



Pathways

SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS & OPERATIONS RECOGNIZED BY VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE



John Karesh, Superintendent of Parks & Operations for the Woodridge Park District, was recognized as an Outstanding Employee of the Year at the Woodridge Town Meeting on Thursday, October 6.

John just celebrated his 15-year anniversary with the park district. As Superintendent of Parks & Operations, John oversees a full-time crew of eight and twenty-three part time employees who maintain 70-plus park sites comprised of over 680 acres of park land. He is also an active community volunteer serving as Past President and current Secretary of the Woodridge Kiwanis Club.

Outside of his work responsibilities at the Woodridge Park District, John serves as a Park Commissioner at the Westmont Park District. This appointment enables John to gain life experience as a Commissioner which he then in turn uses to further improve the Woodridge community through parks and recreation. For his efforts as a Park Commissioner, John received the Illinois Association of Park Districts "Rising Star Award" in 2011 which recognizes board members who have demonstrated exemplary performance in duties and responsibilities.

"John's cooperative spirit in working with others, in addition to his recognitions and achievements earned this past year, are reasons John is so deserving of special recognition," stated Mike Adams, Executive Director of the Woodridge Park District.

PARK DISTRICT SOCCER GOALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH "MOVEABLE SOCCER GOAL SAFETY ACT"

In August, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed into law "Moveable Soccer Goal Safety Act" requiring all movable soccer goals manufactured and sold in the state of Illinois to be tip-resistant. Also known as "Zach's Law", the law also requires organizations that own moveable soccer goals to create soccer goal safety and education policies.

The law was passed almost 7 years after 6-year-old Zach Tran died of head injuries suffered when an 18-foot-by-6-foot, 186-pound soccer goal toppled and struck him from behind while he was practicing with his soccer team in Libertyville.

In accordance of Governor Quinn's signing of this new law, the Woodridge Park District Board of Commissioners adopted a Movable Soccer Goal Safety and Education Policy at the September board meeting. The policy outlines how the park district will address the safety issues associated with movable soccer goals. Some of the safety practices included in the policy are:

- Install and secure goals prior to the commencement of each soccer season
- Routinely inspect all moveable goals
- Remove and store moveable goals or secure and lock them in specified manners including face-to-face
- Place warning labels on all of the portable soccer goals informing the participants not to tip the soccer goals and the dangers if they are tipped
- Only park employees are allowed to move a goal owned and installed by the district

Following this policy and with the help of the Woodridge Soccer Association, the park district can continue to ensure that all participants are safe around the portable soccer goals while practicing and playing games in Woodridge. Any issues with goal safety should be reported immediately to the Woodridge Park District by calling (630)353-3300.

PARK DISTRICT STAFF MEMBERS CELEBRATE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



20 years, Julie Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation/Safety Coordinator,



20 years, Dave Lenzen, Custodian



15 years, Jose Barrios, Village Greens Grounds Maintenance



10 years, Marcia Stanski, Village Greens Food and Beverage Manager



10 years, Jamie McAleer, Totschool Teacher and Customer Service Coordinator



5 years, Ryan Bordewick, Landscape Designer

LEARN HOW TO HELP YOUR YOUNG ATHLETE PREVENT & IDENTIFY CONCUSSIONS

To help ensure the health and safety of young athletes, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed the Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports initiative to offer information about concussions to coaches, parents, and athletes involved in youth sports. The Heads Up initiative provides important information on preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion.

According to the CDC, concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. Because signs of symptoms of a concussion can either show up right after the injury or not be noticed until days or weeks after the injury, parents are urged to seek medical attention after a child reports any symptoms of a concussion. If you think your child has a concussion, seek medical attention right away, keep your child out of play and tell your child's coach about any recent concussion. It's better to miss one game than the whole season! Additional information is available on the CDC's website, www.cdc.gov.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Seven Bridges Park Playground Closed for Safety Precautions

During a scheduled playground safety inspection this past summer, Woodridge Park District staff identified major safety concerns at the Seven Bridges Park play equipment and swing structures. Inspectors discovered the deterioration, rotting and significant termite damage affecting the wooden posts below ground. As a result of the inspection, the playground equipment and swings were removed and legally disposed. This winter, new playground equipment and swings will be designed and the purchase and installation will be bid publically. Installation is tentatively scheduled for spring 2012.

Orchard Hill Park Athletic Irrigation & Lighting Improvements

Orchard Hill Park athletic fields recently added new irrigation and drainage systems to improve the overall quality of turf for improved play. Full in-ground irrigation and drainage systems were installed at the three (3) baseball/softball fields and quick coupler irrigation was installed at the four (4) soccer fields earlier this year.

Additionally, staff applied for a state grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, to include the addition of athletic field & parking lot lighting, a pathway system, as well as a concessions building at Orchard Hill Park. However, even though the park district did not receive the grant, the athletic field and parking lot lighting project was still budgeted for in fiscal year ending 2012. The project was publically bid in October and approved by the Board of Commissioners at the November board meeting. The park improvements will include lighting of the baseball/softball fields (3), soccer fields on the southeast side of the park (2) and the south parking lot. Weather pending, work will begin this winter in time for spring 2012. Also, a storage (garage) building matching the architecture of the Cypress Cove buildings will be installed at Orchard Hill Park near the southern most end of the park between baseball fields #2 & #3, which will house the athletic field lighting electrical panels as well as miscellaneous maintenance equipment for the athletic fields.

Falconridge Park to Receive ADA Improvements

The Board of Commissioners approved at the October board meeting the bid to complete improvements at Falconridge Park this fall. Improvements include accessible sidewalk access from the public walks and parking lot to the port-a-john and playground. It also includes new concrete playground borders and ramps as well as additional site furnishings throughout the space. This project will help the Park District accomplish its goals designated in the District American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan.

Haunted Forest Walk a Scary Success Thanks to Volunteers and Organizations

Thank you to the following Haunted Forest Walk organizations for making the 2011 Haunted Forest Walk as scary and successful as possible:

- Woodridge VFW Post 1578
- Goodrich PTO
- Woodridge Jaycees
- Boy Scout Troops 562, 516, 512, 181, 109

A big thank you also goes out to those individuals who assisted Woodridge Park District staff in running the event. Volunteers are a valuable resource to the Woodridge Park District and without them the park district staff wouldn't be able to provide quality events and programs.



Haunted Forest Walk Scenes Needed for 2012

Interested in a fun fundraiser for your non-profit organization? Join the Woodridge Park District by creating a scene in the woods at the annual Haunted Forest Walk on October 26 and 27, 2012. To participate, please contact Vanessa Madden at (630)353-3345 or vmadden@woodridgeparks.org for details.