

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Pleasant Dale Park District to Receive \$150k from Lyons Township

Burr Ridge, Illinois – April 5, 2009

Pleasant Dale Park District learned last week that its revised grant request had been approved in part by the Lyons Township Board of Supervisors, giving the Park District \$150,000 for improvements to the Chalet Fitness Center. Park Director Katherine Parker attended the meeting, one of several that addressed the distribution of a pool of \$10 million in bond revenue and indicated that the funds will be used to enhance and repair an outdoor area at the Chalet as well as to repair its aging parking lot. “We are thrilled at the opportunity to create an outdoor recreation spot for area youth and adults, and we are very grateful to Supervisor Hartigan and all the Board members for their consideration,” said Parker.

The original application sought more than \$6 million of the available funds, of which \$3 million was earmarked to purchase land from Burr Ridge and create a nature park; Parker said that this would have been a wonderful award for both Burr Ridge and the Park District. “We worked with Burr Ridge and the Township’s consultant, but that portion of the grant was not adopted by the Township.” The other funds requested were to completely overhaul the Chalet, which, according to Parker, did not comply with the grant proposal’s requirement that the funds be applied to “outdoor recreational” purposes.

More than 20 applications, seeking more than \$50 million, were submitted to the Township. Parker became a familiar face at the Lyons Township meetings as the funds began to be released, and had this to say, “Lyons Township officials had a very challenging job in reviewing and prioritizing requests. In these tough economic times, we’re very grateful for this award. The funds will be spent to improve a facility that has just begun to turn the corner after its interior renovation.”

The Chalet underwent a renovation during the past fiscal year, including the installation of a 20,000 square foot gym area that can be used for three basketball courts or four volleyball courts or for a full sized indoor soccer arena. Rentals by leagues and teams went into effect in November 2009, generating revenue for the District. In addition, the Park District recently acquired gently used weight equipment that is now being used by fitness club members. “Step by step, we’re working to keep the Chalet open and vibrant, because every Board member wants that for our residents,” Parker said. “We’ve come a long way, and we’ve had great support from the members. It’s very gratifying to see the parking lot filled with cars and the lobby hopping with activity. We know we have more to accomplish, and these funds will help us with important improvements. I can’t thank Lyons Township enough for their generosity and we hope they will visit us to watch the progress of the projects.”