



Mundelein Park & Recreation District

<http://www.mundeleinparks.org>

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

February 2, 2021

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PARK DISTRICT EMPLOYEES HONORED AT ANNUAL RECOGNITION EVENT

MUNDELEIN, IL –Mundelein Park & Recreation District’s Annual Employee Recognition event was limited to a virtual setting in late January, but six employees that were recognized deserved a celebration more on the scale of a gala. The special circumstances of the challenging year brought out the best in employees of the District.

The Administration Department recognized Risk Manager **Nerissa Brueckbauer**. She did an exemplary job of keeping the District informed during the roller coaster of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Her role in keeping employees and patrons safe during this trying time was delivered with compassion, patience, and kindness. **Ted Costa** was recognized by the Buildings and Grounds Department for showing exceptional work ethic daily. This past year the hiring of seasonal staff was limited, and Ted stepped up and went out of his way to help others at work, often working extra time on short notice. The Recreation Department recognized **Cheri Rehor** for her role in creating and managing an entirely new way of school with the

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District's E-Learning Hub. Her quick problem-solving skills, creativity, flexibility, and vision made programs, including summer camp, a huge success.

Two seasonal employees, **Jose Espino and Michael Kiewicz** were recognized for Steeple Chase Golf Club. With COVID-19 protocols, the job of Cart Attendant drastically changed. Cleaning and disinfection of the carts increased the workload by well over double of previous years. Jose and Michael developed systems of getting carts ready for safe customer use and made the operation look seamless and normal to customers. The Board of Commissioners recognized **Christa Lawrence** for rising to the challenge to keep the Park District invaluable to the public during the height of the crisis. She headed brainstorming sessions to inspire thinking outside the box for new ways to serve the public when in-person programs were not an option. She singlehandedly wrote and illustrated "My New Mask," a book and video explaining to children why face coverings are needed. She created both English and Spanish versions to reach more residents of the community. Proceeds of over \$2000 from the book sales went to the Mundelein Parks Foundation funding efforts to promote and enhance facilities, services, programs, parks, and special projects (<https://mundeleinparks.org/about-mprd/mundelein-parks-foundation/>).

Also recognized were Jill Miller for 25 years of service, Bill Brolley, Jon Karl, and Elizabeth Legoff for 20 years of service. Stephen Moylan and Carol Specht were recognized for ten years of service, and Christa Lawrence, Elizabeth Bedolla, Tony Elsasser, James Nelson, Fernando Soto, Shari Rivi, Sindy Duent-Poggy, April Lee, Christine Malstaff, and Mark Thommes for five years of service.

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“There were many accomplishments in 2020, and it was a team effort,” said Ron Salski, Executive Director of Mundelein Park & Recreation District. “We are incredibly proud of all our staff as they believed MPRD programs, facilities, and services were essential to our community. Some employees decided to go the extra mile to keep our customers and co-workers moving forward with an extraordinary capacity to lead. I congratulate them all on a respected, district-wide award and the numerous employees who stepped up for our community and District. Our Board of Commissioners and I are grateful for our talented, dedicated, innovative, and kind staff.”

Conveniently located in north-central Lake County, Mundelein Park & Recreation District has 33 park sites offering over 735 acres of open space, playgrounds, ballfields, lakes, and trails. The District offers over 650 seasonal programs, including: dance, youth sports, tennis, karate, golf, gymnastics, adult and youth leagues, swim instruction, art, fitness and wellness, culinary, adult day trips, science classes, and day camps. In addition, over 20 annual events, many free to the public. Facilities include the championship 18-hole Steeple Chase Golf Club, multi-function Community Center, NovaCare Fitness Center, Diamond Lake Beach, outdoor waterpark Barefoot Bay Family Aquatic Center, Spray Park, Lions Field Skateboard Park, Regent Center for adults ages 50+, Big & Little Child Development Center, Learning Center Preschool, and Diamond Lake Sports Complex, a unique nature and recreation destination. For more information about Mundelein Park & Recreation District visit <https://mundeleinparks.org> or follow Facebook or Twitter and Instagram (@MundeleinParks).

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PHOTO CAPTION:

Ted Costa, Cheri Rehor, Christa Lawrence, and Nerissa Brueckbauer (pictured from left to right) are four of six Mundelein Park & Recreation District employees recently recognized for outstanding work. Not pictured: Jose Espino and Michael Kiewicz.

