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DECEMBER 2017

First Edition  
Volume 21 Issue 12

**Free**

# CHICAGO PEOPLES VOICE

## David Osborne, Sr. Director, Hermon Park Center

**INSIDE THIS EDITION:**  
NOMINATIONS FOR THE  
2018 MOST INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN  
AMERICANS OF LAKE COUNTY  
AWARDS  
ARE NOW OPEN

TAMMY' TIDBITS  
THE LOCKHART-WHITE REPORT  
SOARING ON BROKEN WINGS  
WITH MICHELLE OBLETON  
THE E.REED REPORT  
AND MUCH MUCH MORE.

*See story on page 3*



## THE E. REED REPORT

### DON'T DRAG YOUR FEET

Jeff Hillary, 45, is an entrepreneur and member of the well-known Hillary family, owners and operators of the Hillary's Barbecue chain. We had breakfast the other day and we talked about his new restaurant opening soon in Beach Park, where the old Porky's Seafood Restaurant used to be. At breakfast, we learned a lot about each other. We talked about family, faith and we shared stories about our life experiences. We both came from rural farm families down south.

One of the stories that Jeff told was about how they had to go to the field and pick purple hull peas. He was just a child maybe about 5 or 6 years old, but even as a child, he had to carry his weight in helping around the farm. One day, Jeff just did not want to go to the field and pick purple hull peas. So he was being slow and acting like he didn't want to go.

His grandmother, still alive, picked him up, but as she picked him up, he began to drag his feet, making it hard on his grandmother to carry him. Suddenly she stopped.

"I don't mind carrying you," Grandma Hillary said. "But don't drag your feet."

Jeff says that he has remembered that

comment as long as he has lived. "I don't mind carrying you, but don't drag your feet."

As he spoke, my mind flooded itself with theoretical life applications to that saying and that concept. I thought about how God carries us, and we want him to. We expect him to. We rely upon him to. But often, we drag our feet, making it hard for God to help us. Sometimes we drag our feet because we don't really want to go where God is taking us. Sometimes we drag our feet because we are lazy and don't want to do what God is asking us to do. Sometimes we drag our feet out of fear, or anxiety, or unfamiliarity with the new experience that we are moving into. And sometimes we drag our feet just for the hell of it.

But for whatever the reason, we often drag our feet. God doesn't mind carrying us, taking us to where we need to be, but we shouldn't drag our feet.

I heard a sermon the other day about Jonah. You know the "Jonah and the whale story", The Lord told Jonah to go and preach to Nineveh so that they would repent of their wicked ways and turn to God. Jonah didn't want to do it, so he dragged his feet. He ran to Tarshish, got swallowed by a big whale, ran into all kinds of turmoil and trouble. Finally, Jonah agreed to do what God had asked him to do, and as the story goes, the people of Nineveh heard the message, repented, changed their ways, and God did not destroy their city. When Jonah stopped dragging his feet, according to the Word of God, thousands of people were saved.

There are probably a lot of things that God requires of us to do, and probably we don't want to do them for whatever reason. But if we just man-up, stop dragging our feet, there is probably going to be a blessing to everyone around you, and if not everyone, someone. And yes, that someone is important because that someone may be you.

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### MERRY CHRISTMAS

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*Luke 2:11*

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# David Osborne

## Executive Director of the Hermon Park Center

David Osborne Sr. is the Director of the Hermon Park Center a facility of the Zion Park District in Zion, Illinois. David has more than 28 years of experience with the Zion Park District. We sat down with David and asked him some questions. These are the answers he provided.

**Q:** David, tell us about what you do at the Zion Park District?

**A:** As Director of the Hermon Park fitness and recreation center. It's my job to plan, organize, and direct recreation program and activities and special events for the Zion Park District and other park facilities, direct and supervise assigned athletic leagues and programs, including and Annual Black History Program, which by the way is scheduled for February 24, 2018.

**Q:** Over the years, what was your greatest accomplishment?

**A:** My greatest accomplishment has been seeing kids go through my programs, and for them to like them so much, they bring their kids to be in them when there old enough.

