

illinois

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P&R

PARKS AND RECREATION

The magazine of the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association



**the gubernatorial candidates on
parks, recreation and conservation**

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FROM THE EDITOR

Tap... tap... tap... Is this thing on? Hello, my name is Todd Silvey, and if you peek just to the right in the IAPD staff column, you will see why I am excited to see my name as Publications Director.



I would love to spend the remaining 400 words describing my background, my family, my dog, etc., but on day five at my new desk, I hold in my hands such important documents as the pair of gubernatorial questionnaires that will impact the world of parks and recreation far greater than my humble introduction.

The past few years we have seen Illinois parks, forest preserves and historic sites become a major part of the mainstream news in relationship to budgets, closures, re-openings and political hot buttons.

I reviewed the 2006 version of "Meet the Candidates for Illinois Governor." With 20/20 hindsight, I think it is very safe to say that the past four years have been an interesting experience for all of those involved in this industry. Saying that each of us is motivated to read intently what the next two candidates have to say with a keen interest... is a forced understatement.

I am a Macintosh computer guy, and diving into a Microsoft-based office is a bit daunting. A concerted effort to see the insight from each candidate might be compared to a new Editor exploring his office for everything from a stapler to the complex computer system. Well, what do you know? I do get to slide a little bit about myself in this issue.

It is important to read and listen to prepared responses from any political candidate and also to keep fresh in my mind the issues that are important to me when I hear a candidate address other issues. It is an opportunity to "read between the lines" on a subject that may be similar or even adversarial in relationship to the institution of parks and recreation.

I have been surprised that I have latched on to such a hot topic within my first editorial space, and even "hexed" my initial drafts on Friday the 13th. It is the comfort and positive atmosphere I have experienced during my first handful of days here at the IAPD offices that have contributed to my confidence.

I addressed head-on the issue of my editorial experience outside of the parks and recreation industry with Peter Murphy. I also present to you that I will observe, learn and ask questions at a rapid-fire pace that rivals a curious three year old. I hope my inquisitive effort will bring new issues and interesting reading on subjects that you will find of value.

With the great people here at the Springfield office I consider new friends, combined with wonderful descriptions of individual members within the IAPD and the IPRA, I think my task to become a positive contributor may be easier than deciding at the upcoming ballot box.

— TODD SILVEY
Editor

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Peter M. Murphy
IAPD President and CEO

Some Things Never Go Out Of Style

One of the things that never goes out of style is the simple, but often forgotten, act of saying thank you. At this time of year it's important for us to remember and recognize the tremendous volunteer force that makes park districts, forest preserves, conservation and recreation agencies flourish.

For 30 years at the Illinois Association of Park Districts I have been a keen observer of how park and recreation agencies build communities and how members of those communities respond to, and, in turn, build their park and recreation agencies.

Despite property tax caps and hard economic times, the Illinois park district system is stronger today than ever. Why? There are many reasons. But one of the biggest is volunteerism. Let's remember that without at least five people volunteering to put themselves up before the voters and take no pay as a member of a park board, no park district would ever exist.

And then there are the people who sign up to volunteer. They pass out water at fun runs. They pick up litter on park beautification days. And they are people like Shah Quaiyoom over in Mundelein, who has coached soccer for 40 years and launched a bi-lingual Web site so that minorities may more fully participate in the agency's programs.

They are people like Dr. Lawrence DuBose, a beekeeper at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, who has voluntarily taught that soon to be forgotten skill to others for more than 25 years at the district's historic farm. And in Rockford there are people like George Franklin and his group of volunteers who played a major part in revamping the Rockford Park District's horse boarding and riding programs.

These volunteers do come to a park agency out of the goodness of their hearts. But they don't appear by magic. Volunteering occurs where desire, need and opportunity intersect.

Volunteers bring the skills and desire with them. They come to fulfill an unmet need. (We see this most dramatically in times of serious distress, for example in the volunteer sandbagging operations that pop up when a river is about to burst its banks, or the work done in Haiti.) But volunteers' desires to fill unmet needs do no good unless there is an opportunity.

Park agencies offer many opportunities to meet people's needs, thus they foster a vital point of connection between the volunteer and the community. The best agencies are those that do such an outstanding job of making those connections that they become highly trusted and highly valued entities in their communities.

Volunteers need to trust that the organization to which they are donating their time and talent will fill the community's need in an efficient and professional manner. And, when a park and recreation organization can make that volunteer service fun, then so much the better.

Let's remember that without at least five people volunteering to put themselves up before the voters and take no pay as a member of a park board, no park district would ever exist.



