

PRESS RELEASE

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Park Ridge, IL, March 10, 2009 –

Director Jim Lange to Retire from Park District – (PHOTO OF MR. LANGE ATTACHED)

After nearly a thirty-eight year career in the Park and Recreation profession, Jim Lange, Director of the Park Ridge Park District announced his retirement effective June 2, 2009. Mr. Lange began his career at the Park Ridge Park District in 1971 and worked for Park Ridge for ten years. He then spent the next nineteen years, from 1981- 2000 at the Highland Park Park District and reached the position of Director of Recreation Services until 2000 when he was hired as Director of the Park Ridge Park District returning to his home community.

During his tenure, Director Lange brought about many positive and innovative changes.

Capital projects include: Centennial Wading Pool's complete renovation in 2008 as well the Putting Green at Oakton Driving Range, Emerson Soccer Fields Development, Senior Center Kitchen

Renovation, Hodges Park Fountain Restoration, and many new amenities for the Community Center.

Also, the Wildwood Prairie Restoration and Shore Stabilization Projects were accomplished during Mr. Lange's tenure.

Under Mr. Lange's direction, the Park District has become a leader in green initiatives and formed a citizens' Environmental Impact Task Force to address environmental issues and find common sense solutions setting an example for other park districts.

Staying current with ever changing technology, Director Lange guided the District's implementation of the new CLASS software for Online Registration, and the Wireless Internet for patrons to use at the Community Center, Oakton Ice Arena and Maine Park Leisure Center. Both of these technology initiatives were designed to improve customer service for Park District patrons.

Director Lange believes residents and taxpayers should be partners in the governmental process and have input to the Park District in various ways; this philosophy is reflected in the Park District's three Citizens Advisory Councils, numerous affiliate organizations and the Park Ridge Park District Foundation, which Jim helped form in 2007.

In addition to his many contributions, he was instrumental in the Water Reservoir Project, a joint project with the City of Park Ridge at Hinkley Park.

Director Lange is very involved in youth athletics both with the Park District, Maine South and MNSAR. He will continue to coach and volunteer as a positive influence in the lives of youth and teens. Mr. Lange is a lifelong resident of Park Ridge, and will remain active in the community.

"I am proud to have been a part of this truly great agency for so long. My experiences here have been fulfilling and rewarding and I look forward to the next chapter of my life. My wife Jan will be retiring next year and we plan to travel and enjoy our family and friends".



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