

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
NOVEMBER 2024**

The November Board Meeting will be held at the Square Links Golf Course Clubhouse.

ADMINISTRATION

We welcome the following staff to the November Board Meeting to provide annual department presentations: Ed Reidy, Superintendent of Parks, Dan Coughlin, Athletic Supervisor, and Nicolette Jerik, Superintendent of Office Administration and Technology.

In addition, we welcome representatives from the Frankfort Square Baseball League, Wildcats Football and Cheer, and Scouts. Beverage sales were strong this year at Square Links, and we are happy to share what has been generated with these valued community organizations.

We are excited to have closed on the Frankfort Square School property and are working through the final details. Frankfort Square School families funded the changeable letter sign located at the corner of Frankfort Square Road and Kingston Drive years ago and we were able to update it with a fresh coat of paint and new headers welcoming residents to The Square.

Steve Halberg, Assistant Director of Landscape Architecture for Planning Resources Inc., was instrumental in the Hunter Prairie Park Redevelopment project and completed the bid opening and review last month. He brought years of experience and expertise to the planning process, and we will always remember his connection with this park. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

On November 6, staff attended the annual PDRMA Property/Casualty Program Counsel Meeting where member agency park, special recreation, and forest preserve districts reviewed and approved the 2025 coverage documents and budget. Multiple lines of coverage categories provided to members include property, liability, workers' compensation, employment practices, pollution, and cyber.

Despite an increase in proposed rates, the FSPD's 2025 contribution will be \$112.68 lower than the current year. An additional discount, funded entirely through net position, was made available to members who also participate in the PDRMA Health Program.

Staff attended the IAPD Legal Symposium on November 7. Topics included the latest on labor employment regulations, municipal finance, key legislative issues from the 103rd General Assembly, preparing for potential visits from first amendment auditors, and technology in the public sector.

The December Board Meeting will be held on Monday, December 2, and includes the Truth in Taxation public hearing from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. The regular meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting agenda includes consideration of the annual Tax Levy Ordinance and consideration of travel expenses for Braemar Dance Center competitions in 2025, and the annual IPRA/IAPD Soaring to New Heights Conference in Chicago.

I plan to request an Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property.

LEGAL

A public bid opportunity was conducted for the planned practice area at the golf course and two bids were submitted. FSPD staff and Todd Quitno, Principal of Quitno Golf Designs, reviewed the bids and recommend the lowest responsible bidder, Hollembeak Construction, Inc. Todd highly recommends this golf course construction and renovation company, and has worked with them on approximately 20 projects in the past 20 years. He is currently working with Hollembeak on 3 other projects.

MAINTENANCE

Staff dug trenches, cut concrete, and completed site restoration in support of the electrician's efforts at Community Park to expand electrical service. Staff look forward to lighting the trees in the heart of our community this upcoming holiday season.

Trees are planted District-wide in the spring and the fall. There are planned locations for new and replacement trees as well as dedication trees requested in memory of loved ones. Last week, trees were planted at Union Creek, Rogus, Community, Kiwanis, and Lighthouse Pointe Parks.

RECREATION

Staff continue proofreading and coding efforts for the winter/spring 2025 brochure, which is scheduled to be mailed to residents in December.

The Polar Express continues to be a very popular event with over 200 participants joining us on two separate Metra trains.

The FSPD's youth soccer programming is finishing its fall session. FSPD resident, Greg Beaudin, leads an all-star staff who generously share their talents and encouragement with our young players each weekend.

SPECIAL RECREATION

The next Lincolnway Special Recreation Association Board Meeting is scheduled for November 19, and I can include pertinent information at our Board Meeting.

GOLF COURSE

Square Links has benefitted from favorable weather this year and as long as the forecast looks good, we will remain open during November. As of October 31, 2024, golfers played 23,086 rounds of golf and hit 951,850 balls on the driving range. Both exceed last year's totals, and I believe they are record highs for Square Links.

The greens were aerated, and golf carts were picked-up for winter storage. Initially, the 1970s themed golf cart was planned only for this year, but due to its popularity, we will keep it as decorated with a few modifications for next year.

The parking lot was sealcoated and striped. Staff and patrons are enjoying the new angled parking spaces to maximize the number of spots available and improve visibility when exiting. Also, the lane widths were increased to provide a little more room.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The FSPD was awarded \$1,500 for its Lockdown for Safety proposal through the 2024 Risk Management Grant and Recognition Program. Out of 66 grant proposals, it was one of 16 chosen for an award by the Risk Management Committee.

On November 22, staff will attend PDRMA's Risk Management Institute at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Sessions include: Five Keys to a Successful Safety Culture, Verbal Influence and De-escalation in Challenging Situations, Navigating the First Amendment Online and at Your Agency, and Mental Health and Wellness in the Workplace.

FSPD staff toured facilities with representatives from the START Group as a valued PDRMA provided service. They reviewed confined spaces and provided recommendations for additional fall protection equipment.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Many thanks to everyone who donated, collected, and participated in the annual Scouting for Food Drive. The FSPD is happy to support the Scouts' efforts with this tremendous service project to help families in need. Staff were present at LWN for set-up and take-down as well as during the event to supervise the facility and assist as needed.

Thank you to the Girl Scouts for planting 120 daffodil bulbs to beautify the area surrounding the Community Center sign. It's going to look great this spring!

Respectfully submitted:
Audrey Marcquenski
Executive Director