the eighth (and albeit most worn out) net up all year at one of the old Eastwood Street courts. I don't think the site supervisor was forgetful. That net stayed up all year because the park director noticed – and bought into – the passion and optimism of people like my dad.

In my years working with Illinois park, recreation and conservation professionals and officials, I've noticed that same spirit, that same drive to make a nice day no matter the weather.

Bad weather comes in many forms – rain, sleet, snow, ice, recession or tax caps. But I am sure that the park industry leaders in our state have the will and know how to make many more nice days for their citizens. And I know, too, that your associations, the IAPD and IPRA remain ready to help you do just that.

— RODD WHELPLEY
Editor

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Dr. Ted Flickinger
IAPD President and Chief
Executive Officer

Training You Can Trust

If you are old enough and were lucky enough, maybe you remember having a set of encyclopedias in your home. I'm sure most of the people who purchased sets of Collier's or Britannica or World Book bought them for their own or for their children's education. Today of course, having an eight-foot shelf of encyclopedias would be a laughable educational investment. You can plug into the Internet and have so much more.

Know the Source

But sometimes more isn't better – it's just more. Keeping with the encyclopedia example, the traditional publishers all have online versions. But one of the most popular new encyclopedia sites is Wikipedia. The 'Wiki' part of that name stands for "What I know is." The idea of this site is that users can create entries to the encyclopedia or add content to the existing entries. In theory, this makes a body of knowledge un-encumbered by the limits of a single group of writers or the constraints of page restrictions.

In practice, however, the site has sometimes been criticized for being unencumbered by facts. A well-intentioned person may post "what I know" on a subject. But what if he only thinks he knows something? The value of the editorial staffs at World Book or Britannica now become much more apparent.

For more than 80 years the Illinois Association of Park Districts has been providing training programs and publishing reference materials to educate park agency board members and professionals in the field of parks, recreation and conservation. We've taken some of what we've learned and distilled it into our first online board training course which we plan to unveil at the 2010 IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference.

This is will be the first course of the first online curriculum ever developed specifically for park board members and executives, and we've been working diligently to make this course useful, user friendly and accurate. Judging from your past support of our symposiums, conferences and publications, you've come to trust and rely upon the information that IAPD offers you. We have been working to ensure that you will trust our online training as well and find it easy to use.

About the IAPD's Online Board Training Program

As I first mentioned in the July/August issue of this magazine, the IAPD online board member training curriculum will be ever evolving to meet your needs now and into the future.

Subjects under development include: financial procedures and responsibilities (more than just reading a balance sheet), strategic planning and passing referenda.

But our first course covers the general roles and responsibilities of Illinois park agency board members. It is

Judging from your past support of our symposiums, conferences and publications, you've come to trust and rely upon the information that IAPD offers you. We have been working to ensure that you will trust our online training as well.



comprised of seven modules on the topics of:

- Healthy and Effective Board Relationships
- Board Job Descriptions
- Ethics and Code of Conduct
- Hiring the Chief Executive
- Meeting Management
- Political Advocacy
- Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Board.

Each module presents information in text and video format and links you to a variety of ancillary materials. Each module has been designed so that you can go through it in forty-five minutes, or you can spend hours immersing yourself in all the information you find at the links. At the end of each module is a practice quiz, which helps you prepare for the course's 50-question final exam.

The only thing more expensive than education is ignorance.

Everyone who earns a passing grade on the exam will receive a certificate. The course will provide commissioners with an opportunity to earn units in the IAPD Board Member Development Program. (If you are unfamiliar with how to become designated as a Master Board Member, you can familiarize yourself with this opportunity at the IAPD Web site, www.ILparks.org. Scroll over the "Programs" option on the menu on the left side of the page and click on the "Board Member Development Program" option on the fly-out box.) Park agency professionals who pass the course will earn CPUs.

Knowledge – The Best Defense Against Tough Times

I'm pleased that we are finally putting the finishing touches on our first online course. I hope that you will watch your mail, e-mail and this publication for full details about when and how you can log on and start learning. As we are working out the details, let me assure you that we will make the online course affordable, and we will offer significant discounts to agencies that sign up their CEO and entire board for the course. A shared knowledge base makes for greater working relationships, and we want to promote that.

Some would say that this is a tough time economically to launch a new training initiative. But, education seems to be a recession-proof business. Junior college, technical school and university enrollments increase in struggling economies. Why? Because people realize that new skills help them get better jobs or teach them how to keep their current operations running in better fashion.

For park boards, it's tempting to look at a "training" or a "conference" line item on the budget and strike it out. But I would urge you to think twice about such an action. Ben Franklin said that the only thing more expensive than education is ignorance. That's a broad statement, but to bring a point to it, you need to consider that for the cost attending an IAPD conference session or symposium or online course, you might well gain a kernel of information about new bidding requirements or longer maturity dates for park bonds or innovative strategies for hiring and retaining a high performing CEO that can end up saving your agency thousands of dollars in the long run. Saving a little money on the cost of board education could easily end up costing your agency a lot more.

As a board member, investing in your education means investing in the long-term well being of your agency. In fact, I would go so far to say that, as an elected or appointed member, you have a duty to your agency and the community it serves to become as knowledgeable as you can about how good park, recreation and conservation policies are made and administered.

Our job at IAPD is to offer those opportunities in a manner that is useful, convenient and affordable. Our online curriculum is another way that we are striving to do just that. When it goes live, I hope that you will take advantage of this unique educational opportunity available to you when and where you want it.



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Satisfaction Level	Percentage
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Satisfied	59%
Unsatisfied	9%
Very Unsatisfied	3%

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Mike Selep, CPRP
IPRA Professional Services
Director and Interim CEO

Illinois Lost the 2016 Olympic Bid, But Still Brought Home the Gold

“The host of the 2016 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games is Chicago, Illinois.” Applause, applause. Smile President Obama. More applause.

These were the words and actions that most Illinois residents, and park and recreation professionals and elected officials in particular, were hoping to hear during the October 2 selection announcement of the host city for the 2016 games. Hosting the games would have brought opportunities to further develop Chicago area athletic facilities and have Chicago take center stage showcasing its wonder and beauty to the world. It was quite disappointing for so many involved in the process when Chicago was not selected.

Would the same type of disappointment occur less than two weeks later during a different selection process?

The NRPA Gold Medal Awards

This year’s finalists in the prestigious National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management were recognized at the NRPA Congress in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Grand Plaque recipients were announced during the Opening General Session on Wednesday, October 14. The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and agency recognition. Each agency was judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials.

Illinois Proves its ‘Medal’

Thirteen Illinois agencies were semifinalists. Would Illinois take home top honors? Class V, communities with less than 25,000, featured three Illinois agencies out of the four national nominees – Batavia, Itasca and Vernon Hills Park Districts. Could the City of Golden Parks and Recreation Department in Colorado

compete with the three mighty Illinois agencies to win Class V? Golden did compete; however, Itasca took home the top honors, leaving Golden without additional gold.

Class IV, communities with 25,001 to 50,000 in population, featured four Illinois agencies, Bartlett, Buffalo Grove, Downers Grove and Lombard Park Districts. Could the winner be a write-in candidate, Rio de Janeiro, a city perhaps not satisfied with winning the Olympic and Paralympic bid, perhaps? Illinois could not be denied a second Gold Medal. Lombard was announced the winner.

Class III, communities with 50,001 to 100,000 in population, featured three Illinois agencies, Arlington Heights, Glenview and

Congratulations to all of the Illinois finalists and winners of the National Gold Medal Awards!



Hoffman Estates Park Districts. Temple Parks and Leisure Services in Texas was the fourth finalist. You don’t normally want to mess with Texas, but in this instance the Gold Medal Awards Committee chose Hoffman Estates as the winner.

Class II, communities with 100,001 to 250,000 in population, featured two Illinois agencies, the Fox Valley Park District and Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria (obviously Peoria does not have a driveway that ices up like mine does in the winter, not a pleasure at all). The cities of Ft. Collins, Colorado and Peoria, Arizona were also finalists. Two Peorias in one category, an epic Peoria battle royale was unleashed. But it was Fox Valley that emerged the winner.

It is more important than ever for park and recreation professionals to work together, developing and sharing resources and best practices, if Illinois is to continue to advance.

There were two other categories, Class I, communities with over 250,001 in population, and state organizations. There were four finalists in each of those categories. Milwaukee, Illinois' close neighbor, was the winner of Class I honors, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Bureau of State Parks won the state honors.

Working Together to Retain the Illinois Advantage

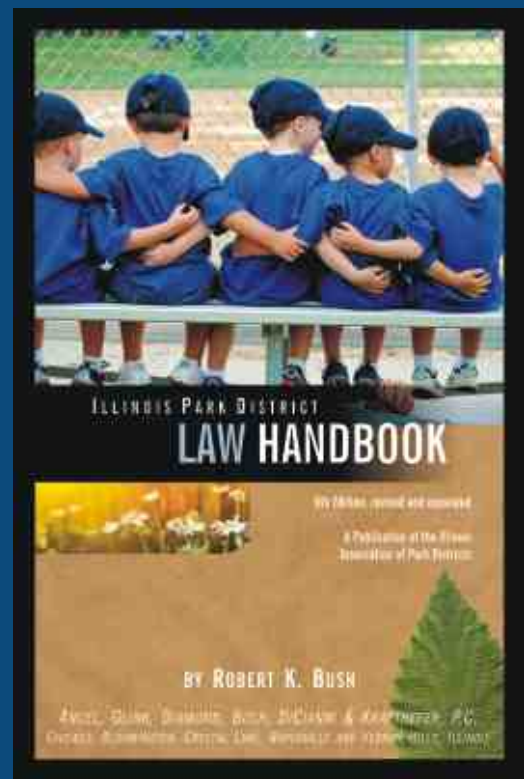
There were four winners of the 13 Illinois finalist agencies amongst the 24 overall finalists. Congratulations to all of the Illinois finalists and winners! Illinois agencies have proven to have a distinct advantage in these types of competitions, as many of our agencies, as special taxing districts, are able to levy their own individual taxes without direct competition from other public services, such as police and fire departments. In addition, the hard work and dedication of our professionals and elected officials is second to none in terms of public service to our communities.

