



2022

Year In Review



Administration

2022 Staff Recognitions

The Michael A. Imig Staff Excellence Award is presented at our annual staff recognition Holiday celebration. The award was named after former employee Mike Imig who left us way too early after a long illness. Like Mike, Karen always goes above and beyond in her work while taking the time to assist every department.

This was also the first year that we presented our new Part-time MVP staff recognition award. Nita Howell was this year's recipient.

Congratulations to Karen and Nita.



Karen LaPointe
Accounting/Payroll Coordinator

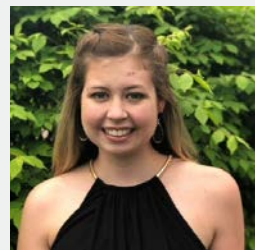


Nita Holwell
Preschool Teacher and Camp Director

**Welcome
to the
new staff
in 2022**



Brett Bartnik
Maintenance III



Serena DeRe
Customer Service–
Recreation Support



Skyler Ramberger
Recreation
Supervisor



Bond Rating Review

The Park District had a bond rating review. S&P (Standard and Poors)

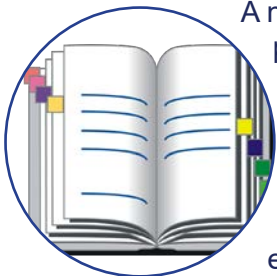
Global Ratings affirmed its **AA+** long-term rating on the Mokena Community Park District outstanding debt. Items that were discussed in the review: financial management practices/policies, economic developments, operating performance trends, future debt plans.



Cybersecurity

The Park District implemented a Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) software for staff to login to our computers/server. Installation of MFA hardware, software, and licensing will ensure the security of patrons and staff information.

Policy Updates and Review



A new whistle-blower protection policy and updates to the capital asset policy were implemented. Updates were also made to enhance time off benefits and policies to stay competitive and retain employees.

Executive Director Participates in Panel for Young Professionals

Executive Director, Greg Vitale participated in an Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) panel of Park and Rec. professionals about facility management. The panel was geared toward young professionals.

Park District Staff and Commissioners Attend Educational Conferences

Nine employees and Commissioners attended the 2022 Illinois Association of Park Districts/Illinois Park & Recreation Association's (IAPD/IPRA) *Soaring to New Heights* Annual Conference in January. This conference offers over 100 industry specific educational sessions and networking opportunities and is the largest gathering of Parks and Recreation exhibitors and colleagues in the state.

Ten staff members also attended the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) *Risk Management Institute* (RMI) on November 18 at the Tinley Park Convention Center. This conference offers several seminars about many aspects of safety and risk management.





Parks & Facilities



New Park District Signage

New branded park district entrance signs with the new park district logo were installed at 5 parks. Signs will be periodically added until every park has one.



Little Free Libraries

The red library was donated by the Geoppo Family. It was installed at McGovney Park.

The white library was donated by the Wnuk Family. It was installed at Brookside Meadows Park.

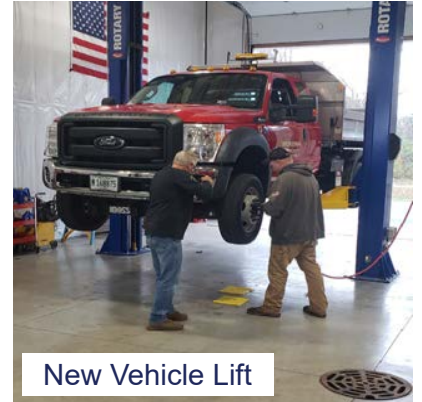


The new GaGa Ball Pit was installed at Main Park. It was donated by the Mokena Community Park District Foundation.

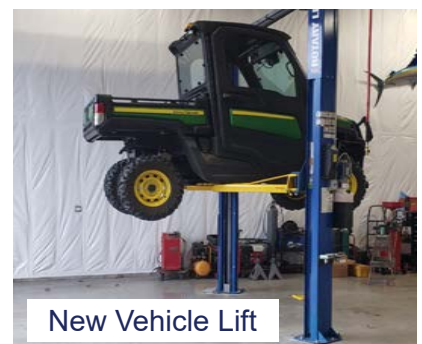


The New Renovated Maintenance Garage was Completed

The Maintenance building has remained unchanged since the 1970's when the park district only operated four parks. The new building can now accommodate the supplies and equipment that is needed for the many parks and facilities that we now have. It also has many new features for a more productive and safe workplace.



