



Mundelein Park & Recreation District

<http://www.mundeleinparks.org>

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

November 1, 2021

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MUNDELEIN PARK DISTRICT RECEIVES 3 STATE AWARDS

MUNDELEIN, IL — Mundelein Park & Recreation District received three Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Best of the Best Awards at their 2021 Awards Gala on October 15. The award categories were Best Friend of Illinois Parks-Business, Partnership, and Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year.

The **Best Friend of Illinois Parks** is awarded to a business or corporation that has demonstrated exemplary support of a local park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency. The District's partnership with RUSH Physical Therapy helped provide the necessary funding for interior improvements to the Park District's Community Center, increased fitness center memberships by 25% and provided half of the budget to build a new digital roadside marquee that is a major communication tool with the

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Park District's community.

With the onset of the pandemic, issues in our veteran community have become more pronounced. In response, Mundelein Park and Recreation District bolstered their partnership with AllenForce, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a successful transition for veterans through health, fitness, and recreation by offering online/remote options for engagement within our veteran community through the Healthy Minds Healthy Bodies™ program. This initiative enhances HMHB members' quality of life and would not have been achievable without this partnership. Mundelein Park & Recreation District received the **Partnership Award** for this boosted relationship which recognizes non-governmental organizations that have collaborated with a park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency in a significant manner.

The Mundelein Historical Commission (Michael Flynn, Wendy Frasier, Gary Gunther, Shawn Killackey, Vern Lappe, John Schockmel, and Anne Walker) were recognized as **OUTSTANDING CITIZEN(S) VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** for their work at the Park District's Mundelein Heritage Museum. During the last couple of years, Commission members cataloged every artifact in the collection, reorganized, updated, and refocused the displays on the "History of Mundelein". Thanks to the Commission, the museum is open to the public two days a week and private group tours by appointment. Their efforts continue to preserve Mundelein's history and make it available to the community.

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IAPD winners were selected from entries submitted throughout the state recognizing the “Best of the Best” park districts, forest preserves, conservation, recreation, and special recreation agencies in eight categories.

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PHOTO CAPTIONS:

IAPD Best Friend of Illinois Parks-Business

Front Row (left to right): Tracie Ouimet, MPRD Planning Development & Administration Manager; Jacob Livingston, PT, DPT, COMT, CDNT, Market Manager, RUSH Physical Therapy; Julie Plautz, PT, DPT, CEAS, RUSH Physical Therapy, Vice President of Operations; Cheryl Perrin, Patient Service Specialist, RUSH Physical Therapy

Back Row: Mike Vogl, IAPD Chairman; Ron Salski, MPRD Executive Director; Peter Murphy, IAPD President

IAPD Partnership Award

Front Row (left to right): Larry Krog, USMC Veteran; Christine Lopez, MPRD HMHB Coordinator; Jon Kahney, AllenForce Trainer; Ron Salski, MPRD Executive Director

Back Row: Mike Vogl, IAPD Chairman; Bob Knudson, MPRD Board Treasurer; Jesus Ortega, MPRD Commissioner; Wallace Frasier, MPRD Board President; Kevin Dolan, MPRD Commissioner; Peter Murphy, IAPD President

IAPD Citizen of the Year

Front Row (left to right): Bob Knudson, MPRD Board Treasurer; Wendy Frasier, Mundelein Historical Commission; Steve Lentz, Mundelein Mayor; Ron Salski, MPRD Executive Director

Back Row: Mike Vogl, IAPD Chairman; Jesus Ortega, MPRD Commissioner; Wallace Frasier, MPRD Board President; Kevin Dolan, MPRD Commissioner; Peter Murphy, IAPD President