At the national congress, individuals from agencies throughout the country reminded me that park and recreation departments are experiencing major cutbacks due to the economy. Cutbacks running as deep as 65 percent have been made in park and recreation departments in California. Some park and recreation departments have simply been eliminated altogether, as parks and recreation has been a target of budget cuts.

It is perhaps more important than ever for park and recreation professionals to work together, developing and sharing resources and best practices, if Illinois is to continue to advance and create higher quality services for citizens. It is critical to do this as Illinois taxpayers have provided vast resources towards the advancement of parks and recreation in this state.

There will be increased access for involvement and engagement in professional development opportunities throughout the state in 2010 for staff and elected officials. IPRA and IAPD continue to work closely together and use technology and resources to do so more effectively and efficiently. There is no substitute for gathering in person. However, using technology will help to keep the flow of information consistent when travel cutbacks and limitations on time serve as barriers to leaving your agency to seek professional development. Take advantage of these opportunities to develop both yourself and your agency to better serve your community.

Thank you to Itasca, Lombard, Hoffman Estates and Fox Valley Park Districts for bringing home the gold for Illinois. May we all work diligently in 2010 to become more effective and efficient, while continuing to develop professionally and advance our communities in the process.



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This fully updated version of the *Illinois Park District Law Handbook* consolidates a vast body of law into a single user-friendly volume that explains the complex laws and codes that govern local park districts. Revised and expanded sections feature guidance on new qualifications for serving on park boards, changes to the Open Meetings Act, the Freedom of Information Act and more.

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Peter M. Murphy
IAPD General Counsel

IAPD Legislative Initiatives a Success

This year the IAPD had tremendous success with its legislative agenda. A number of notable pieces of legislation passed the Illinois General Assembly, including **House Bill 242** (now **Public Act 96-501**), which brought common sense to the application of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law as it pertains to bonded indebtedness. This important initiative added the consumer price index as a growth indicator to the debt service extension base of Illinois park districts, forest preserves and conservation districts, as well as other units of local government. The law took effect upon the governor's signing on August 14.

Member concerns were also addressed with the passage of **House Bill 2295** (**Public Act 96-458**), which creates a new threshold for qualification as a park district commissioner. The legislation provides that in addition to being a resident of a district for not less than 12 months, those running for park district commissioner must not be in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness due to the park district or convicted in any court located in the United States of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury or other felony.

Another legislative initiative that adds directly to the bottom line of Illinois park districts is **House Bill 4151**, which extends the repayment period of bonded indebtedness from 20 to 25 years. The bill was signed into law as **Public Act 96-321** on August 11.

A Capital Construction Program, OSLAD Funding and OLT

For the first time in ten years, the legislature passed a capital program for the state of Illinois, and many member agencies of the Illinois Association of Park Districts were direct recipients of programmatic dollars that will assist them in expanding park and recreation opportunities for the citizens they serve. **Senate Bill 1221** was signed into law on July 13 as **Public Act 96-39**. In addition, \$25 million was designated for open space acquisition through the Illinois Open Land Trust (OLT) program.

In an effort to get more Illinoisans working, the capital program had many important elements. Of particular interest to the IAPD membership is **House Bill 2424** (**Public Act 96-37**), which creates the Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act. This bill, in part, provides for the program parameters around which the Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act of 2009 will operate. The next step will be for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to go through the rule making process so that grants can be initiated.

This year the OSLAD program was also funded at \$17 million, which approximates the money coming from the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT). While RETT revenue has slowed due to the economy, it is expected that it will rebound during 2010.

Other New Legislation of Interest

There were many other initiatives that directly affect the operation of your agency. Some of the more significant ones are listed below.

Take the opportunity to thank your state representatives, senators and Governor Pat Quinn for their commitment to advancing initiatives important to parks and recreation.



Changes to the Freedom of Information Act

With **Senate Bill 189**, (now **Public Act 96-542**), the Illinois General Assembly also passed broad sweeping changes to the Freedom of Information Act, which should be reviewed by all agencies in conjunction with their attorneys.

Capital Grants for Parks

House Bill 312, which was signed into law as **Public Act 96-35** on July 13, appropriated \$150,000,000 from the Build Illinois Bond Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for capital grants to parks or recreational units for permanent improvements.

One Dollar Leases of Closed State Properties

House Bill 37 creates the Lease of Closed State Properties Act. Passed into law on August 18 as **Public Act 96-557**, this bill requires that the Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency offer to lease out to any interested unit of local government the operation and maintenance of any closed state park or historic site for one dollar. This bill also provides that the leasing entity shall retain all revenues generated by such operation during the term of the lease.

The legislature passed a capital program, and many IAPD members were direct recipients of programmatic dollars that will assist them in expanding park and recreation opportunities for citizens.

Procurement by Reverse Auction

House Bill 379 creates the Local Government Electronic Reverse Auction Act by authorizing local governments to use an electronic reverse auction procurement method for purchases of supplies and services other than professional and artistic services. This bill was signed into law on August 18 as **Public Act 96-588**.

Park and Museum Funding from Inter-track Betting Revenues

House Bill 467 amends the Illinois Horse Racing Act of 1975 and provides that if an inter-track wagering location licensee's facility changes its location, then the payments associated with that facility for museum purposes shall be paid to the park district in the area where the facility relocates, and the payments shall be used for museum purposes. The measure provides that if the facility does not relocate to an area served by a park district, then the payments shall be paid to the taxing district that is responsible for park or museum expenditures. This bill was signed into law on August 18 as **Public Act 96-562**.

Election of Forest Preserve District Commissioners

The Downstate Forest Preserve District Act was amended by **Public Act 96-239** (formerly **House Bill 477**), which was signed into law on August 11. This Act provides that, if the boundaries of a district are co-extensive with the boundaries of a county having a population of more than 200,000 but less than 800,000 bordering the State of Wisconsin but not adjoining any county with a population of more than 2,000,000, then all commissioners of the forest preserve district shall be elected at large.

Truth in Taxation Notice

House Bill 493 amends the Property Tax Code. With respect to Truth in Taxation provisions and the notice that must be published if an adopted levy exceeds a proposed levy, this law authorizes the following statement to be included in the notice at the discretion of the taxing district: "The taxing district has estimated its equalized assessed valuation to secure new growth revenue and must adhere to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL or "tax cap" law)." This bill was signed into law on August 14 as **Public Act 96-504**.

AED Training

House Bill 921 was signed into law on August 25 as **Public Act 96-748** and provides that a physical fitness center shall have available and on its premises during staffed business hours at least one person who holds a valid certificate indicating that he or she has successfully completed a course of training in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The law deletes a requirement that a physical fitness facility have a trained AED user present during all physical fitness activities.

Local Governments to Fly American Made Flags

On August 14, **Public Act 96-513** (formerly **House Bill 1332**) was signed into law creating the Official United States Flag Act. The Act provides that each agency of state government shall ensure that each United States flag that is flown at each building, structure or facility that is owned or occupied entirely by the agency or unit of local government is manufactured in the United States.

Great Lakes Conservation

House Bill 3828 amends the Illinois Lake Management Program Act by creating the Task Force on the Conservation and Quality of the Great Lakes for the protection of the water quality and supply of the Great Lakes. This bill was signed into law on August 14 as **Public Act 96-471**.

Chicago Park District Gets the Design-Build Option

House Bill 3986, which amends the Chicago Park District Act by authorizing the Chicago Park District to enter into "design-build contracts," was signed into law on August 28 as **Public Act 96-777**.

Public Works and the Prevailing Wage Act

Senate Bill 223 was signed into law on July 23 as **Public Act 96-58**. This bill amends the definition of "public works" in the Prevailing Wage Act and provides that "public works" includes all projects financed in whole or in part with bonds, grants, loans or other funds made available by or through the state or any of its political subdivisions.

A Clarification Concerning IDNR's Grant Making Ability Under the Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act

On Friday, October 30, the last day of the fall veto session, **Senate Bill 1265** passed both houses. This bill creates the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Implementation (Fall Supplemental) Act and amends the Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act of 2009 to authorize the Department of Natural Resources to make grants and specifically includes forest preserves and conservation districts within the purview of the act.

Re-defining "Physical Fitness Facilities" and their AED Requirements

Senate Bill 1371 amends the Physical Fitness Facility Medical Emergency Preparedness Act by defining the term "physical fitness facility" to include any of certain specified types of outdoor facilities owned by a municipality, township or other unit of local government. Under the measure, these facilities must have an AED on site, as well as a trained AED user available only during activities or events sponsored or sanctioned by the unit of local government and conducted or supervised by a person or persons employed by the unit of local government. This bill passed both Houses on October 29.

Re-Computation of Property Tax Installments

Senate Bill 1215 amends the Property Tax Code by providing that, beginning with taxes payable in 2010, property tax installments in counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants will have the first installment computed at 55% (instead of 50%) of the total of each tax bill for the preceding year. This bill was signed into law on August 14 as **Public Act 96-490**.

The IAPD has and will continue to provide educational information on these important changes.