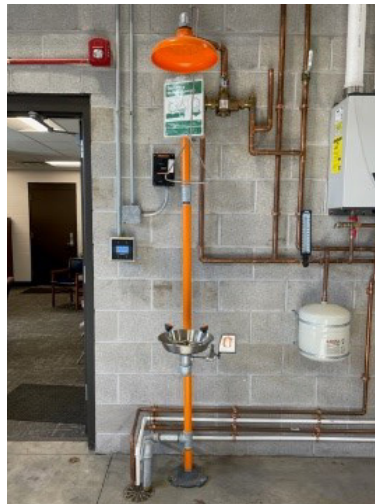
New Vehicle Lift



New Vehicle Lift



Lunchroom



Emergency Shower and Eye Wash Station



Safety Signage



New Playground at Hecht Park

The Hecht Park east playground replacement, complete with unique net climbers, outdoor musical play, a teeter-totter swing and separate tot play structure. Installation is scheduled to be finished by December 2022.



Cost-Saving LED Lights Were Installed Throughout Main Park That Will Save Thousands over the Lifetime of the Lights



Maintaining the Park's Beautiful Landscaping is a Year-round job



Willowview Park Parking Lot Resurfacing



A New Tree was Planted on Yunker Farm

The new Blue Spruce is a beautiful addition to Yunker Farm and very festive when it's decorated for the Holidays.

Grasmere Park Improvements: Resurfaced the Tennis and Basketball Courts and Added Two New Pickleball Courts



Before



After



Photo by Bob Knoerzer



**B
E
F
O
R
E**



**The premier black-coated
fencing that replaced the
old chain link fencing at
the Main Park ball fields
was a Grand Slam!
The Hecht Park
fields are
next.**



**A
F
T
E
R**





NEW! Nerf Wars: Capture the Flag Tournament

Kids were dodging darts while trying to capture the other teams flag as many times as they could. The grand prize was a nerf gun for each participant on the winning team.



New! Shamrock Search

Kids searched for hidden shamrocks around the program center.



Staff Wears Costumes for Drive-in Movie

The staff had fun with this movie theme and dressed up in Dinosaur Costumes for the Drive-in Movie, Jurassic Park.



NEW! You've Been Ghosted!

This was sold out in just a few weeks. Kids were surprised when they found the treat-filled goodie bags and a *You've Been Ghosted* sign on their door.

Stray Dogs Love to Visit the Staff at the Administration Office

Posting those furry faces on our Facebook page and checking with a few of our neighbors, helped us to reunite our new friends with their worried owners.





Recreation



Lucky Bingo winners with their prizes.



Catered lunches.

Lunch Bunch & Bingo Events for 55 & Over, are Growing in Numbers

These events started small with just a few participants and has now grown to nearly 50. These events offer a catered lunch, drinks, dessert and several games of Bingo, for an affordable fee. Bingo prizes are donated by sponsors such as FedEx and Whitmore Ace Hardware.

NEW Programs for all Ages and Interests

- Adult Egg Hunt (21 and over) can search for Easter Eggs and have a light buffet dinner.
- Somewhere over the Rainbow, a stuff your own animal, listen to a story, and make a craft.
- Drone Basics 101
- Disc Golf
- Women’s Sand Volleyball League
- Archery for Adults 101
- Tot Time: Early Childhood class for ages walking–3 years old with an adult. Children have playtime in a non-structured environment and explore large and fine motor activities.

Co-op Programs with Frankfort Park District:

- Music Theatre, STEAM, First Aid for Kids, Safe at Home, Jr. High Drawing, Cooking classes, Candle Creations, Adult CPR and First Aid, Rules of the Road for Seniors.



Drone Basics class





Adventure Camp Field Trips



New Summer Camps and Camp Format Made a Big Splash This Summer

The Summer Day Camp format was much more flexible for families and featured a variety of NEW options such as:

- Before and After Camp
- Choice of which weeks/days their kids would attend camp.
- Summer Day Camps were also offered all summer from June 6 to August 12.

Adventure Camp featured a variety of activities and field trips every day that included:

- Joliet Slammers
- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Gizmos Fun Factory
- Bowling
- Windy City Thunderbolts
- Family Fun Zone
- Local pools and waterparks
- Enchanted Castle and more.

The NEW Junior Day Camp Counselor program gave kids age 13 and over the opportunity to assist camp counselors with games and activities while learning about leadership and responsibility.

Camp Numbers Approaching 1000!

