

MEMBER PROFILE: GRANDWOOD PARK PARK DISTRICT

Grandwood Park Park District, established in 1965, is a municipal governing agency providing parks, recreation facilities, events and programs to its residents. The Park District is located in

unincorporated Gurnee in northern Lake County, Illinois. It lies within the northernmost reaches of the Chicago metropolitan area.

Ms. Nancy Carlson has served as President on the Board of Commissioners for eight years and describes the Grandwood Park Park District as “a vital part of the community.” She proudly states, “We are a little district, but we provide a big service to the residents. With no local city government, we are the closest thing the neighborhood has to a city center. The community center, preschool and local parks offer municipal services.”

Grandwood Park Park District also collaborates with the Grandwood Park Civic Association to provide community events which foster involvement, interaction and friendships within the community. Ms. Carlson explains, “We help support and sponsor our not-for-profit Civic Association, which expands the impact of the Park District to its residents.” Several events Grandwood Park Park District either sponsors or



co-sponsors with the Civic Association include: Save the Lake Days, Annual Oktoberfest, Fish Fry, Spaghetti Dinner and various children’s parties.

Grandwood Park Park District’s popular Community Center offers a perfect location for learning and fun. Yoga and scrapbooking are two favorite activities. The Community Center and the Lake Park Picnic Shelter are available to rent for parties, receptions, family gatherings, reunions, showers and graduations.

When asked what aspect of the Park District she is most proud of, Ms. Carlson replies, “Little Learners Preschool is at the top of the list. The school districts receiving students from our Park District let us know we are doing an excellent job of preparing these children for kindergarten and to be successful in school.”



Little Learners Preschool was founded in 1979 by Grandwood Park Park District with the idea that every child is unique and, therefore, special. Using a curriculum based on Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards, Little Learners Preschool's goal is to help children develop new skills while having fun. Programs focus on literacy, math, science, art, music, physical activities, following directions and working with others. Volunteer opportunities are available to parents through the Friends of Little Learners Preschool. To ensure the goals and vision of the Little Learners Preschool are carried out, members of an Executive Advisory Team comprised of a Grandwood Park Park District Commissioner, the Park District Manager and an educator with a background in preschool/elementary education oversee daily operations.



membership plaque was presented to commissioners and officers by an IPARKS Representative.

Why does Grandwood Park Park District remain committed to IPARKS for your property and liability coverage and risk management services?

Ms. Leslie Cassidy, the Park District Manager,

replies, "IPARKS provides a valuable service to our Park District. From our general liability insurance and visits from the risk management team, to the valuable resources we can utilize, remaining with IPARKS is an easy decision for us."

Ms. Cassidy continues, "Our IPARKS Representative, Ryan Pnakovich, is always a pleasure to work with! We take advantage of the iGrant every year. As a small district with limited funds, this is a help to us each year. The Resource eLibrary is a very useful tool that we utilize quite a bit for sample forms and training videos."

Grandwood Park Park District has been a loyal IPARKS member for 25 years. To acknowledge the Park District's longstanding dedication to IPARKS, a

Ryan Pnakovich states, "I enjoy meeting with Grandwood Park Park District to discuss its insurance needs. They are very personable and easy to work with. We have worked closely on several exposures within the past few years with ease. They know they can call or email me at any time to discuss insurance issues."

For more information about Grandwood Park Park District, visit www.grandwoodpark.net.

To learn more about IPARKS, visit www.iparks.org or call (800) 748-0554 and ask to speak with an IPARKS Representative.



Grandwood Park Park District received a plaque honoring it for 25 years of membership: (shown, left to right) Chris Gano, Commissioner; Bill Reil, Commissioner; Nancy Carlson, President; Christine Miller, Vice President; and Cherie Pressley, Commissioner.