Legislators Support Parks and Recreation

This season, please take the opportunity to thank your state representatives, senators and Governor Pat Quinn for their commitment to advancing initiatives important to parks and recreation. They truly understand and appreciate the importance of what you do, and they are to be commended on their commitment.

I would also personally like to thank all board members and professionals who were involved in the legislative program this year. You are indeed the key to our success and your commitment makes the voice of Illinois parks, forest preserves, conservation and recreation agencies a strong and resounding one.

Keep Learning

This month the Illinois Association of Park Districts has published the 6th edition of the *Illinois Park District Law Handbook*. This updated publication is an important tool for all park board members and professionals. See page 26 for more details.

legal calendar 2010

Prepared by Peter M. Murphy, IAPD General Counsel

The following park district calendar is based on a fiscal year that begins on May 1 and ends on April 30. For those park districts that have adopted another date for the commencement of the fiscal year (70 ILCS 1205/4-4), this calendar must be adjusted for those duties that must be performed at times related to the fiscal year. The calendar is also established around regular park board meetings held on the third Thursday of each month.

ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CALENDAR (OR FISCAL) YEAR:

- Post the date, time and place of park district regular meetings for the year. Mail copies to the news media. (30 ILCS 120/2.02) (All references are to the Illinois Compiled Statutes.)
- Review the requirement that beginning July 1, 2006, posting of meeting notices, agenda and minutes must be placed on the agency's Web site, if the site is maintained by a full-time employee of the agency. (Senate Bill 266 P.A. 94-28)
- Review the requirement that beginning January 1, 2004, all closed sessions are to be recorded verbatim by audio or video. (P.A. 93-523)
- Review with the park district treasurer the requirement that all funds of the district not immediately needed for disbursement must be invested within two working days at prevailing rates or better. (30 ILCS 225/1)
- Review the requirement that every person, other than the treasurer, receiving money for the district must keep a triplicate record of the money, and deliver the money to the treasurer not later than the middle of the month following the month of receipt. (30 ILCS 20/1)
- The American flag must be displayed and flown each day of the week from each City Hall or Village Hall and Village Square and at the principal entrance to all public parks. (5 ILCS 465/36)
- Contributions to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund must be deducted each pay period from covered employee's pay and remitted to the Retirement Board along with the contribution from the

municipality. This requirement is mandatory for municipalities over 5,000 population where Social Security is not provided, and elective for others. (40 ILCS 5/7-132 and 7-172)

- Review the requirements that all newly hired employees must be reported to the Illinois Department of Security within 20 days of the employee's first day on the payroll.
- Those park districts that have elected to place their employees under Social Security must send in contributions at such times as may be designated by the State Social Security Agency. (40 ILCS 5/7-132 and 7-172)

EVERY SIX MONTHS

Unpublished written minutes of all closed meetings are to be reviewed not less than semiannually. Minutes are to be reviewed to determine if (a) the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes, or (b) if the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection. The results of the review are to be reported in the open session of the board of commissioners. (5 ILCS 120/2.06)

SEPTEMBER 2009

SEPTEMBER 17

First day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected, rather than appointed, may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory. (10 ILCS 5/28-2)

OCTOBER 2009

OCTOBER 19

Last day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected, rather than appointed, may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory. (10 ILCS 5/28-2)

OCTOBER 19

Last day to file petitions (must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators) to create a political subdivision with the appropriate circuit court clerk. (10 ILCS 5/28-2)

NOTE: Objections can be filed on or before the date of the hearing with the appropriate circuit court clerk. (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

NOTE: If initial officers are to be elected at the election for creation of a new unit of government, candidates for such offices shall file nomination papers 78-71 days before such election (December 29, 2003 - January 5, 2004). (10 ILCS 5/10-6)

NOTE: The circuit court clerk shall publish the hearing date for a public policy petition filed in his/her office not later than 14 days after the petition is actually filed, but at least 5 days before actual hearing. (Final orders within 7 days of hearing.) (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

OCTOBER 26

Last day to file objections to petition to create a political subdivision in the office of the circuit clerk. (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

NOVEMBER 2009

NOVEMBER 16

Last day for filing petitions (must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators) for referenda for the submission of questions of public policy (local).

(EXCEPTION: proposition to create a political subdivision.) (10 ILCS 5/28-2, 28-6, 28-7)

NOTE: Petitions for referenda must be filed not less than 78 days prior to the election.

NOVEMBER 23

Last day to file objections to petitions for the submission of questions of public policy. (EXCEPTION: proposition to create a political subdivision) (10 ILCS 5/10-8, 28-4)

NOVEMBER 30

Last day for local governing boards to adopt a resolution or ordinance to allow binding public questions to appear on the ballot. (10 ILCS 5/28-2; 60 ILCS 1/80-80)

DECEMBER 2009

DECEMBER 3

Last day for the circuit court clerk and the local election official to certify any question of public policy to the election authority having jurisdiction over the political subdivision. (10 ILCS 5/28-5)

DECEMBER 17

Regular December Board Meeting.

DECEMBER 24

First day for any registered voter presently within the confines of the United States, who expects to be absent from his county of residence on election day, to make application by mail or in person to the election authority for an official ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

NOTE: Most first time voters who register by mail must vote in person, either in person, absentee (at the office of the election authority or authorized municipal, township or road district clerk), as a hospitalized or nursing home voter or at precinct polling place. For exceptions, see 42

USC 1973gg-4(c) and SBE Rule, Title 26, Section 216.90

NOTE: Certain situations other than absence from residence also permit application for absentee ballot to be made. (10 ILCS 5/19-3)

DECEMBER 24

Last day for civic organizations and proposition proponents or opponents to register their names and addresses and the names and addresses of their principal officers with the proper election authority if the organization wants to qualify for poll watchers at the general primary election.

JANUARY 2010

JANUARY 4

First day for election authority to publish notice of any question of public policy to be voted on within the jurisdiction. The election authority shall post a copy of the notice at the principal office of the political or governmental subdivision. If there is no principal office, the local election official shall post the notice at the building in which the governing body of the political or governmental subdivision held its first meeting of the calendar year in which the referendum is being held. (10 ILCS 5/12-4, 12-5)

JANUARY 11

First day for local election officials (qualified municipal, township, and road district clerks) to conduct in-person absentee voting. (10 ILCS 5/19-2.1)

JANUARY 21

Regular January Board Meeting.

JANUARY 28-30

Attend the IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference, Chicago Hilton.

JANUARY 25

Last day for election authority to publish notice of any question of public policy to be voted upon within the jurisdiction. The election authority shall also post a copy of the notice at the principal office of the election authority. The election authority shall also post a copy of the notice at the principal office of the political or governmental subdivision. If there is no principal office, the local

election official shall post the notice at the building in which the governing body of the political or governmental subdivision held its first meeting of the calendar year in which the referendum is being held. (10 ILCS 5/12-4, 12-5)

JANUARY 28

Last day for the election authority to receive application by mail from any registered voter presently within the confines of the United States who expects to be absent from his county of residence on election day and the last day for the election authority to mail such ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

JANUARY 28

Last day for early voting at the office of the election authority and locations designated by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/19A-15, 19A-20)

JANUARY 31

Last day for filing the annual Certificate of Status of Real Estate to continue the exemption of park property from real estate taxes for the taxable year 2009.

FEBRUARY 2010

FEBRUARY 1

On or before February 1 annually, the chief administrative officer or his or her designee for a unit of local government with persons described in items (h), (i) and (k) of Section 4A-101 shall certify to the appropriate county clerk a list of names and addresses of those persons described in items (h), (i) and (k) of Section 4A-101 that are required to file statements of economic interest pursuant to the Governmental Ethics Act. In preparing the lists, each chief administrative officer or his or her designee shall set out the names in alphabetical order by county of residence, and if any person resides in another county or outside of Illinois, shall submit a list of persons required to file to the county clerk of the county in which the principle office of the unit of government with which the person is associated is located.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

FEBRUARY 18

Regular February board meeting.

MARCH 2010

A good month to check zoning changes and annexations by cities or villages within the district boundaries. (If there have been any changes in the boundaries of zoning districts, cities and villages must publish a new zoning map by March 31 and furnish a copy of the map upon request.) (65 ILCS 5/11-13-19)

MARCH 17-19

Attend NRPA Mid Year Meeting in Washington, D.C.

MARCH 18

Regular March board meeting.

APRIL 2010

ECONOMIC INTEREST STATEMENTS

APRIL 1

On or before April 1 annually, the county clerk of each county shall notify all persons whose names have been certified to him, other than candidates for office who have filed their statements with their nominating petitions, of the requirements for filing statements of economic interests.

Public Act 88-605 requires the following persons to file verified written statements of economic interests:

(g) Persons who are elected to office in a unit of local government, and candidates for nomination or election to that office.

(h) Persons appointed to the governing board of a unit of local government and persons appointed to a board or commission of a unit of local government who have the authority to authorize the expenditure of public funds. This subsection does not apply to members of boards or commissions who function in an advisory capacity.

(i) Persons who are employed by a unit of local government and are compensated for services as employees and not as independent contractors and who:

1. are, or function as, the head of a department, division, bureau, authority or other administrative unit within the unit of local government, or who exercise similar authority within the unit of local government;
2. have direct supervisory authority over, or direct responsibility for the formulation, negotiation, issuance or execution of contracts entered into by the unit of local government in the amount of \$1,000 or greater;
3. have authority to approve licenses and permits by the unit of local government (this item does not include employees who function in a ministerial capacity);
4. adjudicate, arbitrate or decide any judicial or administrative proceeding, or review the adjudication, arbitration or decision of any judicial or administrative proceeding within the authority of the unit of local government;
5. have authority to issue or promulgate rules and regulations within areas under the authority of the unit of local government; or
6. have supervisory responsibility for 20 or more employees of the unit of local government.