- Summer Sunshine Camp - 107
- Kiddie Camp - 96
- After Camp - 30

2021

233
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS

- Summer Sunshine Camp - 425
- Kiddie Camp - 421
- Before/After Camp - 47
- Adventure Camp - 9
- Jr. Camp Counselor - 3

2022

968
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS



Recreation

Annual Big Events with New Faces and Amenities

W^ofstock



FARM & BARN FEST



Breakfast with Santa, One of our Most Popular Events.



*Thank you Breakfast
With Santa Volunteers !*



*Thank you to all the
Volunteers that helped
this year at many of our
events and leagues.
Your contributions to the
community are greatly
appreciated.*



HALLOWEEN HOLLOW

Michael Myers visited our event. He took pictures with people, walked around the fest and went on carnival rides.



New activity! Spin Art

Adults and kids enjoyed the great music during the evening entertainment.



Donut on a String and Mummy Wrap are just a few of the fun contests that we had.





Mokena Chamber of Commerce 4th of July Parade

Mokena Park District won a Judge's Choice Award for our parade display. Thanks to the staff and volunteers that participated in the parade.





Community Partnerships

The first Mokena Police Department's *National Night Out* was held at Yunker Park. Mokena Park District also hosted the *Our Fallen Hero 5K* in memory of PFC Aaron Toppen and *The Cancer Support Center Walk of Hope*. The Park District also partnered with the Village of Mokena to bring the July 4th celebration back to Main Park.





The Oaks Recreation & Fitness Center

Fitness Programs Offered Through Insurance Companies Bring New Members to The Oaks

Insurance programs that offer free fitness memberships through *Silvers Sneakers* and other programs, continue to bring in new members that would not have joined otherwise. These programs have generated substantial revenue in membership dues.

Check your insurance policy to see if you qualify for a free or reduced fee membership at The Oaks!



Oaks Manager is Active in Several Parks and Recreation Professional Associations

The Oaks Manager of Recreation Facility Operations was elected to serve as “President Elect” for SSPRP (South Suburban Park and Recreation Professional Association); continues to serve on the Board of Regents for the IPRA (Illinois Park and Recreation Association) Facility Management Workshop, 2022 and 2023 as Chair; and also passed the Certified Pool Operator certification course.

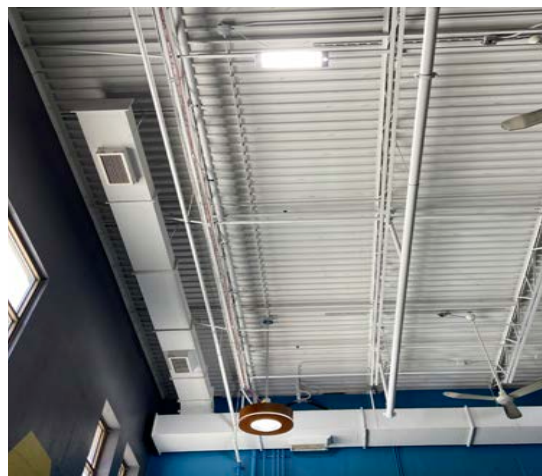
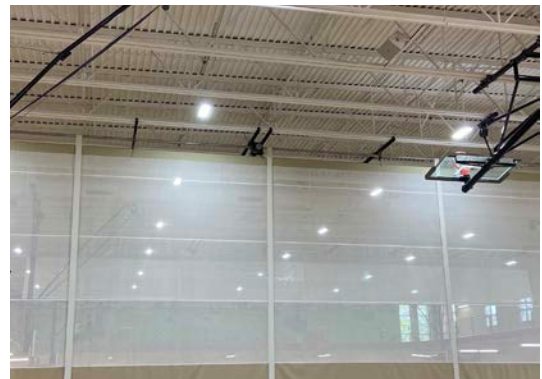
Open House Events at The Oaks are Bringing in New Members

May 2022 saw our first Open House. For five days the Fitness Center, walking track, group exercise classes and select specialty classes were offered to anyone for no charge. During the Open House we also offered membership and personal training sales. This event will be offered 2–3 times a year.



Cost-Saving LED Lights at The Oaks

The Oaks Recreation & Fitness Center now has all LED lights, both inside and outside. This will result in a significant cost savings in both electricity and bulb/ballast replacement.



The Oaks Recreation & Fitness Center



Health & Wellness Programs Help Members and Employees to Reach their Wellness Goals



The Employee Wellness program, *Mission Possible*, was implemented and offered wellness challenges throughout the year for MCPD employees.

The Member Wellness Program for Oaks Members offered Wellness Challenges throughout the year and the popular *Fitness Bingo Blitz*.

