

Dear friend of the Naperville Park District:

In today's world, change is undoubtedly a constant. Not only does this variable apply to the weather, especially in Illinois, but we see this element crop up in everyday life. We also see our fair share of change at the Naperville Park District, and many of those shifts we encounter or create are positive. In the coming fall season, we are looking forward to several new things that will not only impact the Park District operationally, but also increase our program offerings to our customers.

From a broader perspective, the organization has begun working on the development of a three-year strategic plan. This essential document will serve as a blueprint for the Park District and guide the staff in accomplishing organizational goals and objectives. What this means to our end-users is a continued focus on moving forward with projects and initiatives while keeping the greater good of the community in mind. The development of the strategic plan is being carried forth with the assistance of 16 key community organizations and groups, as well as input from our employees across the Park District. Also, the data collected over the summer through the Community Interest and Opinion Survey will play a significant role in the process. I look forward to the completion and introduction of the Park District's next three-year strategic plan. Once finalized, it will be available for viewing on our website.

On a lighter note, the Park District is driving change to bring our customers the kinds of programs they're interested in while expanding upon popular programs. For many years, we've offered our fall hayrides, which continue to see an increase in attendance. In answer to the interest in our hayrides program, we have increased the number of weekend hayrides at both Seager and Knoch Knolls parks to include earlier offerings geared toward younger families. On the new program front, we have added a 5K training program for families who would like to compete in this year's Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. Called, "Generations: A Running Program for Families," this 10-week session includes a training plan, organized group training runs, nutritional advice and automatic registration for the 5K run on November 26; please see page 7 of this publication for more information. There's nothing better than establishing healthy exercise habits as a family, and training for a 5K is something that kids and adults can do together. We're very excited to offer this new program for our community with the support of Whole Foods Market and Road Runner Sports.

And, while change seems to be something that we manage on a regular basis, there is some comfort in the consistencies that life brings our way. Supporting our Halloween Happening event for the sixth year in a row is Comcast, and we thank them for their continued support. We also acknowledge them for a generous donation made to the Naperville Park District's scholarship program. This program provides local families in financial need with the opportunity to enjoy many of the things we offer at the Park District. Of course, we are grateful for the support of all of our community partners who take an interest in the Naperville Park District and everyone we serve throughout the year.

As we head into the later part of 2009, know that you can continue to count on the Naperville Park District for both consistency *and* change. We have been a proud and active member of this community for more than 40 years, but we're always looking for ways to continue to evolve and serve the changing needs of Naperville's residents. I hope that you'll continue to look to us as a valuable recreational resource no matter how your needs may change over time.

Sincerely,

Ray McGury
Executive Director
Naperville Park District