Failure to file a statement of economic interests within the time prescribed shall not result in a fine or ineligibility for, or forfeiture of, office or position of employment, provided that the failure to file results from not being included for notification by the appropriate agency, clerk, secretary, officer or unit of government, and that a statement is filed within 30 days of actual notice of the failure to file.

All statements of economic interests filed under this shall be available for examination and copying by the public at all reasonable times.

Any person required to file a statement of economic interests under this Article who willfully files a false or incomplete statement shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Failure to file a statement within the time prescribed shall result in ineligibility for, or forfeiture of, office or position of employment,

as the case may be; provided, however, that if the notice of failure to file a statement of economic interests provided is not given by the county clerk, no forfeiture shall result if a statement is filed within 30 days of actual notice of the failure to file.

APRIL 5

The suggested date to prepare the budget and appropriation ordinance in tentative form and place on file for public inspection at least 30 days prior to final action. (All park districts are required to adopt a combined budget and appropriation ordinance within or before the first quarter of each fiscal year.) (70 ILCS 1205/4-4)

APRIL 15

Regular April board meeting.

APRIL 27

April 27 is Parks Day at the Capitol with park district and forest preserve displays lining the Capitol Rotunda.

APRIL 27-28

Attend the IAPD Legislative Conference in Springfield. The Legislative Reception is held the evening of April 27 with the conference starting the next morning on April 28.

MAY 2010

MAY 1

The last date for filing Statements of Economic Interest for persons who have not previously filed during the calendar year. (Public Act 88-605)

MAY 1

The date to send notice to the Illinois Department of Labor requesting determination of current prevailing rate of wages for the district's area. (820 ILCS 130/4)

MAY 1

(Beginning of new fiscal year.) The date to post the dates, times and places of park district regular meetings for the fiscal year. Mail copies to news media. (As an alternative, this can be done at the beginning of the calendar year.) (5 ILCS 120/1.02)

MAY 1

The date to start the annual audit. Every governmental unit is required to make an annual audit to cover the immediately preceding fiscal year. The audit must "be completed and the audit report filed with the Comptroller within six months after the close of the fiscal year." All governmental units are also required to file a copy of the completed report with the county clerk. (50 ILCS 310/2 and 310/3)

NOTE: Any governmental unit appropriating less than \$850,000 is required to file a financial report with the Comptroller in lieu of an audit. Any governmental unit appropriating \$850,000 or more shall, in addition to complying with the audit requirements, file a financial report on forms required by the Comptroller. (50 ILCS 310/3) See P.A. 92-582, effective July 1, 2002.

MAY 3

The date to begin preparation of the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements (30 ILCS 15/1)

MAY 7

The suggested date to publish notice of public hearing on the budget and appropriation ordinance (must be done at least one week prior to hearing). (70 ILCS 1205/4-4)

MAY 20

The regular May board meeting.

This is the suggested date to hold the public hearing on the budget and appropriation ordinance and the date for enacting the ordinance at the board meeting following the hearing. (70 ILCS 1205/4-4)

NOTE 1: The budget and appropriation ordinance must be made available in tentative form for public inspection at least 30 days prior to final action thereon.

NOTE 2: All taxing districts are also required to file a certified copy of their budget and appropriation ordinances with the county clerk within 30 days of adoption, as well as an estimate, certified by the district's chief fiscal officer, of revenues, by source, anticipated to be received by the taxing district in the following fiscal year. Failure of a district to file the required document will authorize the county clerk to refuse to extend the tax levy imposed by the governing authority until such documents are filed. (35 ILCS 200/18-50)

MAY 28

General Assembly scheduled to adjourn.

JUNE 2010

JUNE 18

The last day for filing a copy of the district's budget and appropriation ordinance with the county clerk, as well as a certified estimate of revenue by source anticipated to be received in the following fiscal year (assuming a passage adoption date of May 20).

JUNE 17

Regular June board meeting.

JUNE 17

First day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision, whose officers are to be elected rather than appointed, may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or, if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory. (10 ILCS 5/28-2).

JUNE 30

The last day to: (a) determine prevailing rate of wages, (b) post the rate schedule for inspection and (c) file certified copy of determination with Secretary of State. (820 ILCS 130/9)

NOTE: Pursuant to 820 ILCS 130/4, a park district may request the Department of Labor to ascertain the prevailing rate of wages.

JULY 2010

JULY 15

Regular July board meeting.

JULY 19

Last day notice to file a petition to create a political subdivision, whose officers are to be elected rather than appointed, may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or, if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the territory. (10 ILCS 5/28-2)

JULY 19

Last day to file a petition – must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators – to create a political subdivision with the circuit court clerk. (10 ILCS 5/28-2)

JULY 22

Attend the Legislative Golf Outing at the Bensenville Park District

JULY 26

Last day to file objections to petitions to create a political subdivision in the office of the circuit clerk. (10 ILCS 5/28-2)

JULY 30

The last date to publish determination of prevailing rate of wages (if determination was made by the district and not the Department of Labor) and mail copies of rates to requesting parties. (Publication must be within 30 days of date of filing with Secretary of State.) (820 ILCS 130/9)

JULY 31

The last day to file for persons or entities required to report under the Lobbyist Registration Act.

AUGUST 2010

AUGUST 1

The date nominations for the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Board are to be made. (Between August 1 and September 15.) (40 ILCS 5/7-175)

AUGUST 16

Last day for filing petitions – must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators – for referenda for the submission of questions of public policy (local/with the appropriate election authority or local election official). (EXCEPTION: proposition to create a political subdivision, referenda held under the provisions of Article IX of the Liquor Control Act and Section 18-20 of the Property Tax Code.) (10 ILCS 5/28-2, 28-6, 28-7)

AUGUST 19

Regular August board meeting.

AUGUST 23

Last day to file objections to petitions of questions of public policy. (EXCEPTION: proposition to create a political subdivision, referenda held under the provisions of Article IX of the Liquor Control Act and Section 18-20 of the Property Tax Code.) (10 ILCS 5/10-8, 28-4)

AUGUST 30

Last day for local governing boards to adopt a resolution or ordinance to allow a binding public question to appear on the ballot. (EXCEPTION: county, municipal, park district and township boards may place advisory referenda on the ballot by resolution.) (10 ILCS 5/28-2; 55 ILCS 5/5-1005.5; 60 ILCS 1/80-80; 65 ILCS 5/3.1-40-60; 70 ILCS 1205/8-30)

SEPTEMBER 2010

A good month to review and update park district policies and ordinances.

SEPTEMBER 2

Last day for the circuit court clerk and the local election official to certify any binding question or advisory referenda to the election authority having jurisdiction over the political subdivision. (10 ILCS 5/28-5)

SEPTEMBER 16

Regular September board meeting.

OCTOBER 2010

OCTOBER 4

The suggested date to review documents to determine which records can be destroyed permission of Local Records Commission required. See P.A. 90-701 for authorization to digitize records. (50 ILCS 205/1)

OCTOBER 14

The suggested date for the board to estimate the funds to be raised by the tax levy ordinance and to determine whether the funds to be raised exceed, by more than 105 percent, the amount extended or estimated to be extended upon the levy of the preceding year. (This determination must be made at least 20 days prior to enactment of the levy ordinance.) (35 ILCS 215/4 and 6)

NOTE 1: Public Act 86-957 passed by the General Assembly in 1989 and P.A. 88-455 make a number of changes to the Truth in Taxation Act including a change in the content of the notice provisions.

NOTE 2: Legislation also requires that all local governments file either certificate of compliance or a certificate indicating the inapplicability of the Truth in Taxation Act with the county clerk.

NOTE 3: Public Act 93-612 provides park districts in the tax cap counties the authority to levy a tax for handicapped programs outside the restrictions of the tax cap.

NOTE 4: Public Act 96-504 provides that a local government can include its Truth in Taxation Notice.

NOTE 5: It is recommended that the park district attorney review all determinations and proceedings relating to this reference, which is the Truth in Taxation Act. (35 ILCS 200/18-55 et seq.)

OCTOBER 21

Regular October board meeting. Review non-referendum bonding needs preparatory to selling bonds before close of calendar year. (70 ILCS 1205/6-4)

OCTOBER 25-29

Attend the NRPA Congress in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

OCTOBER 25

Last day for the election authority to publish a notice of any question of public policy to be voted upon within its jurisdiction. The election authority shall also post a copy of the notice at the principal office of the election authority. The local election official shall also post a copy of the notice at the principal office of the political or government subdivision. If there is no principal office, the local election official shall post the notice at the building in which the governing body of the political or governmental subdivision held its first meeting of the calendar year in which the referenda is being held. (10 ILCS 5/12-5)

OCTOBER 31

The last day to publish annual statement of receipts and disbursements, and file a copy with the county clerk for districts on a May 1-April 30 fiscal year. (Must be accomplished within six months of close of fiscal year.) (30 ILCS 15/1)

OCTOBER 31

The last day to file annual audit report with the Comptroller of the State of Illinois and county clerk (within six months of close of fiscal year). (50 ILCS 310/2 and 6)

NOVEMBER 2010

NOVEMBER 1

The last day for any registered voter, presently within the confines of the United States, who expects to be absent from his county of residence on election day, to make application in person to the election authority or approved local election official for an official ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2010 GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 4

Attend the IAPD Legal Symposium McDonald's Corp. Ctr., Oak Brook

NOVEMBER 8

The suggested date to publish notice of hearing (Truth in Taxation Act) if the district's proposed levy is greater than 105 percent of last year's extension or estimated extension must publish not more than 14 days, nor less than 7 days prior to the date of the public hearing. November 8 publication date assumes a hearing date of November 15-22, 2010. Be sure to check special publication requirements found in statute. (35 ILCS 200/18-)

NOTE: Notice of public hearing must now include the commonly known name of the taxing district. Further, any notice which includes information in excess of that specified and required by the Act shall be considered an invalid notice.