Active Sit & Fit was a new program that started in January. This is a great class for those with mobility issues, at any age, to exercise and stay fit.

Nutrition Services with Health Right Consulting and Kim Kramer, RDN, LDN, CDCES are now offered at The Oaks. The Oaks also offered virtual wellness workshops in 2022 in collaboration with the Mokena Cancer Support Center.

In-person Group Exercise attendance in 2022 has risen to pre-pandemic levels.

Zumba® Gold and Gentle Yoga classes continue to be very popular and often reach the participant registration maximum. Group Training also continues their revenue success with programs such as *Ultimate Athletic Training* and *K.B.S. Training (Kettlebell, Boxing, Suspension)*.

Melissa Gall was hired as an Oaks Personal Trainer and a Yoga Instructor.

Personal Training revenue for fiscal year ending 21-22, was steady versus fiscal year ending 20-21.

The Fitness & Wellness Supervisor attended the *SCW Mania Conference* for further education and research about new fitness trends.

New Precor Selectorized Equipment was Installed in the Fitness Center



New Bleachers Installed at The Oaks

Four new sets of bleachers were purchased and installed in the South Gym creating more seating for spectators and events. We had 2 sets per court and now there are 3 per court.





Yunker Park Amenities



Before



After

Yunker Park Bandshell Refinishing Project

Facility Rentals at Yunker Farm are Suitable for Many Types of Events

This year included four large event rentals at Yunker Farm: a Quinceañera, two weddings and Sweet Pickins Market.



Yunker Park Splash Pad was Very Busy this Summer



5,001
Visitors

51
Party
Rentals





Mokena Community Park District
Foundation

The Mokena Community Park District Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable foundation. Its mission is to raise funds to provide:

- Scholarships for Park District or Community Affiliate organizations to underprivileged children of the community.
- Capital projects.
- Landscape and beautification projects.
- Scholarships for local residents attending an accredited college or university to obtain a degree in the Parks and Recreation field.

The Foundation's Main Fundraiser is the Annual Golf Outing in June.

There are many generous Sponsors that contribute to the Golf Outing which helps the foundation to carry out its mission.

This summer the Foundation donated the GaGa Ball Pit at Main Park. *Photo on pg. 3.*



Thank you to our Sponsors

Eagle Sponsors

Amber Mechanical
Berko's Super Foods
Old Plank Trail
Community Bank
Precise Tree Care Inc.

Birdie Sponsors

A Better Door & Dock
Services, Inc.
Aleck Plumbing, Inc.
American Combustion
Service, Inc.
Chicago Investment Advisory
Group
CivicPlus
ILG Logistics
Integrity Security Personnel
Jameson's Pub
Jamo's Live
Leangreen Vending
Mokena Baseball/Softball
Association
NuToys Leisure Products, Inc.
Upland Design
Williams Architects

Hole/Par Sponsors

Area Landscaping Supply Inc.
Aurelio's Pizza Mokena
Amber Mechanical
Design Perspectives
Eco-Clean Maintenance
Fifth Third Bank
Gas N Wash
Homewood Disposal Service
Midwest Commercial Fitness
Mokena Lions Club
On Site Drug Testing
Priority Payroll Services Plus
Priority Recovery Solutions
Shark Shredding Inc.
South Suburban Umpires
Association
Speer Financial Inc.
Sportsfields
Stumm Insurance Company
Tressler LLP
Zenon Company

Bogey Sponsor

Gnade Insurance Group, Inc.
Post Game Pub & Sedona
Grille

Raffle Prizes/Donations

19th Hole
40 Life Candles
Ace Hardware
Case Lots
Currie Motors
English Garden Flower Shop
Fuellers Car Wash
Post Game Pub
Santa's Village
Schaff Power Equipment



Mokena Community Park District
Foundation

Financial Assistance is available for Programs

The Foundation provides funds for residents who are facing financial difficulties. These funds are available to use for Mokena Park District program fees or community affiliate organizations.



Applications for financial assistance are available at www.mokenapark.com, under the "About" tab, then click on the "Foundation" tab in the drop-down box.

Mission Statement

The Mokena Community Park District is committed to enhancing lives through the power of recreation by providing exceptional parks, facilities, programs, events, and services for all to explore and enjoy.

Vision

Working together to build on active, vibrant, welcoming, connected, safe and healthy community.

Values

Our mission is guided by these values: Collaboration, Community Engagement, Safety, Sustainability, Cleanliness, Comfort and Inclusion.

