



# KVPD 2018-2019

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## Community Letter



January 2019

Dear Friends of the Kankakee Valley Park District

2018 was a good year for the Park District. We were fortunate to have many community members support the endeavors of the District, assisting and allowing us to meet our goals. We had specific projects, summer projects, and yearlong projects. The district has very dedicated, talented and hardworking staff. They not only supported and saw the projects through from start to finish but went above and beyond, and contributed to our future endeavors.

The District and residents around Cobb Park continued to work together to select and plant 8 flowering trees within the park. A young community member and his crew adopted the gazebo to clean up, paint and assist with replacement of broken boards. Bathrooms and the inner walls of the pavilion have been painted, and new park signage has been installed. Many of our other parks are receiving new signage as this will be an ongoing project from year to year until all parks and facilities have been updated. If you and your neighbors are interested in starting a tree replanting program for your park, please contact the Park District Administrative Office. We will accept donations in your park name, select the appropriate trees, plan and schedule the planting. We had 10+ trees donated in memory of Mr. Thomas Dellibac at River Road. They were planted along the river. Their placement was very specific to enhance the aesthetics of the river and provide shade in years to come. We look forward to watching their growth. A neighboring family donated a Tulip tree in place of the former butterfly garden at the Civic Auditorium. The family was instrumental in the love and care of the butterfly garden for many years. Thank you to all our donors. Without you, it would not have been possible in 2018 to plant trees. The place your loved ones mark forever in one of our parks or on our grounds is a true gift to the Park District. We will forever be grateful you have shared their memory with us and the community.

Sara, Paul, family and friends of Sam Miller gathered in happiness and love to remember and cherish Sam on the water now and forever. Whether Sam knew it or not he touched many lives. Sam's passion was boat racing, and he did it very well. Proudly displayed near his bench for us to see was his boat in immaculate condition. Thank you to Sam and the Miller Family for giving us such a beautiful place to sit, stare into the water and lose ourselves in the tranquility of the river.

Riverwood Park in Sun River Terrace was dedicated to the late Mayor R J Bailey. It was officially renamed to Mayor R J Bailey Park. This was especially appropriate as Mayor Bailey was instrumental in assisting and working with the District to identify this park as District property and work with the District for improvements to benefit the residents of Sun River Terrace. Mayor Bailey had a vision that was in the best interest and welfare of his community. His caring and loving nature for the community he served is unsurpassed.

Darryl Williams with Vernon Wellness hosted "Pork & Blues Fest" at Bird Park Don Palzer Band Shell and Pavilion. Vernon Wellness raised and donated \$500.00 towards the band shell roof replacement.

The staff worked on numerous park improvements, some small, some larger. Our tree program continued for the second year in a row at several parks. Many emergencies occurred with storm or wind damage this past year creating delays, yet our tree experts and crew kept up with what was presented before us. Even though the Boat Harbor was damaged from the flooding back in February, our crews and partner vendors were able to make the necessary clean up, fence replacement, and

repairs in order to open on time by our target date. We cannot thank those enough that were understanding and supportive during this time. The inside of Pioneer Park building was completely renovated. The Civic Auditorium roof and Bird Park outdoor bathroom roof were repaired and replaced. Additional park buildings will be renovated in 2019 and 2020. Pioneer Park building was the site of healthy lunches for children throughout the summer, compliments of volunteers with Minister James from We Stand For Christ Jesus ministries and the Northern Food Bank. Riverside Hospital is a sponsor of Bike 609. They selected Bird Park Baseball Fields as the location for their bike rack and 5 bikes. It was a great experience to be a part of and work with Zagster, KCCVB and Riverside. Check out bike 609 and take a ride to see the wonderful sights Kankakee has to offer!