In addition, we have had several new improvements- to the Hermon Park Center. We have a brand new play ground built by KaBoom- A Discovery Card program, a newly built picnic shelter, basketball courts outside, and a wonderful walking trail. We have a youth basketball program, a summer camp and a Little League Baseball program. We have new picnic tables, trees, ad a community garden. In February, we will sponsor our annual Black History Program for the overall Zion Park District. And we hire youth each year for the summer.

**Q:** If you had 5 million dollars, what would you do with it?

**A:** I would expand our gym and fitness rooms. I would establish a mentoring and training program to help teen get jobs. And I would establish a foundation for felons, to help them get back on their feet. The area skating rinks went out of business, so I would build a new skating rink. I would also donate a million dollars to the Zion Park District to up-grade all their parks.



*David Osborne, Sharon Epps and Elroy Reed share a moment just after the Elroy Reed Show, WKRS1220 AM*

**Q:** Tell us about your family.

**A:** I'm single with three wonderful kids. David B. Osborne Jr. of (Chicago) Dondre T. Osborne of (iowa) and De Teresa M. Osborne of (Waukegan)

**Q:** How did you become the director of a park district center?

**A:** I was raised in the Zion Park District, I learned how to play hockey, to skate, basketball, ping pong and so much more. So because I learned so much from the Zion Park District, I wanted my son be a part of all the great things the Zion Park District had to offer.

**Q:** What are your hobbies or things that you do in your leisure time?

**A:** I enjoy going bowling, playing and watching sports. I also enjoy spending lots of time with my family. Helping the neighborhood kids with their homework, and just staying active in my communities.

# Youth Change Makers

## New Student Led Organization Makes a Difference

A Peoples Voice Special Report

Two eighth graders at the Zion Central Middle School, Javonte Taylor and Joshua Davis, formed an organization to make a difference in the community. Known as the "Youth Change Makers", the organization was established to engage youth in making a difference in Lake County.

According to Javonte Taylor, he and his friends saw the poverty and negative things that permeated the minds of today's youth.



Mrs. Thomas's ELL class in Zion Central Middle School brought water for the cause.



Javonte Taylor and Joshua Davis are the founders of Youth Change Makers.

"So, we decided to take action," says Taylor. "We wanted to get more youth involved. Our involvement will be based on positive impacts towards our community of Lake County and worldwide."

With action in mind, the group challenged themselves and worked with the community to collect over 200 cases of water for the Hurricane Maria victims in Puerto Rico.

Students from Mrs. Thomas's ELL class in Zion Central Middle School brought water for the cause. They earned a pizza party for their generosity.

Javonte says that The Youth Change Makers looks forward to doing more things for the community..



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# CLC's Green Efforts Ranked in Top 10

The College of Lake County has made the list of overall "top performer" schools in environmental sustainability, placing eighth among two-year colleges in North America, according to a report released Nov. 6 by the Philadelphia-based Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

The report, known as the 2017 Sustainable Campus Index, recognizes high-achieving colleges and universities overall by institution type and in 17 sustainability areas related to curriculum, community engagement, campus operations and administration. The report highlighted CLC's accomplishments such as the campus farm and an eight-hive apiary (bee colony) that expands local food production. Honey from the apiary is sold in Café Willow on the Grayslake Campus and at LancerZone bookstores on all three campuses. The campus farm uses integrated pest management and organic methods to grow vegetables and greens for sale at the farm market and Café Willow.

"We are honored to be recognized with this top-performer rating from AASHE," said CLC Interim Pres-

ident Dr. Rich Haney. "Sustainability is one of CLC's strategic priorities, and faculty, staff and students have been working tirelessly to promote environmental stewardship inside and outside of the classroom."

Besides the AASHE recognition, the college's new Science Building received in May an exclusive Emerald Award for Building Innovation from the Illinois chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. The Science Building is scheduled to open in January and contains sustainable features ranging from solar panels to rainwater recovery. Also, in October 2016, CLC was one of nine community colleges nationwide to receive a \$10,000 Green Genome award from the American Association of Community Colleges. The award recognized CLC for incorporating sustainability into its governance structure and overall college culture.

