

THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER



October 2015, Issue 3

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SUMMER MEMORIES: PAC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

October marks the first full month of the fall season and it's either the time where Chicagoans delight in the brisk weather or mourn the passing of the summer sun. Regardless of your cold vs. hot weather stance, put your hats and hot chocolates to the side for now and bask with us in the summer accomplishments of Park Advisory Councils across the city. From park openings, to playground ribbon cuttings, to carnivals, to volunteer days, PACs have continued to make great contributions to their communities and parks. The following are just a fraction of the PAC highlights from the summer.



Picnic in Brown Park, Brown Memorial Park, 634 E. 86th St.

The Brown Park Advisory Board held a community picnic honoring the fallen Sidney Brown and 7 other African-American firefighters who fell in the line of duty in our city. The park was rededicated and plans unveiled for the memorial site. Over 200 attendees partook in the day's events, including speeches from Chicago firefighters and the family of Sidney Brown, a free back-to-school backpack giveaway, live music, a bouncy house and much more. Congrats to the Brown Park Advisory Board! It was a beautiful event and we can't wait to see the great work they'll do next!



Logan Square Dog Park Grand Opening, Logan Square Dog Park, 2529 W. Logan Blvd.

After years of organizing, fundraising, and holding true to a dream, the Logan Square Dog Park Committee finally saw the opening of the Logan Square Dog Park, also known as Park 556. On a perfect summer day in August, the LSDPC gathered local vendors and animal shelters who tabled on the open area beside the small dog play section. Dozens of community members and their pooches made new friends that day, while playing in dog pools, chatting with neighbors, or playing a game of fetch. Congrats to the Logan Square Dog Park Committee on a great event! The skies the limit with what the LSDPC will do next. We hear they have a great vision for a phase 2 project. Woof!



3rd Annual Bridgeport Air & Water Show, Palmisano Nature Park, 2700 S. Halsted

The Henry C. Palmisano Nature Center Advisory Council held their annual Air & Water Show for the

third year. Chicago Kite gave away 300 kite kits and had kite flying demos of some gloriously monstrous kites! Catch and release fishing, readings by Chicago Public Library staff, scavenger hunts, and delicious food for sale by local vendors were just a smidgen of the activities offered during the event. Congrats to the Henry C. Palmisano Nature Center Advisory Council for another outstanding year! And a special shout-out to the McGuane Park Advisory Council for co-presenting the event!



West Ridge Nature Preserve Grand Opening, 5801 N. Western

It was a big, big day when Park 568, the West Ridge Nature Preserve, opened. Mayor Emanuel, Alderman O'Connor, and CPD Superintendent Kelly joined the West Ridge Nature Preserve Advisory Council and hundreds of community members for the official ribbon cutting of the 20-acre preserve. The WRNPAC organized an I-spy event for families who investigated the new park, provided water for thirsty park visitors, displayed pelts and specimens of local Chicago critters, and answered questions from visitors who were entering and exiting the park. Congrats to the WRNPAC on their first PAC event. What a success!

NOTEWORTHY DATES

October 7th: CPD Budget Meeting, Fosco Park @ 6. Reg. @ 5:30.

October 9th: Deadline for FOTP's Volunteers in the Parks (VIP) Nominations. Contact Nicole at machucan@fotp.org for more info.

