

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025

ADMINISTRATION

A reminder that the September 18, 2025, Board Meeting will be held at The Square as approved at the August 21, 2025, Board Meeting. Change of venue signs will be posted at the Community Center and at The Square, along with the meeting agenda, and the website calendar was also updated with the meeting location.

Recreation programming that was previously held at Mary Drew has been moved to The Square, with BAS, dance, art, and athletics underway this fall. Summer Day Camp and Zumba enjoyed the facility this summer and were not impacted by renovation work. Staff and contractors worked hard to quickly transition a few classrooms and front offices into spaces suitable for these existing and popular recreation programs.

Donnette Castle and Kari Jensen, our amazing dance directors, are thrilled that you will be at The Square for the Board Meeting and will welcome you for a brief tour of the new studios. There are high level classes scheduled during that time, so you will see the tremendous skill level of the BDC program. A program with this level of excellence is unheard of at a Park District and we are fortunate to have them in our community.

This is just the first step of a long-term goal of reimagining the facility into various programming spaces and amenities for all age groups and activities. The HVAC system becomes the next priority. In addition, throughout this process the FSPD has the opportunity to honor and remember the building's history of welcoming and educating families throughout the community.

Staff worked with Old Plank Trail Community Bank and Chapman and Cutler to prepare the annual abatement ordinance and the provision for the extension of a General Obligation Bond (mini bond) totaling \$136,000, which are both included for your consideration on the September Board Meeting agenda. The sale date is scheduled for October 15, 2025, with repayment on October 15, 2026.

Following completion, the annual audit has been posted to the FSPD website, made available to requesting agencies, i.e. Standard and Poor's and Old Plank Trail Community Bank, filed with Will and Cook Counties, and posted per MSRB EMMA requirements. Also, the audit information was posted to the Grantee Portal per the OSLAD requirement. The final action will be to file the AFR Special Purpose Long Form with the Will and Cook County Clerk's Offices.

The gardening season is coming to an end at Community and Brookside Bayou Parks. Staff shared information on winterization and plans for next year and addressed concerns regarding unauthorized access to individual gardens. This is a popular offering with expanded opportunities available next year at Hunter Prairie Park.

Staff worked with John Staples, Visionary Webworks, to review the FSPD's website and develop a plan to increase accessibility based on the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The initial assessment is complete, and the improvements can be included in the 2026/2027 budget for completion in advance of the April 26, 2027 deadline.

MAINTENANCE

With the fence post installation at Hunter Prairie Park, you can visually see the layout of the tennis courts and garden areas. Various amenity sites are taking shape. A water line was brought across North Avenue to provide water for the community gardens along with the installation of a manhole structure with a meter, backflow preventer, and drain down valve. The Village of Frankfort was helpful throughout the process, and their support is appreciated. Ed Reidy, Superintendent of Parks, will be at the Board Meeting to provide a project summary.

Certified staff are spraying for dandelions and coordinating their actions to avoid mowing contractors and scheduled activities in the parks.

Similar to last year, Enbridge Inc. notified the Park District that they will be working in Lighthouse Pointe this month near the bike path. This Integrity Dig involves excavating a section of pipeline for inspection. Signage is posted along the path.

RECREATION

The 2025/2026 school year is successfully underway. Our fantastic teachers welcomed our 3- and 4-year-old preschoolers as well as the younger participants in our preschool prep programs. It is always an exciting time of the year! The BAS program is going strong at The Square and staff welcomed new and returning students to this popular program.

John Keenan, Superintendent of Recreation and Pam Moloney, ELC Preschool Director will represent the FSPD at the Frankfort Library's Community Resource Fair on September 19. This annual event provides the opportunity for the Park District along with various local agencies to answer questions and share information with residents.

SPECIAL RECREATION

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2025.

LWSRA's Hero's Village Grand Opening is scheduled for September 25 at 4:30 p.m. The event includes a ceremonial ribbon cutting for Hero's Village, which includes various sensory exploration opportunities and is located adjacent to the LWSRA Building and Leigh Creek South Park, 1900 Heatherglenn Drive, New Lenox. RSVP information will be available at the Board Meeting.

GOLF COURSE

Square Links is hosting the College Scholarship Classic on Saturday, September 20 with tee times available online for \$5. The event showcases our generous sponsors and offers a fun day in support of the FSPD College Scholarship Program.

To date, the FSPD has received \$7,100 in donations for the College Scholarship Program. The QR code was generated and will be available in the clubhouse to accept contributions made by individuals. On September 20, it will be available at the Beat the Board Member hole.

On September 9, we celebrated Hunter Rowe on "Thank a Golf Course Superintendent Day." We are grateful for Hunter and his efforts in maintaining the grounds and providing a most excellent playing experience. In addition, we thank his Reliable Property Services staff and the golf course staff for their efforts and contributions in making Square Links a great place to play!

Fun fact – 10,462 buckets of range balls were sold at Square Links through the end of August. That total is one bucket away from the previous year.

FOIA

Staff received and responded to a FOIA request for landscape services contracts that were awarded for the 2023, 2024, and 2025 maintenance seasons. The cost spreadsheet has been linked to the agenda for Board review.

Respectfully submitted:

Audrey Marcquenski

Executive Director