Ice Valley saw a major cleaning and renovation this past year. This has not been done since 2009. There is only so much that can be done in one year, and we have plans to complete additional improvements in 2019. We hosted the successful re-grand opening with games, activities, skate time and more for everyone to enjoy and to see the improvements needed. Our friends and partners of Ice Valley present for the day were KCC Fitness Center, River Valley Special Recreation Association, Glenwood Figure Skaters, our mascot Icee, and the Black Hawks. Ice Valley has been running top notch. They have numerous events for children and families alike. They are home to the Glenwood Figure Skaters, The A Team and the Kankakee Youth Hockey Club. The center is sponsored by the Chicago Black Hawks and the Chicago Wolves. The Figure Skaters approached administration this past year with a plan. If they could raise the funds, could they purchase, install, insure and pay for inspections and ongoing maintenance, they would like to have a skater lift. After discussion with the group and several other professionals such as risk management, other skate rinks, the installer, the manufacturer, etc, it was decided. If the figure skaters could raise the necessary funds, they could donate the lift to the rink. They were 100% successful. We have an instructor/coach who is trained on the use and will be the trainer for additional coaches. Congratulations to the Figure Skaters on their fundraising efforts, and we truly hope your skaters learn their moves from the lift and enjoy their hard work.

Our Campground saw record numbers this past summer. This is thanks, in part, to our wonderful Campground Host Bill. CG Bill oversees the campground, assisting campers needs, checking everyone in, opening the store when needed, planning holiday all campground cookouts; and is our main security for the River Road area. He is an asset to us and the campground visitors, ensuring everyone is taken care and safe.

For those community members that have canine children, we feel that our dog park should be free to all dog owners. Our human children can go to the park and play; why shouldn't our canine children? We do ask that you remain vigilant and keep your fur babies up to date on their shots and vaccines. This is your required responsibility and a courtesy to your fellow canine families for the health of all concerned.

The district was very lucky to have not one but two interns last summer. Both our interns are from the area. One intern worked in maintenance, focused on the tree planting and care, along with beautifying the parks with flowers in all the planters. She also worked on our little hidden gem of the wild flower path and grove next to the band shell. Our other intern worked in recreation. He assisted at the ball fields at River Road, planned and coordinated a few special events like the Super Hero Greetings at Goselin and Touch A Truck at Bird Park, and laid the ground work for the Pumpkin Palooza! We also had water days in the park at Cobb and Old Fair. At some point each intern experienced all facets of the district to receive a well-rounded understanding of parks and recreation.

Last fall we discovered new talents within our team. We produced our first district informational brochure in almost three years. It was a team effort from information to pictures to design to print. We did not mail to residents as the cost exceeds our budget. However, we did print enough to stock some in the Rec Center, the Civic, Ice Valley, and the Administration offices. It is in PDF form online at our website, and we have a link on the Facebook page. Our goal is to have a new brochure three times per year. If you would like a copy, please call the administration office, we will be happy to mail you one. We continually are working to update our website. We appreciate your patience as this has been a long time coming. Since this is not a main position, it is taking much longer than anticipated. All pertinent and important information should be found on the website, and all other information may be obtained by calling the district administration office.

In December the Kankakee Women's Club celebrated their 120<sup>th</sup> birthday! The District was invited to lunch with them at the Civic Auditorium. The Civic Auditorium is home to the Women's Club. In winter of 1947 they dedicated themselves to the fundraising to assist in the building of the Civic Auditorium. By 1949 ground breaking took place, and in September 1950, the building was donated to the Kankakee Valley Park District. Through the partnership and community efforts, the Women's Club and Park District have a 99-year agreement. The District is honored to have such a wonderful group of civic orientated women to work with for the betterment of the community.

Our financials are continually monitored. We continually strive to lower our operating expenses in a conservative manner to be effective and efficient with our tax dollars. In order to have capital funds for projects, improvements and asset purchases, we sell bonds within our legal limit of the DSEB (Debt Service Extension Base). Without the DSEB, we would not have bonds, and without bonds, we would not have the funds to continue to properly maintain and improve our parks and facilities. Our corporate and recreation taxes are allocated to general operations of the district. We sold a small bond in the beginning of the year for our yearly capital projects. In the fall we were fortunate to sell a large bond at a low rate for the major renovation of Splash Valley. The bond is dedicated to the construction and engineering of Splash Valley. We will raise funds for all other aspects of the reopening and startup. Thank you to DA Davidson, Chapman & Cutler, and David Phillips with Speer Financial for their hard work, dedication, and patience. We completed our 2018 annual financial audit on time. It has been submitted to Illinois State Comptroller and Kankakee County Clerk's office. Unexpected changes in the budget has allowed us to employ an additional full-time maintenance person as opposed to prior years' layoff. Our goal is to continue this upward movement and work within our authority and means to meet and exceed this goal.