October 13th: PAC Leadership Meeting at the FOTP office, @5:30

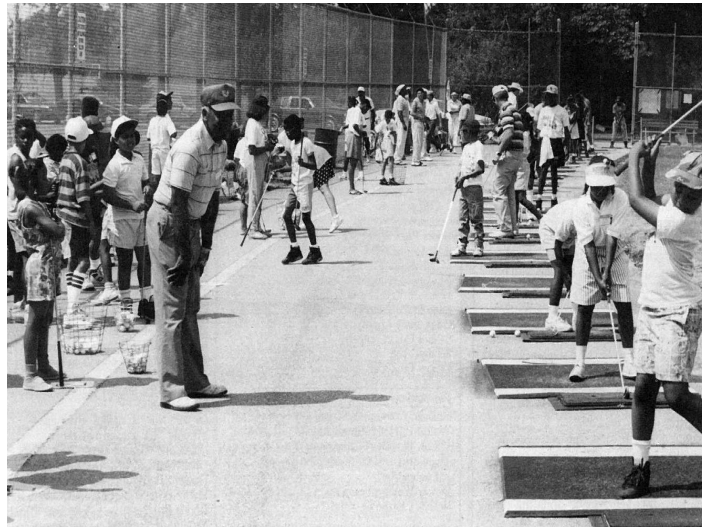
October 15th: Fiscal Sponsorship Reports due for PACs sponsored by FOTP

October 18th: Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Reception, honoring 2014 & 2015 Awardees

October 20th: Deadline for PACT Newsletter Submissions

PACs please submit your upcoming park events to be published in the next issue.

FOTP ARCHIVES: A SWING IN TIME



Taken from our 1991 fall edition of the FOTP Newsletter.

The Jackson Park Junior Golf program had been established and that year 120 youth trained at the Jackson Park Driving Range and on the 9-hole golf course.

Do you have any archive photos from your park? Send to: machucan@fotp.org

EXTRA! EXTRA! OUR NEW ED HAS ARRIVED!

We at Friends of the Parks are excited to welcome our new executive director, Juanita Irizarry, 46. Irizarry is a homegrown leader who brings years of



advocacy and community-based organizing experience to the cause. Her expertise and energy will be applied to staying the course charted by the organization's board of directors to protect public trust land and promote and preserve Chicago's parks.

A lifelong Chicagoan, for 40 years Irizarry has lived in Logan Square and Humboldt Park. She credits her local parks with helping to make her who she is today. From Head Start at Holstein Park to Kelvyn Park High School softball games at Chicago Park District ball fields across the city to years of recreation, leisure, cultural events, and community meetings at Humboldt Park—her personal development and community life have benefitted from Chicago's parks.

Her public service career is one that has spanned non-profit, philanthropy, and government roles alongside volunteer work in community development and housing policy.

For the full-press release, see our blog page at www.fotp.org/blog

THE PACT NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

PAC Highlights – Please give us a little history about your PAC and the great work your PAC has done in your park. Why did you start? Was there a hurdle that you overcame? Was there a great project you'd like to share? *Please include 1-2 pictures and no more than 300 words please.*

CPD Staff Shout Outs – Are there any Chicago Park District staffers who have greatly impacted your park and you'd like to give them a shout out for the whole PAC community to see? We'll include the name of the park and staff member, post their shout out in the next issue, and send them a "Shout Out" certificate and copy of the newsletter. *Shout outs should be no more than 5 sentences.*

Send all submissions to machucan@fotp.org

THE FOTP TREE SAYS...



You have an event planned and you've made the official announcement. Great! However, amidst your last minute hustle and bustle, don't forget to **engage, entice, and excite** your community during the weeks leading up to your PAC's big day.

Engage: Invite friends to 'like' your FB page and encourage them to have their friends do the same.

Entice: Announce new sponsors, vendors, special guests, etc., as you confirm them on both Facebook and Twitter. Post pictures that would complement the announcement.

Excite: Get your community talking by asking questions and/or posting photos. Perhaps they are from the event the past year or of a teaser item. *Fido's ready to sport his new leash at the Dog Park's grand opening. T-minus 5 days!* When you post on Facebook or Twitter, prompt your community by asking them questions about your park. Think of posting a picture of your child doing a handstand. Ask, *what's your favorite tumbling activity in the park? T-minus 12 days 'til Tumbling Fest!* Be positive. Be fun. And encourage your community to do the same!

Using social media prior to the event allows you to build a sense of a park community and spreads the word about your event AND PAC. Social media can be overwhelming, but once that initial learning hump is overcome it can be a powerful PAC tool.