For details on the 2017 Sustainable Campus Index, visit [www.aashe.org](http://www.aashe.org). Learn more about CLC's sustainable efforts at [www.clcillinois.edu/gogreen](http://www.clcillinois.edu/gogreen), and details of the master plan are available at [www.clcillinois.edu/masterplan](http://www.clcillinois.edu/masterplan).

CLC's Spring Semester begins Jan. 16. To view course offerings and learn how to become a student, visit [www.clcillinois.edu/spring](http://www.clcillinois.edu/spring).

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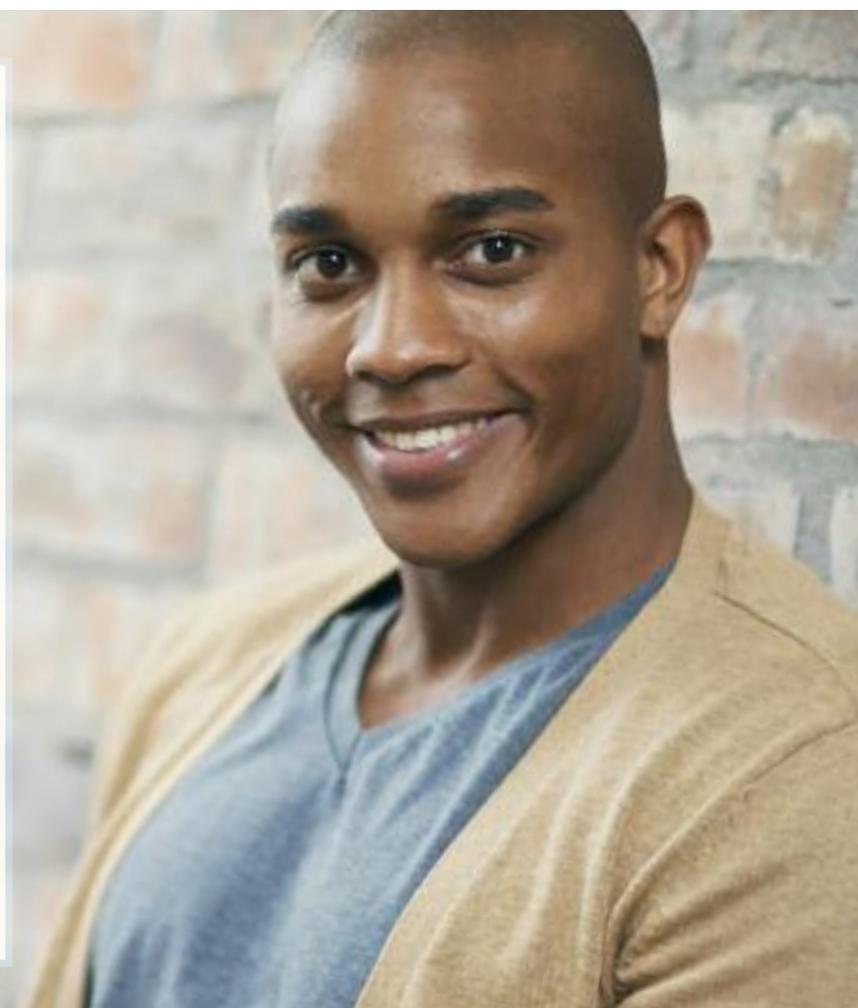


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# Tammy's Tidbits

## GIVE LOVE ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

As the holidays approach many of you are already making a list and checking it twice! Before you wreak havoc on your budget here are some tips to enjoy the holidays with your family and set realistic spending expectations

### 1. Spend money on experiences not things!

Instead of buying gifts, plan an adventure for your family. For example, plan a little get-a-way to Chicago or the city of your choice and visit a landmark, plan a fun dinner or evening out. Making memories not debt is the responsible way to go! Take pictures so you can look back on the event years from now and reflect on what a blessing your family is to you!