# Photo Gallery of 2018

Check out our Video's online ([www.kvdp.com/info/videos](http://www.kvdp.com/info/videos))



Cobb Park Re-Plant Tree Donors



Pumpkin Palooza 2018



Winter Fest @ Ice Valley



Toys for Tots



1<sup>st</sup> Day of Skating

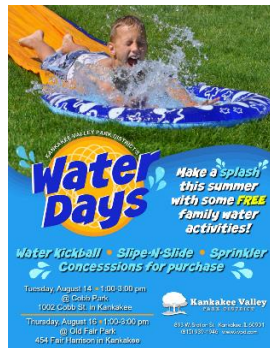




Re-Grand Opening of Ice Valley



We Stand For Chirst Jesus Ministries & Norther Food Bank Lunch @ Pioneer



Water Days



Touch A Truck



Vernon Wellness Donation



Sam Miller Memorial Bench

## 2019

With all that we have accomplished in 2018, its hard to believe we have more to accomplish in 2019.

The new year brings about our continuing goals, such as the tree program, and new goals with several projects. We will be working diligently on the River Road bathroom project, Splash Valley reconstruction project, park & building improvements, continuing our signage program and continuing our clean up/clean out of buildings. We are looking at our capital for possible new projects such as improvements for electrical upgrades, bandshell roof, campground roof repairs, Old Ball Diamond road repairs, Dog Park Parking Lot and additional/continued Ice Valley improvements/repairs. Our decisions are made based on priority and financial ability.

We will be reviewing our policies and handbooks this coming year. We will have our risk management audit this year. This is a compressive audit of the district. It is focused and concentrated on insurance and legal. Our risk management assists us and ensures that we are safety-orientated, that our parks and facilities are legally up to date and that we are following insurance guidelines and policies.

This is also an election year for our commissioners. We have two seats for a 6-year term. At the time of writing this, we have one candidate. If you are interested in being a candidate/commissioner, please call the district administration office for more information. All submittals must be completed with the county by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. At this point, the term would be for 2 years. Then in 2021, the term remaining would be 4 years.

Splash Valley is currently in the assessment and planning stage. We are meeting with engineers to determine the mechanical workings within the pump house, current IDPH pool codes that we need to meet and exceed, Bathhouse repairs, replacements, etc. We will have a full plan in the next month or two. Our Goal is to start construction in June.

We will have our Touch A Truck and Pumpkin Palooza in addition to several other special events this year. We have events planned that are fundraisers for Splash Valley. We need to raise money for the miscellaneous at Splash Valley, the lifeguard supplies such as backboards, oxygen tanks, first aid supplies, guard apparel, lifeguard tubes, etc; concession stand supplies and equipment, pool manager equipment and supplies, and admissions office supplies. There are renovations that the interior of the bathhouse will require. The facility has been closed for almost 4 years and deterioration has set in, machinery has ceased up from non-use and facility requirements by law have changed. In addition to the fundraisers for purchases and interior renovations, we will be looking for sponsors for the pool seasons. It is our hope the special events at the pool will be primarily supported by our sponsors.

We are very excited about our projects and new endeavors. We look forward to a bright future and serving you our community.

Kankakee Valley Park District Board of Commissioners and Staff

**SAVE THE DATE!!! October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

will be a major fundraiser for us!



We are going to have a golf outing. Come one, Come all.... Don't golf? that's okay. Be a volunteer, come for dinner. We will be distributing information for our golfers and our sponsors this month.

In addition to the golf outing, we will have several other fundraisers that we will let you know about ahead of time as they are finalized. Besides your participation in our fun, exciting fundraising activities, please consider being a sponsor of Splash Valley! We listened to you; we are reinvesting in Splash and need your assistance to be successful.

We cannot thank you, our community enough for the continued support, kind words of encouragement, ideas, and assistance you give to us.



## EVENTS TO COME IN 2019-2020



Help us raise funds for Splash Valley Re-Opening! Play in the Golf Outing, Sponsor the Golf Outing or Both! Attend our fundraisers, sponsor Splash Valley future special events, the diving boards, the slides, the first aid station or the concession stand.

Call us today for more information!

5 K Beer Fest August 10, 2019

Touch A Truck (Date TBD)

Pumpkin Palooza (Date TBD)

Districts' 95 year Anniversary Celebration (2020)

**More to Come...Watch for our guide online:**

**[www.kvpd.com](http://www.kvpd.com)**