

PARK NOTES Fall 2019



Pollinator Gardens Make Burt Center a Lan-Oak Park District Destination Park

More than three years ago the Lan-Oak Park District launched a mission to bring destination parks to the Lansing community. The park district acknowledged that bringing the same few common park amenities to multiple parks was expensive to build and maintain, and only addressed a few resident interests. The district instead planned to bring unique amenities to various parks, making them destinations for a variety of new recreational activities. Since the plans inception, Lansing parks have welcomed an educational reading path, pickleball courts, a new "smart" park, bocce courts, just to name a few. **And now a pollinator park has arrived!**

In February 2019, Lansing resident Diane Lund visited a park board meeting to talk about the need for pollinators in every community and to introduce a pollinator garden concept. Lund requested permission to bring pollinator gardens to Lansing on park district property. The park board and staff agreed that pollinator gardens would provide a unique recreational and educational amenity to the park system, as well as serve an important environmental purpose. Lund offered possible locations for gardens and, after a bit of research and discussion, it was decided that the Mildred Burt Nature Center would be a perfect place to start. The nature center next to the park district Eisenhower Center is named after a longtime Lansing resident - Mildred Burt. Mildred was a beloved Lansing teacher and productive and respected school board member for many years before passing in 2006. In 2016 the park board had approved development of the center and park district staff set out to create a plan for the project that included a walking path, benches, a variety of plantings to beautify the space, educational markers, with all serving to make it a tranquil and educational location. In 2017 the center was cleared of dense weeds and dead trees, poisonous and invasive plant species were removed and, slowly, patrons started to visit the center.



In early 2019, park district staff started working with Lund in determining the design, plantings, and budget required for the pollinator gardens. In September, Diane brought the first educational opportunity to the nature center with five pollinator garden areas. Diane negotiated with the MWRD to donate compost, plants arrived, planting started on September 6, and mulch was delivered. Diane and the Lansing Garden Club prepared the area, planted, and spread mulch. Lund watered the space and is now maintaining the gardens two to three times each week.

Still to come this fall - a new sign and two new benches for enjoying the new pollinator park. The park district wishes to express its immense gratitude to Diane Lund and the garden club for bringing this important element to the Lan-Oak Park District and the Lansing community.

We believe that Mildred Burt would be very proud of this effort.



What is a pollinator garden?

A pollinator garden is planted and designed, with specific nectar and pollen producing plants, in a way that attracts pollinating insects known as pollinators.

What is a pollinator?

A pollinator is anything that helps carry pollen from the male part of the flower (stamen) to the female part of the same or another flower (stigma). The movement of pollen must occur for the the plant to become fertilized and produce fruits, seeds, and young plants. Many flowers are pollinated by insects and animals - bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, birds, flies, and small mammals, including bats.



Why do we need pollinator gardens?

Pollinators are important to our food system. Pollinator gardens support and maintain pollinators by supplying food in the form of pollen and nectar that will ensure that these important animals stay in the area to keep pollinating our crops for continued fruit and vegetable production.



Ghostly Games

Carnival games, gentle characters and a bounce house will tickle little goblins ages 2-8. Bags provided for the candy you will gather!

Haunted Hallway

Brace yourself, exhale, and enter. It's dark, it's foggy, it's creepy, it's shockingly, frightfully, screamingly delightful!

Get back in line - you'll want to go again!
Ages 8 & Up, please

The moon has awoken with the sleep of the sun; the light has been broken, the spell has begun.

Creepy Cafe

Plan on relaxing for a bit in the cafe. Demon dogs, creepy cakes, tantalizing taffy apples, and chilling chips will fill you up for dinner!

Ghostly Games \$5 per child
Haunted Hallway \$2 per visit
Creepy Cafe Prices as posted
Ticket sales start at 11am
Ticket sales stop at 8:30pm

Friday, October 25 6:30-9:00pm

Eisenhower Center, 2550 178th Street, Lansing

Questions? Please call 708-474-8552



HALLOWEEN PARADE

Walk in the footsteps of generations of Lansing children before you in this Lansing tradition!

Put on your costume, report to the Kilroy's

parking lot downtown, join with the police department, fire department, and park district as we close down Ridge Road to show off our Halloween finery! Every child marching in the parade will receive a free candy bag and prizes will be awarded for outstanding costumes.

Come out & march!

Saturday, October 26 10AM

Arrive & Register 9:30AM
Parade Steps Off at 10 AM

NEW!!



Win a turkey for your Thanksgiving dinner!

Teams consist of one adult and one child. Each team member will take 10 free throw shots and the team with the highest combined total in each age division takes home a turkey.

Program#: 354003 Age divisions:

6-8 yrs (8 foot hoop) Section(01)

9-11 yrs (9 foot hoop) Section (02)

12-13 yrs (10 foot hoop) Section(03)

Advanced registration is required.

\$5 per resident team, \$10 per non-resident team

**Friday, November 15
6:00-7:30pm**

At the Ike

The Eisenhower Center is a busy place in the Fall!!



The park district is proud to maintain this nearly 60,000 square foot community center for the enjoyment of all Lansing residents and their friends. The Eisenhower Center is full service for all ages - from the baby room to the educational preschool to the two-court gymnasium to the fitness center - it has something for everyone.