### 2. Set up a gift exchange!

Instead of trying to buy gifts for EVERYONE in your family, organize a gift exchange. Set a dollar amount so everyone will be able to get a nice gift. Ask the family to give you some suggestions or gift ideas for the person who pulls their name. This will save the entire family money and everyone will have a wonderful gift to open at Christmas time!

### 3. Give Back!

Ask your family to give to the less fortunate instead of buying tons of expensive gifts and breaking the



**Tammy Moore**

bank. Take a name from an angel tree, donate to a children's hospital or sponsor a family in need. This deed will not only bless the less fortunate, but it will teach your family to be grateful for what they have and set a pattern of giving in the lives of your children. If you must Splurge.... Save! Trust me, I understand some of you will give me the side eye for my suggestions and splurge at Christmas time anyway. If you plan to Splurge, then save throughout the year. Christmas comes at the same time each year, so review your spending habits from the previous years and open a Christmas Savings account and put money away each month so when you go overboard you can still pay your bills in January!

Tammy Moore is Division President at Diamond Residential Mortgage, A motivational speaker and Credit and Financial Coach. In her spare time, she is the Budget Conscious Fashionista, where she teaches Style \$ense: How style you outfit on a budget! Visit her website <https://www.tammypmoore.com/iteach-style-sense.html> for fashion tips and a look book of outfits.

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# The LOCKHART-WHITE REPORT

December 2017

*A communique of the Community Action Partnership of Lake County*

## What effects the future success of poor

Thirty percent of children have been poor at some point in their childhood. Being poor as a child, even for only a short time, can have consequences reaching far into adulthood. The instability that accompanies poverty puts stress on parents, spilling over to children. This can manifest itself in long-term effects lasting ways. In the face of these obstacles, what circumstances help poor children succeed (or at least don't hold them back) and what stacks the deck against them? Before considering the circumstances, let's first examine the scale of the problem. Poverty affects many more children than annual statistics record. While roughly one in five children currently live in poverty, nearly twice as many (39 percent) have been poor at some point in their childhood. Black children fare much worse: fully three-quarters are poor during childhood, compared to 30 percent of white children.

Children who have been poor for at least one year before they turn 18 are less likely to reach important adult milestones, such as graduating from high school, than children who have never been poor (78 percent vs. 93 percent). They are also more likely to have a child as a teenager or be involved with the criminal justice system, which can affect their job prospects and ability to finish school. Children who are persistently poor-poor for at least half their childhood are 13 percent less likely to complete high school and 37 percent less likely to be consistently employed as young adults than children who experience poverty for fewer years. Among children who have experienced poverty, those whose parents have completed high school are 11 percent more likely to do the same. Children whose parents have more than a high school education are 30 percent more likely to complete high school

and almost five times more likely to complete college than those whose parents did not graduate high school. Moving homes frequently can be disruptive for children particularly if they move for negative reasons, such as evictions or a family's need for lower rent. Among children who have experienced poverty, children who move three or more times for negative reasons 15 percent are less likely to complete high school and 68 percent likely to complete a four year college degree than those who never move.

Knowing this, what can be done to improve children's chances of success? For one, education and training programs for low-educated parents, bundled with work supports such as child care subsidies or Childcare Care Scholarship Donations for working families. Addressing the needs of the parents and the children is an important step for reinforcing families and helping children to succeed. Even short periods of childhood poverty can be accompanied by uncertainty, stress, and unmet needs with long-term consequences. Taking steps to provide stability for parents and children will help improve the outcomes of the next generation.

Community Action Partnership, "Helping People, Changing Lives" one family at a time. Get Inter-active today with the Community Action movement, moving families to self-sufficiency. Focusing on Early Childhood Education and Homeless Veterans Housing.



Mary Lockhart-White  
Executive Director



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## Soaring on Broken WINGS

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!!!



Michelle Obleton

**M**ake this an exceptional Holiday season by showing grace, and mercy to those around you this year. Don't limit your mercy and kindness to those that you know who are easy to bless, step out also in the "rotten zone". The rotten zone inhabits people who may have stinking thinking. People who have made bad choices in life. People who are trying to get it together, but for some reason they just fall short. People like me and many others on the planet.