NOVEMBER 18

Regular November board meeting and the suggested date to hold a hearing pursuant to the Truth in Taxation Act. (35 ILCS 200/18-55 et seq.)

NOVEMBER 18

The suggested date to enact tax levy ordinance at the regular meeting following the Truth in Taxation hearing (if required).

DECEMBER 2010

DECEMBER 1

The suggested date to verify that, for real estate acquired in 2009, appropriate petitions have been filed to exempt from real estate taxes. (35 ILCS 205/19)

DECEMBER 3

(If levy ordinance was enacted on Nov. 18, 2010) The last day to publish notice if levy amounts as enacted exceed prior published figures, or if levy exceeds 105 percent of last year's extension and there was not prior publication. (Notice must be given within 15 days of the date the levy ordinance was enacted.) (35 ILCS 215/7)

DECEMBER 8

The suggested date to confirm that a certified copy of the levy ordinance was properly filed with the county clerk. (70 ILCS 1205/5-1 requires that a certified copy of the levy ordinance be filed with the county clerk not later than the last Tuesday in December.)

DECEMBER 16

The regular December board meeting date and suggested date to enact bond ordinance for non-referendum bonds to be issued prior to the end of calendar year. (70 ILCS 1205/6-4)

DECEMBER 28

The last day to (a) file certified copy of tax levy ordinance with county clerk (70 ILCS 1205/5-1), and (b) file board president's Certificate of Compliance with county clerk. (35 ILCS 200/18-15) (See Public Act 88-455)

NOTE: State statute requires that all local governments file either certificate of compliance or a certificate indicating the inapplicability of the Truth in Taxation Act with the county clerk.

DECEMBER 31

The suggested date to prepare and file with the supervisor of Assessments the Annual Certification status of Exempt Property for 2011. (Last day for filing is January 31, 2011.) (35 ILCS 205/19)

DECEMBER 31

The suggested day to file bond ordinance with county clerk in order to receive extensions of taxes for bond repayment in 2010. The filing must actually take place prior to March 1, 2011.

NOTE: This filing has no relationship to the General Tax Levy filed by park districts.

JANUARY 2011

JANUARY 5

Newly elected members of the General Assembly shall convene and organize their respective chambers. (Ill. Const., Art. IV Secs. 5,6(b))

I A P D O N C E A G A I N H O N O R S



Best

the best of the



IAPD President and CEO Dr. Ted Flickinger and Elmhurst Park District Commissioner and IAPD Board Chairman Colette Kubiesa were the masters of ceremonies at the 3rd annual IAPD Best of the Best Gala held in September.

On September 11, IAPD Board Chairman Colette Kubiesa of the Elmhurst Park District Board and IAPD President and CEO Dr. Ted Flickinger handed out more than 50 awards, giving much deserved recognition to board members, citizen volunteers, businesses, government officials and media who have done an outstanding job of advancing the mission of parks, recreation and conservation in Illinois.

The occasion was the third annual "Best of the Best" Awards Gala held at Wheeling Park District's Traditions at Chevy Chase Country Club.

Agencies throughout Illinois submitted nominations for the following categories: Board Member Service Anniversary Award, Agency Anniversary Award, Illinois Parks' Top Journalist Award, Best Friend of Illinois Parks – Business Category, Intergovernmental Cooperation Award, Partnership Award, Arts in the Park Award, Best Green Practices, Good Sportsmanship Award, and Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award.

"We received a tremendous response from our member agencies, with more than 100 award nominations submitted," said Dr. Flickinger. "It is so important to be able to recognize those who give so much of their time, resources and talents to making the Illinois park, recreation and conservation system one of the best in the nation."

The award nominations were divided among several committees of judges who reviewed and scored each nomination. Winners were selected in first, second and third place, and were invited to attend the Awards Gala for recognition in front of an audience of more than 230 people prominently involved in the Illinois park district, recreation and conservation agency system.

This year's gala featured the debut of two new awards. The Best Green Practices Award is given to an agency that has taken the initiative to incorporate and encourage environmentally friendly practices and policies. And Arts Alliance Illinois presented its first-ever Arts in the Park Award for an agency that supports the arts and partners with artists and arts organizations to enhance the quality of life in its community.

The Best of the Best 2009



Board Member Service Anniversary Awards

10 Years

Mary Ann Chambers, Northbrook Park District
William "Bill" Durkin, Jr., Waukegan Park District
Christine Gentes, Round Lake Area Park District
Nathaniel "Nate" Martin, Rockford Park District
Roy McKinney, Ivanhoe Park District
Gail Towers, Dolton Park District
Troy Whalen, Grayslake Community Park District

13 Years

Kurt Gronau, Lake Bluff Park District

15 Years

Michael Formento, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Catherine Hurlbut, Forest Preserve District of Kane County
Lori Noonan, Bloomingdale Park District

20 Years

Linda Blane, Rolling Meadows Park District
Fred Hohnke, Woodridge Park District
Debra Krase, Oswegoland Park District
Thomas Webber, Wheeling Park District

30 Years

Judy Beck, Glenview Park District
David Mason, DeKalb Park District
Gary Peckler, Golf Maine Park District



Woodridge Park District Commissioner Fred Hohnke (center) celebrates 20 years of board service with IAPD President and CEO Ted Flickinger and IAPD Board Chairman Colette Kubiesa.



Westmont Park District Commissioners Diane Main and John Karesh accept the agency's 50 Year Anniversary Award.



Celebrating the Rockford Park District's century of operation are (back row, left to right) IAPD President and CEO Ted Flickinger, Rockford Park District Executive Director Tim Dimke, Rockford Commissioner Dr. Chuck Brown, IAPD Board President Colette Kubiesa and (seated) Rockford Park District Commissioner Jack Armstrong.

Agency Anniversary Awards

40 Years

Woodridge Park District

50 Years

Grayslake Community Park District
Westmont Park District

75 Years

Park District of Forest Park

84 Years

Lake Bluff Park District

100 Years

Blue Island Park District
Rockford Park District





Illinois Parks' Top Journalist Award – Television

1st Place

WREX TV, nominated by the **Rockford Park District**: recognized for providing outstanding news coverage and for providing video services to the district.

Illinois Parks' Top Journalist Award – Print

1st Place

Lynne Stiefel, *Glenview Announcements – Pioneer Press*, nominated by the **Glenview Park District**: recognized for getting the story right.

Best Friend of Illinois Parks - Business Category

1st Place

Old Town Bank & Trust of Bloomingdale, nominated by the **Bloomingdale Park District**: recognized for providing underwriting in excess of \$15,000 per year for the past three years and for having the full bank leadership staff volunteer at district functions.

2nd Place

AAA Tentmasters, nominated by the **Waukegan Park District**: recognized for donating \$40,000 in discounts and cash to the district and helping with the polar bear plunge.

3rd Place

Old Second National Bank, nominated by the **Fox Valley Park District**: recognized for delivering more than \$100,000 in donations to the district in the past two years.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Award

1st Place

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County with the **Illinois Department of Natural Resources** and the **Bartlett Park District**: recognized for their tri-party agreement to save programming at the James "Pate" Phillip State Park Visitor Center.

2nd Place

Downers Grove Park District with the **Village of Downers Grove**: recognized for an agreement to mitigate flooding and improve parks at the same time.

3rd Place

Lockport Township Park District with the **Lockport Township Fire Protection District**: recognized for an innovative land swap and cost sharing agreement.



Carolyn Gable of the Expect a Miracle Foundation accepts the partnership award on behalf of her foundation and the Rolling Meadows Park District.

Partnership Award

1st Place

Rolling Meadows Park District with the **Expect a Miracle Foundation**: recognizing Expect a Miracle Foundation founder Carolyn Gable's commitment to help single-parent families pay park district program fees at this and many other agencies in Illinois.

2nd Place

Glenview Park District with **Glenview Youth Baseball**: recognized for the ball club's work on a district referendum even though it knew that the proceeds would not be used to build new diamonds.

3rd Place

Waukegan Park District with the **Boys and Girls Club of Lake County**: recognized for a partnership whereby the district leases its community center facility to the club at an affordable rate and the club uses grant money to enhance programming there.



Arts in the Park Award

1st Place

Chicago Park District: Honored for its wide ranging and unique programming, including its artist in residency program in which 17 artists with national reputations are located at district venues and offer programs.

2nd Place

Northwest Special Recreation Association: recognized for providing the opportunity for artists with disabilities from more than 35 agencies to show work at the SRA's annual art show.

3rd Place (Tie)

Champaign Park District: recognized for devoting an entire division dedicated to arts programming and

Waukegan Park District: recognized for its unique theater, dance center and music studio facilities.