The fall programming season started on September 3, 2019 and 349 participants are already enrolled and enjoying fall programs offered at the Eisenhower Center. Each season the park district plans a mix of programs that includes old favorites and new opportunities. This season is no different. Debuting this season at the Lan-Oak Park District...

The park district's very popular Kempo Jujutsu has added a few more specific programs. Along with



Jujutsu for ages 5 & up, participants may now refine their skills in Kempo Jujutsu Punching 101 and Kempo Jujutsu Ground Fighting 101. Little fighters can start their martial arts education in Kemp Jujutsu Coordination and Attention for ages 3 & 4 years.

By popular demand, the district's dance roster has added Cheer for ages 3 to 12 years. New dance instructor, Kiah Taylor, is the choreographer and instructor for the Thornton Township High School dance team. She is eager to introduce participants to dance or assist in refining skills for current youth dancers and cheerleaders.



Hot Shot Sports is welcomed to the line up offering the Junior Ninja Warrior program. Leap, hop, run, and maneuver over and under while using your new ninja skills. Ages 4-6 years will love this program that also serves as a fun fitness opportunity.



The Slime Hacks program always fills quickly, so let's offer some ooey, gooey holiday fun. Kids will love our new Halloween Slimeology Lab and Santa Slimeology Lab. These programs are just right for ages 6-8 and 9-12. Kids will revel in creating stretchy, squishy, slime!

Attention Parents! The park district now provides a comfy, lobby amenity that allows you to enjoy technology while waiting for kids enrolled in programs. The Eisenhower lobby offers a technology table and chairs for laptops, tablets, cell phones, or just for working on bills or paperwork. Not working? Enjoy the new 65" TV.



The best fitness special in the area comes in January!!

Buy One Get One Free
January Fitness
Membership
Special at
EISENHOWER
FITNESS



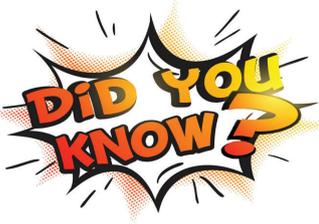
Indoor Lap Pool, Cedar Sauna, Whirlpools, Steam Rooms, Outdoor Tanning Patio, Full Service Fitness Floor with Cybex, Hammer Strength, Life Fitness, Sci-Fit, Two-Room Weight Room, Gym Rax, Personal Training, Floor & Water Fitness Classes

Special runs from January 1 to January 31, 2020 Buy a membership type that already offers a twosome option - pay for one person, add the second person for FREE!!

2550 178th Street, Lansing

Questions? 708-474-8552

Come for a tour!!



The Lan-Oak Park District and the Village of Lansing are two separate entities. Your tax bills list the park district and the village separately and separate taxes are allocated to each. The park district is not operated or supervised by the Village of Lansing (mayor and trustees).

Independent park districts are created through a vote of the people in order to assure that open space, parks, and recreation remain a high priority in their community. The Lan-Oak Park District was created by a vote of the residents in 1949. Illinois has more independent park districts than any other state.

Lan-Oak Park District Board of Commissioners Welcomes New Member



Lansing residents elected Karen Adams to the park district board in April 2019. Karen wants to be a part of the health of the town. She feels that parks serve so many purposes: a place for children to play together, for families to meet each other, for many forms of exercise and sports, for celebrations, a place to be quiet and to breathe. Parks are a place for recreation, which means re-creation.

Karen and her husband, Dave, grew up in Roseland, where they graduated from Fenger High School. Karen and Dave moved to Lansing in 1964, with their children, Mike, Kathy, Bob and David (DJ). Their children attended Sunnybrook, Nathan Hale, Heritage, TFSouth and Illiana Christian. New Commissioner Adams joins Commissioner Bob Tropp, Commissioner Jim Long, Commissioner John Kelly and Commissioner Micaela Smith. Also in April, Commissioner Micaela Smith won a full 6-year term on the park board and Commissioner Pat Gulotta retired from the board. The park district thanks Pat Gulotta for the time, attention, and responsible leadership that he brought to the park board.



Can a Playground Be Smart? Yes, It Can!!

In April 2019 the park district built Lansing's first technology interactive playground at Oakley Park. The new playground incorporates

an app named Biba. Biba offers a bundle of games for you to play with your child while visiting the playground. With this perfect blend of digital and physical play your family is sure to have an unforgettable playground trip that really gets kids moving. All Biba games are set in the playground and use the equipment around you. Biba may be downloaded free from Google Play. Biba knows that

balancing screen-time with kids can be a challenge - so Biba turns screen-time into ACTIVE time, encouraging social and imaginative gameplay that get kids OFF the couch and moving.

Oakley Park is located at 184th & Oakley Street.



Happy Birthday, Paws 'n Play Dog Park

On October 13, 2018 the park district was proud to open Lansing's first dog park. Since that



time, Lansing dogs have loved running and playing with their parents and neighbor dogs.



To celebrate the Paws 'n Play first birthday, the dog park will be receiving three new trees - one in the small dog area and two in the big dog area. All three are

maple trees that will bring amazing color to the park each fall.

Thanks to all of the puppies who have supported the dog park - we hope to see you for another year of fun.



LAN-OAK PARK DISTRICT
2550 178th Street
Lansing, Illinois 60438
708-474-8552

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