The Bible is filled with these individuals and each one was shown mercy. We can learn a lot from them.

- Sarah laughed at God's promise.
- Moses killed a man and tried to cover it and him up.
- Jacob made a lifestyle out of cheating people, even his own brother.
- Samson seemed willing to blab the solemn secret of his strength to any pretty woman who came along.
- David stole another man's wife, and then had that man killed.
- Jonah tried to run away instead of taking God's word to people he hated.
- Peter openly denied his Lord with vows and curses.
- John Mark quit the Apostle Paul's missionary team and went home leaving Paul feeling deserted.

And these are just a few of the rotten people whose stories are told in the Bible. Some people did even worse things than those listed above. Do you know how God responded to those rotten people who did all those rotten things? He could have kicked them out of the Bible, saying, "Just for that, I'm taking your story out of the Bible." He could have told them to pack their bags and head for jail without passing "Go" and definitely not collecting two hundred dollars. He could have totally vaporized them if he wanted to.

But God didn't do any of those things. Instead, he went ahead and gave Sarah the son he had promised her. She named her son Isaac, which means "laughter." He crowned Moses with strength and great leadership to lead his people into the promise land. He created an entire nation out of Jacob's sons after he renamed him Israel. He forgave David. He restored Peter, He gave John Mark and Jonah a second chance.

God did all these things because He is merciful. God showed his mercy to all the rotten people in the Bible. And he shows his mercy to all kinds of rotten people even today. So during this Christmas Season remember to show mercy and some kindness to those who may not be on your top ten list. Who knows inadvertently you may be bringing a blessing to yourself.

Noel / Michelle

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# Photo of the Month



## Partnership is truly a way to serve!

NAUW, Harbor Lite Links, Lion's Science Math Academy and Habitat for Humanity provided Thanksgiving baskets for those in need. As Martin Luther King says we all can serve. It is a joy to lift the spirits of

others. We give God the glory for guiding and blessing us to do so. Happy Holidays to all!

Gwendolyn Long



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# News Around Town

## Historical Society Holiday Open House

The Waukegan Historical Society's Holiday Open House is Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 1:00-5:00pm at the Waukegan History Museum located in Bowen Park-1917 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60087. Light refreshments will be served. Not in the holiday spirit? Stop in to catch the last glimpse of the exhibit Sweetheart Mine: World War I Love Letters. Admission to the Museum and the Holiday Open House is Free.

The Waukegan History Museum is operated by the Waukegan Historical Society and the Waukegan Park District.

## Amazon Mogul Jeff Bezos, Now Richest Man

Tech mogul Jeff Bezos had reason to celebrate on Friday, November 24, as the rush of consumers to make the most out of the week's promotions translated into the Amazon.com owner becoming the first man to reach a net worth of \$100 billion.

While in-store purchases may not be what they once were on Black Friday, a sudden 2.6% spike in the value of Amazon's stock value provided proof that online retailers definitely continue to thrive during the promotional holiday. Amazon shares are now up to \$1,186, and with Bezos owning roughly 16% stake in the company. Amazon's \$2.4 billion jumps over the Thanksgiving weekend has raised the company's value to such that \$93.6 billion of it is personally his. Following Wednesday's stock-market close, Bezos' total fortune with Ama-

zon and his other investments was valued at \$97.9 billion. Business Insider reports that Amazon's Black Friday success has earned him at least an additional \$1.7 billion to go with the \$3 billion in shares that he holds from rocket company Blue Origin, and his assets as the owner of The Washington Post.

The latest reports also mean that he maintains his grip on Bill Gates as the world's wealthiest man; a distinction that the two have alternated atop throughout the year.

Amazon.com has recently opened up shipping locations in Mundelien and Kenosha.

## Midnight Watch Service

The Living Waters Apostolic Pentecostal Church of North Chicago will hold a New Year's Eve Praise and Worship Service on December 31, 2017 beginning at 9:00 pm to Midnight. All are welcome.

# TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTER

Real People with Real Power for a Real Purpose

**CELEBRATION SERVICE**  
Sundays 10am

**TRINITY KIDS**  
Nursery, Preschool, K-5  
Sundays 10am

**FUSE STUDENT MINISTRY**  
Jr Hi & High School Students  
Sundays 6pm

**WEDNESDAY CLASSES**  
for all ages  
6:30pm



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## Thought of the Month

Be with those who bring out the best in you, not the stress in you. The people you spend the majority of your time with will have the biggest influence on your life.

Regional Office of Education  
Roycealee J. Wood  
Regional Superintendent of Schools



**Lake County**

800 Lancer Lane Suite E-128  
Grayslake, Illinois 60030-2656  
Phone 847-543-7833 Direct Line 847-665-0595  
Fax 847-543-7832  
E-mail [rwood@lake.k12.il.us](mailto:rwood@lake.k12.il.us)

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Waukegan North Chicago Park City

# LIVING WATERS APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

2001 SEYMOUR AVENUE  
NORTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60064-0559

PHONE • 1-847-689-1955 : FAX: 1-847-689-2917

### CHURCH SCHEDULE

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:00 A.M.  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 11:30 A.M.  
4TH SUNDAY, WOMEN'S MINISTRY 11:30 A.M.  
TUESDAY FAST & PRAYER 7:00 P.M. ·  
THURS.BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.



## North Shore FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Rosemarie Green,  
Senior Pastor

## Soulful Sundays

Bible Study / Sunday School

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Hour of Power Worship

From 10:30 am - Noon

## Meeting at Hampton Inn

550 Grand Avenue, Gurnee

847-770-5157  
Find us on Facebook

[www.northshorefaith.org](http://www.northshorefaith.org)  
northshorefaithcommunity@hotmail.com

PO Box 1802  
Gurnee, IL 60031

## Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist

Church of Waukegan  
409 Wainlow Avenue • Waukegan, IL 60085

847-244-5503

### Sunday:

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday:

Mid-week Worship Study 7:00 p.m.



Pastor: Rev. Arthur J. Gass Sr.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. -John 3:3



The Church of Three Ships...

Friendship...Fellowship...Worship

## First Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church

1529 Elizabeth Ave., North Chicago, IL 60064 .....Office: (847) 473-1610 • Fax: (847) 473-2616

Rev. Eugene Roberson, Pastor

### Sunday Morning

Worship Service.....8:00 a.m.

Sunday School.....9:00 AM

Sunday Worship...10:45 AM

BTU..... 5:00 PM

Soup Kitchen.....3:00 PM

Every Saturday in the  
Annex Building at  
Greenfield and 16th Street,  
North Chicago



Pastor and First Lady  
Eugene Roberson

For more information, please call the church at (847) 473-1610  
[www.firstcorinthian.com](http://www.firstcorinthian.com)

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*You Send Me...*

**The 2018 Most Influential  
African Americans of  
Lake County Awards**

Sunday, February 25, 2018

*Save the Date & Participate*

*Nominate Someone*

*Who Has Been Doing Great Things*

*In the Community.*

To nominate someone for this award go to  
[www.chicagopeoplesvoice.com](http://www.chicagopeoplesvoice.com)  
Select 2018 Most Influential tab  
download the form and mail to:

**Nominating Committee**  
**The Peoples Voice Newspaper**  
**P.O. Box 1038**  
**Waukegan, IL 60079**



Deadline to nominate is  
December 15, 2017.

For more information you may call 847-473-5501

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## 2018 Most Influential African Americans of Lake County Nomination Form

Please Print

### TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### TELL US ABOUT THE PERSON YOU ARE NOMINATING

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### INDICATE CATEGORY

- |                                           |                                                 |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business         | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership       | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Leadership   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurial      |

Describe the reasons that you are nominating this individual. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

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Please return to the address below:

The Peoples Voice • P.O. Box 1038 • Waukegan, IL 60079 or email [ElroyReed@aol.com](mailto:ElroyReed@aol.com)

# Waukegan Park District Executive Director Jay Lerner's first 100 days

Since assuming leadership of the Waukegan Park District in July, Jay Lerner has had a busy first 100 days, according to Board President George Bridges. "Our new Executive Director leads the organization in a wise and agile manner; he navigated multiple senior leadership changes flawlessly and has engaged employees in assessing the organization. He already has completed several major projects and leads the district as it continues to address community needs at a high level of excellence."



