

Dear friend of the Naperville Park District:

I'm so happy to have the opportunity to address you for the first time as your Executive Director. Having been a part of the Naperville community in law enforcement for so many years, and then leaving in 2005 to serve the residents of Bolingbrook, returning to Naperville has been a homecoming for me. I've enjoyed reconnecting with longtime residents and meeting new ones. In my role at the Park District, I look forward to meeting many more of you while continuing to serve the public – now through recreation.

Over the past two months, I have learned that I'm fortunate to be surrounded by a talented and knowledgeable staff that has done an excellent job of moving the Park District along through a significant amount of transition. My goal is to build upon their work and make this an even better organization while placing an emphasis on one core value I firmly believe in – service. The primary reason the Naperville Park District exists is to fulfill the needs of our residents in the most efficient and effective manner as possible, all while providing first-rate customer service. My philosophy is that truly great service should come naturally just by doing the right things – striving for excellence in everything we do and treating our customers fairly and respectfully. I look forward to working with staff to enhance what we do, from our operations to our service levels, to our program offerings. I want the Naperville Park District to be your recreation provider of choice time and again.

It's no secret that the economy has been struggling for quite some time and there doesn't seem to be a quick and easy solution to ease that burden. As a result, the Park District has experienced a difficult year, too. We understand that many of you have to make choices each day regarding your spending. It is our goal to continue to find unique ways to deliver recreation value to you and your family at an affordable cost. We also are looking more closely at our program offerings to determine where there are opportunities to refocus or expand. For example, this winter is the first time we are offering indoor soccer. We know that Naperville is a huge soccer community, and already we've seen a very positive response to our Naperville Indoor Soccer program. We will continue to refine our programs and services, offering those that best fulfill the recreation needs of our residents. Recreation is a key element in helping to minimize stress, and we hope you will continue to look to us for support even through these challenging times.

And, speaking of support, we're very appreciative of all of our corporate and community partners that help enhance several of our programs and events throughout the year. Most recently, Flat Top Grill has lent their support of our theater and performing arts programs. I encourage you to take a look at the participation opportunities that are available through this program area, which begin on page 34 of this edition. Also, we are pleased to recognize Buffalo Wild Wings, which has come on board as a sponsor of Naperville Park District indoor and outdoor soccer programs throughout 2009.

Community involvement has always been an important part of both my personal and professional lives, and it's Naperville that I'm especially fond of. I'm glad to be back in this community to have the opportunity to serve you and your family. I hope you will continue to view the Naperville Park District as an important community resource and take advantage of our longstanding tradition of excellence in recreation.

Sincerely,

Ray McGury  
Executive Director