Best Green Practices

1st Place

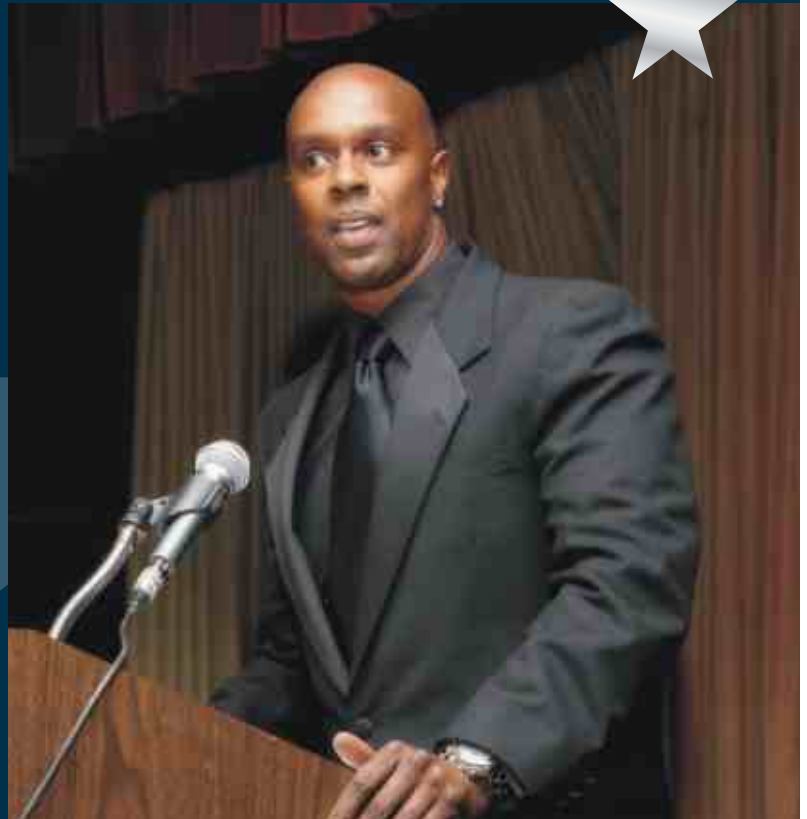
Chicago Park District: recognized for its 25 solar-powered trash compactors at lakefront locations that the public can use, its no-hassle recycling program for the public and its day camps, which each summer educate 25,000 children about green practices.

2nd Place

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County: recognized for its use of alternative energy vehicles, which will include the agency's entire fleet within the next two years.

3rd Place

Lake County Forest Preserve District: recognized for its sustainability policies.



Chicago Park District Chief Program Officer Dr. Dan K. Hibbler was on hand to accept the Arts in the Park award, given at the "Best of the Best" Gala by Arts Alliance Illinois. He received the award from Arts Alliance Executive Director Ra Joy.

Good Sportsmanship Award

1st Place (Tie)

Shah Quaiyoom, nominated by the **Mundelein Park and Recreation District:** Coach Shah has been coaching for 40 years. His bi-lingual Web site has brought the players and community together. His teams run a "coats and cleats" campaign to get jackets and sports equipment to kids who need them.

and

Lawrence Hardt, Jr., nominated by the **Summit Park District:** Lawrence Hardt is a teacher who 30 years ago established a soccer team at the district that has blossomed to a 20-team league.

2nd Place

Mark Pickett, nominated by the **Fox Valley Park District:** Mark Pickett is a recreation league soccer organizer who has helped more than 12,000 players learn the game in the past 20 years. His teams raised more than \$10,000 to fight breast cancer last year.

3rd Place

Andrew Frazier, Jr., nominated by the **Waukegan Park District:** In more than a quarter century of coaching, Coach Frazier has gotten his players to college and professional ball in Europe.



Shah Quaiyoom, accepts the Good Sportsmanship Award. He was nominated by the Mundelein Park and Recreation District.

Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year

1st Place

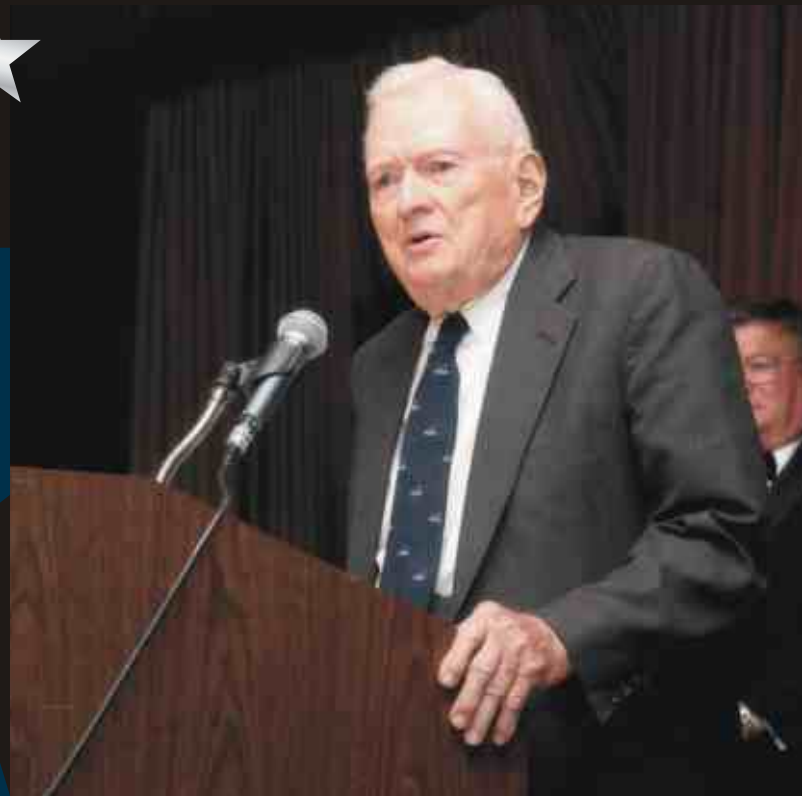
Dr. Lawrence DuBose, nominated by the **Forest Preserve District of DuPage County**: Dr. DuBose is a beekeeper who has passed on his craft to volunteers and visitors at the district's living history farm for more than 25 years. He has also donated more than \$20,000 of his own money to the bee operation and the construction of a new honey house.

2nd Place

George Franklin, nominated by the **Rockford Park District**: George Franklin and a group of volunteers saved the district's horse boarding and riding operation, taking it from a financial drain on the district to an income producer in just one year.

3rd Place

Jean (Susie) Schreiber, nominated by the **Waukegan Park District**: Susie Schreiber is an activist who has given 15,000 hours of her time to help preserve the Waukegan Watershed and educate children and adults on its ecological importance.



Beekeeper and volunteer extraordinaire Dr. Lawrence DuBose brought down the house with his Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year acceptance speech.

Remember the Evening, or See What you Missed: Best of the Best Images Available

More than 280 people attended the third annual Illinois Association of Park Districts' Best of the Best Awards Gala for an evening of inspiration and celebration.

Images from the evening are available at www.soulshine-photography.com.

To view photos:

1. Enter the website.
2. Click on "See Your Proofs" at the bottom.
3. Enter the password: IAPD.
4. Click on the gallery that you want to view and enjoy!

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Save the Date – Friday, October 1, 2010

The fourth Best of the Best Awards Gala is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 1, 2010 at the Wheeling Park District's Traditions at Chevy Chase Country Club. Please watch *Illinois Parks & Recreation* and other IAPD communications for details on nominating and reserving tables for this event.

It's never too early to start thinking about your nominations for next year's Best of the Best Awards Gala.

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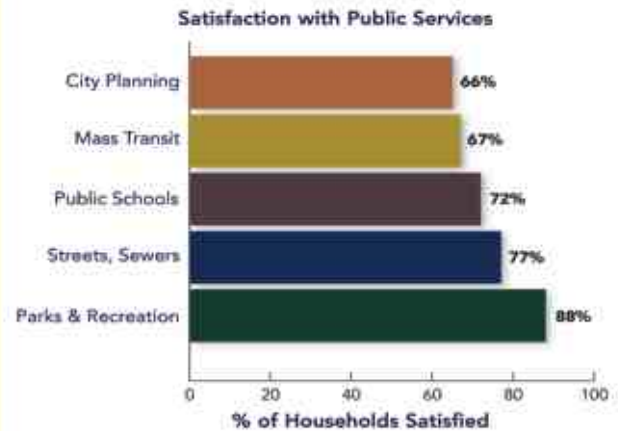
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by Greg Petry

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFASTS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES WITH LEGISLATORS

“Here’s the power of a legislative breakfast,” says West Suburban Special Recreation Association Executive Director Sandy Gbur. “A few years back, I took a call one day from Representative Deborah Graham. She was on the House floor. Some of her colleagues were urging her to vote ‘yes’ on a particular bill. But she had attended a legislative breakfast at Oak Park and remembered that the IAPD/IPRA Legislative Platform recommended opposing the bill. She was calling to clarify our reasons for opposition. Months later, she remembered that connection that we’d made at the legislative breakfast. And, when she was able to get all the facts, she ended up voting our way.”

Each year, park agency directors and their boards hold legislative breakfasts across the state as one of a number of ways to keep in contact with state representatives and senators. These breakfasts are a great tool to keep abreast of current issues being addressed and debated in Springfield. We all are very busy throughout the year, and this is an opportunity to meet with our legislators in a focused setting. Even if you don’t currently have an interest in a particular piece of legislation on the General Assembly’s order of business in Springfield, sharing a meal is an excellent way to build and strengthen relationships with lawmakers that will come in handy for the times in which you will want to offer your legislator your opinion on specific bills.

On the other hand, if you do need to discuss something or have an issue, a legislative breakfast is an opportunity to inform your legislators about particular items of importance to your district or community. This is a terrific time to chat about what is happening in your agency and across the profession.

Just What is a Legislative Breakfast?

Legislative breakfasts are co-sponsored by the IAPD Joint Legislative Committee and a host agency. These breakfasts are a long and successful tradition, started by Northwest Special Recreation Association Director Kevin Kendrigan working with the Illinois Association of Park Districts back in the early 1980s. Today there are 12 Legislative Breakfasts to choose from across the state.

Usually, the breakfasts are held during the spring legislative session. In 2010, breakfasts will be scheduled from January 15 through March 1. This time frame has been established so that the breakfasts will be held early in the session to get feedback while the legislative session is still young, which allows us to get out ahead of any emerging issues.