Jay Lerner, Executive Director

Leadership changes included the promotion of Scott MacLean to Superintendent of Recreation, Errick Beverly to Superintendent of Recreation, and Jon Beckmann to Superintendent of Finance and Administration. Kaitlin Fischer moved into the Manager of Sports and Fitness position previously held by Errick Beverly and Rafael Ayala moved into the Manager of Parks Maintenance position previously held by Scott MacLean. Quincy Bejster was promoted to Manager of Field House Operations and Aquatics. Shelby McDonald was promoted to Recreation Supervisor-Field House and Kalina Garcia moved into the Supervisor of Finance role. The ability to fill these important positions from within is a direct result of the District's commitment to hiring top performing candidates, substantial employee development practices and succession planning.

During Mr. Lerner's first 100 days, the Belvidere Park renovation and pool replacement project has taken shape with the selection of a construction manager and a local firm, Stuckey Construction, as the general contractor. Final discussions by the board and staff about the park's design concept are underway. Jay has emphasized the importance of replacing the playground with equipment that will make Belvidere Park an exciting place to visit and play.

Initially, the Belvidere Park renovation plan called for an addition to the Belvidere Recreation Center for administrative offices followed by demolition of the Rose Administrative Center. The proposed cost of this addition was close to \$3 million. Instead, property at 1324 Golf Road (the former Waukegan Savings Bank) was purchased to repurpose and provide flexible space for less than half the cost and twice the size of the proposed addition.

Two important contracts have been negotiated under Jay's leadership: the GolfVisions management contract for Bonnie Brook and Greenshire was renewed and a multi-year union agreement was approved. The Field House gymnasium was retrofitted with LED lights, taking advantage of a Commonwealth Edison rebate of \$25,000 with projected annual savings of more than \$9,000 in energy costs. The Waukegan Park District received a Standard and Poor's rating of AA for its recent bond issue and the latest tax levy represented no increase, requesting the same tax dollars as the previous year.

A new playground was installed at Yeoman Park, with a ribbon cutting held in July. Playground installations at Adelphi, Country Lane and Washington Parks are in process and will be completed soon. The renovation of Clearview Park has progressed rapidly; the majority of the work is complete. Landscaping elements, including a fence requested by neighbors, will be added either this fall or next spring, depending on weather. The park is projected to open in early spring 2018.

Jay has worked to increase financial transparency by posting bid information on the district website along with bid results. The first park district annual report was published in the winter program guide and recently the District learned that it was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for Fiscal Year 2017-18 from

the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the sixth consecutive year.

Throughout his tenure, Jay has worked to improve the local economy through revenue generating sports tournaments at park district facilities. He is an advocate for hiring Waukegan residents as evidenced by current staff. New this year, the District held its first Vendor Fair with governmental agencies, institutions, businesses and the public invited to talk with local vendors, contractors and park district staff. Parks staff presented a session for vendors regarding bidding requirements and processes. The well attended event received many compliments.

Finally, Mr. Lerner was offered and accepted appointment to the Illinois Park and Recreation Association Leadership Academy Board of Regents. He attends their bimonthly meetings and leads sessions for development of future parks and recreation leaders.

"As you can see, there are a lot of good things happening at the Waukegan Park District. Under the guidance of Executive Director Lerner and the Board, the future looks very bright indeed!" said President Bridges.



Scott MacLean, Superintendent of Parks



Errick Beverly, Superintendent of Recreation



Jon Beckmann, Superintendent of Finance



Kaitlin Fischer, Manager of Sports and Fitness



Rafael Ayala, Manager of Parks Maintenance



Quincy Bejster, Manager of Field House Operations and Aquatics



Shelby McDonald, Recreation Supervisor-Field House



Kalina Garcia, Supervisor of Finance