

December 2024 Director Update Video Transcript

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Hello, Mundelein. This is Ron Salski, executive director. On behalf of our wonderful Mundelein Park & Recreation team and board, I wanted to wish everyone a safe, memorable, and enjoyable holiday season. We are ending the year very positively in so many ways. We are very grateful that your participation, membership and/or usership increased significantly and with your confidence in our programs, facilities and services,

You broke records in all facets of the district. It makes our job so much more fun when we can keep servicing our awesome community. The board approved our 2025 budget and we have many exciting projects in 2025, all throughout the district. I'm ready for my jolly updates, so let's slide into it. The ice rink is open and please check out our schedule on our website.

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Thanks to our park maintenance staff for being proactive and ready for the cold temperatures. Our team enjoys when the ice can be made earlier than later as the snow approaches. Please check out the Keith Mione Community Park Sled Hill rules and regulations. Thanks again to Girl Scout Troop 45442 for the design and construction of the Sled Shed.

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What a catchy name and try to say fast a few times. What is a Sled Shed? You can take a sled or leave a sled. You can store it while you are taking a break or using a different sled. It keeps it in a safe place. Remember, put your names on your sleds or snowboards. Learn what not to do from me and watch it go bye bye.

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The girls who built this awesome community idea were Natalie Kampa, Grace Wolinski, and Samantha Booi. It was designed and built for their Take Action project to earn the Think Like an Engineer Journey award. Thanks to Jennifer Kampa for reaching out to us and coordinating the construction. Our community works together. Our Kracklauer Park all inclusive space project is moving along, and it is exciting to watch the play features being constructed for everyone.

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We anticipate that it will be a very busy park next summer. The district has committed to reconstructing a bathroom at the Kracklauer Dance Studio, with accessibility from the outside. Our board and staff listened to the 2021 community wide survey comments, and we were waiting for the right opportunity to achieve an initiative, which is to add an outside bathroom at a park.

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It is an expensive project, which is why we need porta-potties at our parks. This all inclusive space project is an awesome project. We look forward to sharing our ribbon cutting information in late spring 2025. But wait, there is more! We are excited to officially announce that the district will be converting the one tennis court into four lighted pickleball courts.

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Over the past month, the decision was made as the expansive asphalt path allowed us to reimagine and repurpose the space to attract more users to the park and downtown area. Mundelein pickleball has grown immensely, so we will be a community with 12 dedicated public courts and ten hybrid mixed-use pickleball with tennis courts. I was a competitive tennis player, and I must say, pickleball is a sport that will continue to grow.

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Yet, we are committed to tennis by resurfacing Hanrahan and Indian Trails tennis courts in 2025. Hanrahan will not be striped for pickleball. What is really cool is it is in downtown Mundelein so you can visit all the businesses. It is away from residential homes. Even better, we came across a lighting system that will work very well. Our goal is to finish in May.

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We are accepting proposals from local businesses looking to partner with us. Please contact Tracie Ouimet, our community relations and partnership manager. If you didn't know, I'm thrilled to share our Regent Center is going through some capital improvements. We are just about complete, and we couldn't be more excited about the transformation. In addition, the Regent Center will continue providing a warm and comfortable environment for our active adults.

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These updates were driven by the growing success of the Mundelein School of Dance, and our district's commitment to supporting the performing arts in our community. Key enhancements include the addition of dance mirrors in the large multipurpose room. The creation of new program space adjacent to it, raising the drop ceiling and replacing the partition walls in rooms A and B, as well as installing new dance mirrors and a sprung dance floor and dance bars throughout the space.

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These upgrades allow the Regent Center to serve as a vibrant multipurpose facility offering active adult programming during the day, and updated dance studios during evenings and weekends. Also,

the spaces will continue to be available for rental use. We're so excited to see this multi-generational space come alive with new opportunities, fostering creativity and connection for all ages. Dance program locations will begin to transition after the start of the new year.

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Also, our board meetings were being held at the Regent Center on Monday nights and since many dance classes will move to the Regent Center, our board meetings will be held at the Dolan Recreation Center beginning January 13th. The first phase of the Diamond Lake Masterplan project has been completed. With the help of our consultants, we will compile all the survey responses, identify common themes and summarize the feedback gathered so far.

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The information will be presented to the Mundelein Park & Recreation District Board of Commissioners in a single report. Following this, the project will enter the next phase, which will focus on the insights from the initial phase to develop concepts. These concepts will then be presented to both the board and the public for future input and feedback, ensuring a collaborative approach to the planning process.

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Please look for project updates on the Diamond Lake Master Plan area on our website. Start 2025 by taking time for you. The sooner you sign up for an annual Mundelein Health & Fitness Center membership, the more you'll save during the Pay the Day offer or in January. For instance, sign up on January 2nd and pay just \$2 for your first month of membership.

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Sign up on January 3rd and pay \$3. And so on. Don't delay and pay more. This offer starts January 2nd, 2025. The discount applies to the first month of annual membership per person. Applies to new members or members who transition from a month, the month membership to an annual membership. Stop in at the Mundelein Community Center to take a tour or call (847) 388-5430 for details.

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Winter may have just started, but we are planning for summer. We are accepting applications for aquatic summer jobs in 2025, such as lifeguards, concession assistants, and customer service assistants. Apply on our website. Just a reminder, check out our high quality golf simulators at the Steeple Chase Golf Club. Leagues will be starting up in January. I hope to compete against you.

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This was a lot of information and as you can tell, we don't take the winter off to serve our community. We keep bringing more! Thank you for being a part of us and we will see you around town.