

# 100 NEWS RELEASE

**From:** Rockford Park District – Executive Director, Tim Dimke

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## 'Best of the Best' Recognizes Rockford

**ROCKFORD IL** – The Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) held their annual awards gala and recognition program Friday, September 11, 2009, at the Wheeling Park District's Chevy Chase Country Club, with the Rockford Park District being recognized with several awards of distinction.

According to Dr. Ted Flickinger, President and CEO of IAPD, "The Best of the Best awards gala is an opportunity to give board members, citizen volunteers, businesses and media the recognition they deserve for doing so much to advance parks, recreation and conservation. This program motivates and inspires each and every one of us to go above and beyond the call of duty to make Illinois a better place to live, work, and play."

Commissioner Nate Martin received a ten year recognition award for serving on the Rockford Park District Board of Commissioners, and he is also serving on IAPD's Board of Trustees.

The Rockford Park District received a proclamation from the state agency for serving the citizens of the District for 100 years, since 1909. Board of Commissioners Vice President Jack Armstrong and Executive Director Tim Dimke accepted the proclamation on behalf of the citizens of the Park District.

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**ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT**

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George Franklin, founder of Friends of Lockwood Park, received recognition for Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the year for his tireless efforts to fundraise, organize and motivate hundreds of volunteers to keep Lockwood Park open to the public. In the last year, Friends of Lockwood Park have had 177 citizen volunteers contributing 4,162 hours, with a savings of \$32,256 for the Lockwood Park operation. George accepted his award accompanied by Commissioner Nate Martin.

WREX TV 13 received the top award for journalism in the state of Illinois, as the Rockford Park District's major media partner. WREX's General Manager, John Chadwick, commented on receiving this prestigious recognition, "It's a great honor for WREX to be considered the best in the state when it comes to supporting parks and recreation, and we are glad to be involved as a partner in a variety of activities and events. The holiday tree lighting with Dani Maxwell and Eric Wilson is just one of the community events we're pleased to promote and sponsor. WREX is also very involved with the golf programs of the Park District, including 13 days at Ingersoll, the Golf Ball Drop, Golf Hall of Fame, and golf tip features in sports. I believe that the Rockford Park District is one of the most positive forces in our community, and I fully expect this relationship to continue long into the future." News Director Maggie Hradecky accepted the top honors award with Commissioner Chuck Brown accompanying her to the platform.

Tim Dimke, Executive Director, summed up the evening's festivities, "This statewide recognition is well deserved for the incredible efforts put forth by our partners and volunteers. These awards are a great opportunity for the Illinois Association of Park Districts to recognize the value that parks and recreation play in the lives of our local citizens."

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