

## Mundelein Park & Recreation District

<http://www.mundeleinparks.org>



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# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

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### **KNAUZ AUTOMOTIVE GROUP HONORED AS BEST FRIEND OF ILLINOIS PARKS**

**Mundelein, Illinois** —Mundelein Park & Recreation District’s valued partner Knauz Automotive Group, Lake Bluff was awarded Best Friend of Illinois Parks (Mid-Sized Business) at the Illinois Association of Park District’s (IAPD) (<https://www.ilparks.org/>) Best of the Best Awards Gala last Friday, October 12. This award recognizes a business or corporation that has demonstrated exemplary support of a local park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency.

“It’s not every day you get a telephone call from someone asking if they can give your agency money,” said Mundelein Park District’s Executive Director, Margaret Resnick. “Since that initial phone call in 2014, the Knauz-Mundelein Park District partnership has steadily grown to include support in almost all of our community events. One third of our sponsorship dollars come from Knauz Automotive Group. Their support is unmatched by any other Mundelein Park District sponsor.”

With rising costs of entertainment and private recreation, more families are turning to the park

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district for affordable recreation and free special events. Mundelein Park District's free events attract thousands of people from all over Lake County each year. Knauz's support has allowed the district to enhance many of these programs such as adding a petting zoo to the Spring Egg Hunt, a Ninja Warrior obstacle course to the Beach Bash event, and finisher medals for the free Kids' Run at the Freedom Classic 5K. At the Mundelein Fine Arts Festival the funds have allowed the district to award Art Scholarships to two aspiring high school students.

Their support of Park District events that benefit the Mundelein Park Foundation had helped meet the demand of recreational scholarships for Mundelein families in need. These scholarships go toward preschool, summer camp, swimming lessons, dance and or sports programs. Knauz has been a major partner in events such as the Cardboard Regatta and Chase the Moon 5K, helping to meet the need for over \$15,000 in requests each year.

Knauz's support in smaller park district programs such as the Enchanted Princess Ball and Wild About Mom has allowed the district to keep registration costs low.

"Their continued support and commitment to our community has been significant and we simply could not let this opportunity to applaud their efforts pass us by," said Resnick.

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual gala was held at Wheeling Park District's Chevy Chase Country Club. This red carpet event is for Illinois park, recreation and conservation agencies. Attendees are motivated and inspired by stories of people working together to go above and beyond the call of duty to make Illinois a better place through parks and recreation.

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