The breakfasts are hosted by a volunteer park district, forest preserve or conservation district. They have been held in recreation centers, community rooms or golf course clubhouses. These venues make perfect settings, as the legislators have an opportunity to visit a facility used by their constituents. Breakfasts are scheduled on a morning when the legislators are home and on break from session. Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays are typically days when the legislators are not in session.

Over the years, agencies have held sit-down breakfasts that are served, others have had catered buffets, while some have provided continental-style breakfasts. In any case, the bottom line is that you serve good food in a good setting.

Sending the Message Softly – Perhaps with Scones

The primary goal of the Legislative Breakfasts is to connect board members and park and recreation professionals with state legislators to discuss issues important to our industry. The breakfasts provide a setting where you can discuss current happenings in an informal, comfortable setting. The breakfast setting creates an opportunity for dialogue between legislators, citizen board members and professionals who, in the end, have a common interest. The breakfast can also be used to gauge or determine the level of interest your legislator has in supporting or defeating a bill.

But the breakfasts are not a time to do heavy-duty lobbying. It is not a time to argue or debate an issue. These are social events designed for a “business casual,” relaxed face-to-face meeting. It is a time to joke, tell stories and get to know one another. Call it bonding time.

But it's bonding time with benefits. “We give legislators an opportunity to speak off the cuff, and we learn a lot from them,” says Sandy Gbur. But, she points out, the legislators also learn from their hosts. Gbur recalls one freshman legislator who expressed a desire to learn more about park district finances so that he could better understand tax caps and how they relate to the consumer price index. He was able to get an informal, but informative on-the-spot course on park finances by the people who know it best.

Along with the camaraderie, think about serving up some tangible “take aways” at the breakfast. Legislative Breakfasts are a great opportunity to display information about happenings at your agencies and give away promotional items to legislators. But another big take away should be a legislative platform brochure.

To project our message and serve as a resource, the IAPD/IPRA Joint Legislative Committee develops a Legislative Platform for each biennial general assembly of the state House and Senate. The platform is often slightly revised in the second year of the assembly to revisit unfinished legislation and emerging issues. A copy of the platform is not only a useful tool for a legislator's future reference, but it also often serves as an excellent conversation starter during the meal. So be sure to have plenty copies on hand to serve along with the bacon and eggs. “Remember,” says Sandy Gbur, “You can't further the legislative platform if you don't communicate it.”

Expanding the Guest List

Agency executive directors and commissioners attend the breakfasts. But also include staff members who generally have contact or responsibilities that require them to have contact with legislators.

It is not a bad idea to bring along a key supporter of your district, such as the chair of your foundation, a prominent volunteer or a major patron. An influential citizen can articulate a strong message and get the legislator's attention. If you have already established relationships

with your lawmakers, the legislators see you frequently and generally know what to expect. So, a constituent is a new voice that really strengthens the message.

And always include a great photographer from your agency on the guest list. Having a recap of the breakfast in your agency brochure with photos of your commissioners meeting with the legislator is a way to communicate the positive relationship to the public.

The Value of a Good Meal

Legislative breakfasts solidify our relationships with the legislators in several ways. The legislators hear from commissioners and professionals who are dealing with local issues and shaping communities. This is a time to sell the legislator on the benefits of what you and your agency do for the constituents that you share. It is an opportunity to position your district and yourself with the legislator. There certainly is a symbiotic relationship, both politically and professionally, that can be enhanced while meeting at the breakfast table. You want to communicate that you can be a resource to the legislator on park and recreation issues and other matters affecting your community so that when your legislators are working at the state capital and need to phone a reliable friend, they'll think of you.

Greg Petry is the executive director for the Waukegan Park District. You can reach him at 847-360-4721 or e-mail him at gregp@waukeganparks.org.

We've Made it Easy for YOU to Host a Legislative Breakfast

Thinking of hosting a Legislative Breakfast at your agency? Champaign Park District Executive Director Bobbie Herakovich urges you to go for it.

Champaign Park District welcomes legislators to events several times a year, but last spring was the first time the agency hosted a legislative breakfast and invited representatives from neighboring park districts and forest preserves to join in. “It wasn't a hard process,” she says. “We were able to select a date when the legislators were not in session. To have a forum where they could meet with people from several districts was quite attractive to them.”

Over the years, a complete packet of information has been developed to help guide and organize the host of a Legislative Breakfast. The packet includes:

- Welcome and instructions for the host
- A breakfast ‘to do’ list
- Sample invitations to legislators
- Sample invitations to commissioners
- A sample agenda
- The current IAPD Legislative Platform
- An evaluation form.

Judging from lawmakers' votes on funding and IAPD platform issues, Herakovich says her breakfast helped win positive results for the districts in her area. “The breakfast is easy to put together, and the people you are inviting are enjoyable conversationalists. So there is no reason not to have one,” she says.

Please contact Waukegan Park District Executive Director Greg Petry at 847-360-4721 to receive a packet and find out more about holding or attending a legislative breakfast in your area. You can also check the Public Policy section the IAPD Web site (www.ILparks.org), where a schedule of legislative breakfasts will be posted as soon as they are determined.

PEOPLE & PLACES

Four Illinois Agencies Take National Gold Medal Awards

Four of the 12 Illinois parks and recreation agencies nominated for National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management earned that honor in October. Illinois Gold Medal Agencies for 2009 are: the Itasca Park District, the Lombard Park District, the Hoffman Estates Park District and the Fox Valley Park District.

In May, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), announced the 24 finalists for its six 2009 National Gold Medal Awards. The winners were announced during NRPA's Annual Congress and Exposition in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition. Each agency is judged on its ability to address the needs of those it serves.

This year, a panel of five parks and recreation professionals reviewed and judged all application materials. Judges were chosen for their experience and knowledge in parks and recreation on both local and national levels.

Categories are based on the population an agency serves. Illinois had nominations in four categories (missing the statewide category and the category for serving populations of more than 250,000).



Illinois nominations by category were:

Class II (population 100,001 – 250,000)

The **Fox Valley Park District**, Illinois*
The **Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria**

Class III (population 50,001 – 100,000)

The **Arlington Heights Park District**
The **Glenview Park District**
The **Hoffman Estates Park District***

Class IV (population 25,001 – 50,000)

The **Bartlett Park District**
The **Buffalo Grove Park District**
The **Downers Grove Park District**
The **Lombard Park District***

Class V (population less than 25,000)

The **Batavia Park District**
The **Itasca Park District***
The **Vernon Hills Park District**

* Denotes National Gold Medal Winner



In Memoriam Former Oakbrook Terrace Park District Executive Director Mario Parente

Mario Parente, former executive director of the Oakbrook Terrace Park District, passed away on Friday, August 21. A special memorial service was held on August 26 at the Oakbrook Terrace Park District's Mario F. Parente Theater.

Parente was the director of parks and recreation at Oakbrook Terrace Park District for 27 years. He began with the district in 1979, a time when the district had only two employees. He was responsible for programming, marketing and even park maintenance.

He retired September 30, 2007.

According to **Bill Cizek**, Oakbrook Terrace Park District commissioner, the board decided to name the district's theater in his honor before he retired. Cizek said the theater was Parente's pride and joy, and he was very involved with the entertainment events there and with the theater's remodeling.

Parente was recognized by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association, the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the National Recreation and Park Association for some of his innovative work in leasing air rights over community parklands, working with contractors and builders and providing well-rounded recreation programs to his constituents.

Under Parente's leadership, the district grew from a single facility to include such amenities as a state-of-the-art fitness center, the Lake View Nature Center, Terrace View Park, Dorothy Drennon Park and a splash pad. One of Parente's goals was to connect the north and south ends of the Oakbrook Terrace community. Through partnerships with various municipal agencies and private contractors, this dream became a reality with the completion of the pedestrian walk- and bikeway in 2007.

Vernon Hills Has New Executive Director

Jeff Fougerousse joined the Vernon Hills Park District as its newly appointed executive director in July.

Fougerousse has an undergraduate degree from Illinois State University and an MBA from Aurora University. He had been the executive director of the Morton Grove Park District since 1999. Prior to 1999, he was employed at the Morton Grove Park District as an athletic supervisor, an aquatic supervisor, as facilities superintendent and then as recreation superintendent.

Fougerousse earned the recognition of Recreation Professional of the Year by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association. He served as the co-chair for the IAPD/IPRA Joint Conference Committee and authored several articles. He has served as the board president for the Maine Niles Association of Special Recreation and currently is the vice president of the Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County.



Vernon Hills Dedicates Park to Honor Longtime Commissioner

Former Vernon Hills Park District Commissioner **Cynthia Peterson** stands next to a sign renaming Vernon Hills Park District's Century Hawthorn Park the Cynthia T. Peterson Park. The park was renamed at a ceremony held on July 11 to honor Commissioner Peterson's retirement from the park board after 24 years of service. During her tenure, she acquired land donations from developers to create 24 community parks for the district, as well as a skateboard park. She also served on the IAPD Board of Trustees and on five IAPD committees.

