



**Pleasant Dale
Park District**

7425 S. Wolf Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(630) 662-6220

Contact: Karla Olson
kolson@pleasantdaleparks.org

**** Immediate Release ****

27th Annual July 4th Celebration

Enjoy a night of live music, fun games and fireworks!

Burr Ridge, Ill. – May 15, 2009 – Pleasant Dale Park District is getting fired up to host its 27th annual July 4th Celebration. The annual tradition began in 1982 as a small community gathering for the purpose of celebrating America's independence with fireworks. The event has definitely taken off from its debut. Today the event budgets \$25,000 and hosts over 20,000 people from around the Chicagoland area.

“An event like this takes a lot of time and planning. We started brainstorming for this year's July 4th Celebration in November of 2008. What makes the event so special is to watch peoples' reaction and to hear their applause. That means we did our job well.” Said Cindy Yelich, Recreation Supervisor of Pleasant Dale Park District.

The celebration begins well before the sun goes down. Local residents are welcome to start off their day with a big pancake breakfast hosted by Scout Troup 69 beginning at 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Pleasant Dale's Recreation Center.

The July 4th festival officially opens at 4 p.m. Kids are welcome to bring their bicycles for a special bike parade around Walker Park. Pleasant Dale Park District will provide all of the materials kids will need to create a masterpiece bicycle fit for a parade. Leading off the parade as Grand Marshall will be a car from Continental Toyota of Countryside.

New to Pleasant Dale Park District this year are *Family Fun Activities*. Every hour starting at 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. there will be a fun new activity. At 5 p.m. we'll be hosting a blitz of family games including potato sack races, egg tosses and more! 6 p.m. brings watermelon games where we'll see who can spit a watermelon seeds the farthest and who can eat a watermelon the fastest. Lace-up your shoes at 7 p.m. for the July 4th Patriotic Relay where we'll be doing a variety of medley races.

Starting at 5 p.m. there will be carnival games that will feature a basketball free throw contest; Bozo buckets and face painting. Participants can purchase one ticket for 25 cents or you can buy four tickets for \$1.00, or purchase 44 tickets for \$10.00. There will also

be additional attractions including four different inflatables for children to jump around in.

Food vendors will be available from 4 –10 p.m. which include the Flagg Creek Historical Society who will be selling fresh sweet corn and watermelon. There will be plenty of other carnival food to enjoy such as elephant ears, taco in a bag, pizza, and much more! The beer garden will be open from 4 p.m. – 11 p.m. for those 21 years of age and older.

Entertainment for July 4th will be sure be a rockin'! Leading off at 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. is the Original Bluze Brother DJ Show. Jake does cartwheels and other acrobatics with Elwood adding to the fun of this live performance. For a mellower scene the West Suburban Concert Band will be on stage from 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Attendees will be treated to a variety of classical and contemporary music. Back by popular demand are the Associates who will be performing from 8 p.m. – 11 pm. The Associates are the premiere Motown and variety band in the Midwest and to quote WMAQ's Art Norman, The Associates are "Absolutely Fantastic!!"

The Robert Vail House and FCHS Museum will also be open for tours from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Stop by the museum to experience two new displays, *Treasures from the Vault* and *Oh, the Stories We'll Tell* to learn more about your town's local history.

The 12th annual duck race will take place at 7 p.m. Don't miss the chance to cheer on your numbered plastic duck as it floats to victory down the ever-changing currents of Flagg Creek. This year's grand prize is a chance to win \$25,000! Local residents can purchase ducks before the race at the Chalet in Willow Springs, The Recreation Center in Burr Ridge and Flagg Creek Golf Course in Countryside. Patrons can adopt ducks until 6:45 p.m. on the day of the race at the Pleasant Dale Park District booth.

Many residents do not know that duck adoption is one way the Pleasant Dale Park District funds the fireworks each and every year. "The duck race is an integral part of our July 4th Celebration. The race is actually a fundraiser to help offset the cost of the July 4th Celebration. It is from community support via donations from local restaurants, museums, and fellow park districts combined with duck purchases that we are able to continually bring the public a show-stopping performance." Karla Olson, Marketing Communications Coordinator, Pleasant Dale Park District.

Premier Pyrotechnics is proud to be returning to Burr Ridge for Pleasant Dale Park District's annual July 4th Celebration. As a company that shoots over 4,000 shows annually, Premier Pyrotechnics is a leader in the Pyrotechnics industry in computer choreographed and fired shows, and utilizes the Fire Lite and Fire One firing system for most of its large shows. Last summer they brought this technology to Walker Park and demonstrated how exciting multimedia fireworks can be. Premier and Pleasant Dale Park District work together to develop the fireworks program using a variety of music, and different firework shell sizes and colors. Make sure to stake out your spot early because the fireworks will be blasting off at 9:30 p.m. weather permitting.

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