

Dear Residents,

It is hard to believe that Spring is on the way. Unfortunately, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow which means we are in for six more weeks of winter. With the mild winter we have had hopefully six more weeks won't be that bad. You may also notice that starting with our Winter Program Guide we have changed the timeline for program guide production. We are hoping that a Spring/Summer Guide versus a Winter/Spring Guide will help you to plan your summers a little earlier than in past years.

Comprehensive Plan – The District continues to work on the Comprehensive Plan which will guide our District over the next five years. This has been a long process and we hope that you had a chance to provide us with input. The plan should be completed early Summer.

Spring Events – Our staff always looks forward to the Spring months. As the weather warms up the parks come alive with soccer, baseball, and free play. This year we are teaming up with Star Charities to have the annual Bunny Hop and Egg Hunt on the same day, April 1. No fooling! The day will kick-off at 8:00 am with the annual Bunny Hop and Egg Hunts following at 9:45 am. Pre-registration is required for these events.

Mr. Bunny will once again be making special deliveries to boys and girls in the Wauconda Park District Area on March 30 and April 4. There is limited availability so be sure to register early.

Summer Employment Opportunities – High school and college students, it's never too early to think about a summer job. We currently are hiring for seasonal positions as Lifeguards, Camp Counselors, Concession Workers, and Park Maintenance. Flexible schedules and free fitness and beach pass. For more information give us a call or fill out an application online. (847) 526-3610 or www.waucondaparks.com.

Volunteer Opportunities – During the Summer months, the Park District organizes two huge special events that draw people to our community from all over suburban Chicago and beyond. Wauconda Fest will be held June 22-25 and the annual Triathlons will be held on July 22 and 23. We cannot hold these events without the help of all of the volunteers who assist us. In recent surveys, regarding these events, the enthusiasm of the volunteers rates high. Thank you to all who come back year after year and we welcome anyone new who wants to join. Contact Tim Staton, tstaton@waucondaparks.com, if you are interested in getting involved.

Staff Development – Staff training and development is a key part of our organizational success. In November, two staff attended the Illinois Park and Recreation Association Professional Development School. Beth Christianson, Recreation Supervisor, attended the first-year track and will be eligible to graduate after attending a second year in 2023. Debbie Yakimisky, Recreation Supervisor, attended her second year in 2022 and graduated from the school this past year. Congratulations Debbie!

In January, four commissioners and five staff members attended the annual IAPD/IPRA Conference in Chicago. The conference offers many educational sessions and gives the board and staff the opportunity to network with board members from other communities and staff at other districts from all over the State of Illinois.

We have worked hard to bring together a variety of programs and events that will meet your lifestyle. Please take some time to look through this guide and see everything that we have to offer. Not seeing anything that interests you? Please reach out to me or staff and we would invite the opportunity to explore something new.

Thank you for all your support! We look forward to helping you get outside and recreate!

Sincerely,
Tim Staton, CPRP
Executive Director
tstaton@waucondaparks.com