Decatur Names Director of Recreation and Facilities

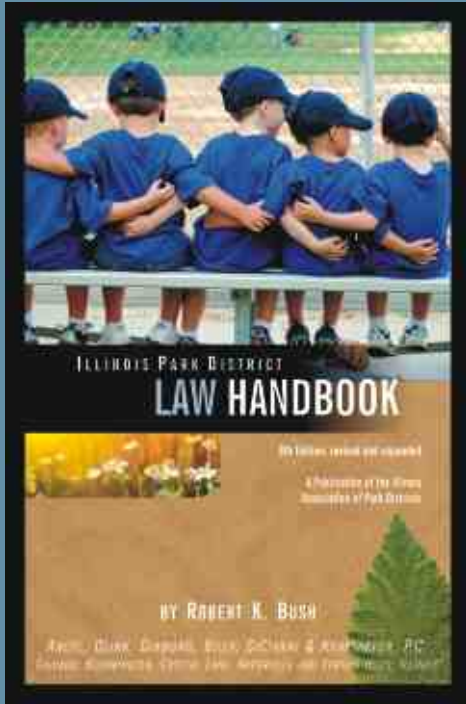
Becky Newton recently joined the Decatur Park District as the director of recreation and facilities. She is responsible for the operation of recreation, fitness and sports facilities, including the Decatur Indoor Sports Center, Paul's Puttin' Place/Dunn's Dugout, Decatur Soccer Complex, Rotary Park Softball Complex and Fairview Park Tennis Facility. Newton also supervises a team of professionals who provide cultural arts, sports lessons and leagues, camps, fitness, special events, aquatics, senior and therapeutic recreation programming for the greater Decatur area. Prior to this position, she held increasingly responsible positions at the Chicago Park District (for 10 years) and at the park districts of Park Ridge and Highland Park. She earned a B.A. in sport, recreation and tourism from the University of Illinois.



Downers Grove Park District Welcomes New Rec Supervisor

Kim Wallace is the Downers Grove Park District's new recreation supervisor, overseeing dance, theater, camps, gymnastics, birthday parties, concert series and various special events. Wallace has a B.A. in psychology from Columbia College of Missouri, is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional and is co-founder and current chair of IPRA's annual Dance Showcase. She is pursuing her master's degree in recreation, sports and tourism from the University of Illinois, with a concentration in recreation administration. Wallace comes to Downers Grove with 10 years of supervisory experience from three different Illinois park districts and was most recently Fox Valley Park District's performing arts supervisor.





IAPD Publishes New edition of Park District Law Handbook

The 6th edition of the *Illinois Park District Law Handbook* is available for ordering this at the Publications section of the IAPD Web site, www.Ilparks.com.

The text was prepared especially for IAPD by attorneys from the law firm of Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, P.C. Ancel Glink attorneys represent more than 25 park districts in addition to serving as both regular and special counsel for numerous municipalities, school districts and other special governmental bodies.

This fully updated version of the *Illinois Park District Law Handbook* consolidates a vast body of law into a single user-friendly volume that explains the complex laws and codes that govern local park districts. Revised and expanded sections feature guidance on new qualifications for serving on park boards, changes to the Open Meetings Act, the Freedom of Information Act and more.

Those who purchase the handbook will have access to 25 sample legal forms to download and customize for their agencies. Members can purchase single copies of the book for \$35. Bulk discounts are available.

Naperville Promotes Communications Manager

Sameera Luthman is now Naperville Park District's director of marketing and communications, after having served the district as marketing and communications manager for several years. She is responsible for the development of all publications including the quarterly *Program Guide*, leading e-mail marketing and social media projects, directing the public relations efforts across the organization and overseeing the design of promotional materials. Luthman is the primary writer of the district's communications, and is also the organizer of the Communication Roundtable, a group with representation from local civic organizations that meets monthly to share best practices and provide professional support.

Luthman graduated from Illinois State University with a B.S. in public relations, and she earned a graduate marketing certificate from North Central College in 2006.



Paul Mose Rickey



Dee Kaiser

New Employees join the Roselle Park District

Paul Mose Rickey is the new superintendent of recreation at the Roselle Park District. He previously worked at Lombard Park District, where he held the position of recreation program manager, in which he oversaw over 100 different recreational programs. He has a strong background working with community agencies and school districts. He was also the teen program manager for Lombard before being promoted to program manager. Rickey was the executive director for the Paxton Park District for five years. He has also been involved in the private sector, working for Club Med. He is heavily involved with IPRA and is a past conference speaker. He has also has a Certified Pool Operator certificate.

Dee Kaiser is the district's new aquatics and recreation supervisor. Her responsibilities include managing pool programs, staff and events, cultural arts programs, senior programming and adult trips. Kaiser completed her internship with the Hoffman Estates Park District in April, and she is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in recreation, sport and tourism. She has been involved in IPRA for the past two years as student section chairman, and she currently is the student section liaison to the IPRA board. She is also an active member in the Facility Management Section.



James Kim



Regina Cady



David Bailey



Matt Hayes

Vernon Hills Hires Four

James Kim was recently hired as the facilities foreman for the Vernon Hills Park District. He oversees the maintenance for both the Family Aquatics Center and Sullivan Community Center. He brings six years of related experience from the Morton Grove Park District, where he also oversaw maintenance of their aquatic facilities.

Kim studied civil engineering and kinesiology at the University of Chicago. He is a Certified Pool Operator and coaches house basketball leagues at the Morton Grove Park District. His background includes athletic field management, turf management, general mechanic work, machine operations and tree removal.

Regina Cady is the district's new horticulturist. Cady designs, installs and maintains flowerbeds in district parks. She graduated from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Georgia with a degree in ornamental horticulture. She transferred to Illinois from Georgia, where she worked for the Department of Agriculture in the Agriculture Research Services Department. She also has experience working for

the University of Georgia, where she maintained plants that the university did experiments on. And she was the city horticulturist in Atlanta, Georgia. She grew annuals and perennials for the city's parks.

David Bailey is new to the district's maintenance department. Bailey is a graduate of the sports and commercial turf grass management program at Michigan State University. He served his internship with the Philadelphia Phillies ground crew.

Also new in the maintenance department is **Matt Hayes**. Hayes graduated from South Dakota University with a B.S. in landscape architecture with an emphasis in horticulture. His previous work experience includes being the landscape and irrigation foreman at Austriem Landscapes in South Dakota and the project manager for Schmechtig Landscapes in Mundelein. He was also was a seasonal team member at the Northbrook Park District.

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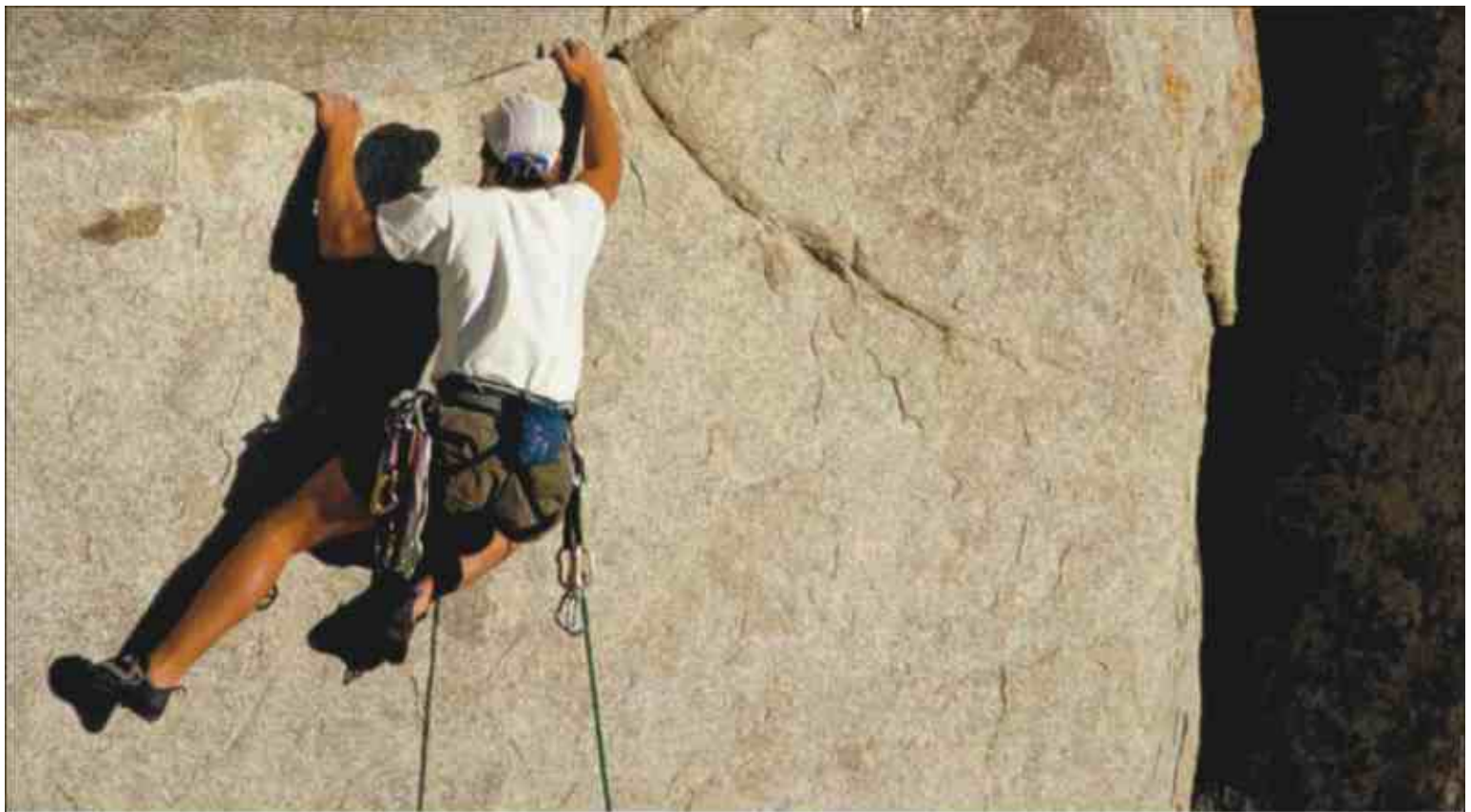
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