The Illinois Association of Park Districts created its Best of the Best Awards Gala to help say thank you on a statewide basis to deserving individuals and businesses who stand out as leaders in the philanthropic spirit that makes Illinois parks and recreation flourish.

From Board Member Service awards to Agency Anniversary awards, the story of service by those of you elected to advance the park, recreation and conservation goals of your agencies has been outstanding.

Our ability to recognize the top journalist that brings attention to our industry is key to getting our message out, and the Intergovernmental Cooperation and Partnership awards show the strength that cooperation brings to all of our communities.

The Arts in the Parks and Best Green Practices awards show that the IAPD membership is on the cutting-edge of providing a full array of

"Volunteers do come to a park agency out of the goodness of their hearts. But they don't appear by magic. Volunteering occurs where desire, need and opportunity intersect."

recreational experiences and continues to be mindful of our environmental ethic.

The Good Sportsmanship award is emblematic of the work that volunteer youth coaches do at no cost to public agencies year after year and, finally, the Outstanding Citizen of the Year award draws from a pool of selfless individuals who understand that giving of yourself is key to happiness and self-fulfillment.

I encourage every park district board to make a concerted effort to recognize those who dedicate their time to assist in carrying out the agency's mission, and I would welcome the ideas and programs that you have instituted for volunteer recognition.

Suggested Reading on volunteer management, recruitment, retention and recognition:

- **Count Me In, by Judy Esmond, Ph.D.**
Dr Judy Esmond is one of the leading experts on gaining, sustaining and retaining volunteers. She has toured Australia, England, the United States and Canada presenting her innovative ideas. She is also the author of Count Me In: 501 Ideas on Recruiting Volunteers.
- **From The Top Down: The Executive Role in Volunteer Program Success, by Susan J. Ellis**
A classic, newly revised in 2010. This book is addressed to the top decision-makers of an organization and covering the things necessary to lay a foundation for successful volunteer involvement. Includes budgeting and resource allocation, employee/volunteer relationships, liability and legal issues.
- **Volunteer Management: Mobilizing All The Resources Of The Community, by Steve McCurley & Rick Lynch.**
This second edition remains a thorough examination of every facet of a successful volunteer program, from planning and organizing through measuring effectiveness. It's the most-utilized text in the world on the theory and practice of managing a volunteer program. Volunteer Management focuses on the element of connecting volunteers with an organization, concentrating on those unique aspects of working effectively with staff that do not receive a monetary salary. Extensive appendix with hundreds of books and organizational resources.
- **Voices From the Heart, by Brian O'Connell**
A collection of passionate testimony and pictures about the lives of two dozen volunteers.
- **The Board's Role in Effective Volunteer Involvement, by Susan J. Ellis**
Outlines why and how the board of directors of a nonprofit organization should involve itself in planning for and decision-making about volunteer participation.
- **The Volunteer Development Toolbox: Tools And Techniques To Enhance Volunteer And Staff Effectiveness, by Marilyn MacKenzie and Gail Moore**
Overview of the elements of running a volunteer program with many suggestions and resources.

IAPD Events

2010

Oct 1

Best of the Best Awards Gala

Wheeling Park District's Traditions
at Chevy Chase Country Club
1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling

Oct 13

Records Retention & Destruction and Board Meetings Without Migraines

Schaumburg Park District's Schaumburg Golf Club, Chandler's Ballroom A
401 N. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg

Oct 25-29

NRPA Congress & Exposition

Minneapolis, MN

Nov 4

Legal Symposium

McDonald's Hamburger University,
285 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook

2011

Jan 27-29

IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference

Hilton Hotel,
720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

May 3

Legislative Reception

Illini Country Club, Springfield

May 4

Legislative Conference

Hilton Hotel, Springfield

July 21

Legislative Golf Outing

Bensenville Park District's White Pines Golf Club

Aug 20

Park District Conservation Day

State Fairgrounds, Springfield

Nov 10

Legal Symposium

McDonald's Hamburger University,
285 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook

EYE ON THE PROFESSION

A CLOSER LOOK AT TRENDS AND ISSUES IN THE PARK AND RECREATION PROFESSION



Mike Selep, CPRP
IPRA Interim CEO

Together We Grow

It is nearly impossible to have a conversation with somebody today without discussing the impacts of unemployment and slower economic conditions. On a daily basis I have at least four or five conversations that start with something like this “my brother just lost his job, my friend has not found work in eight months or my father lost nearly all the money from his retirement fund.” In addition, with two governors in a row being found guilty for crimes committed while serving in the highest ranks of state government, it would be safe to say that Illinois residents have reason to be a bit skeptical of their public servants.

These two things coupled together, tough economic conditions and mistrust of public servants, have created an environment where uncovering information about possible unethical behavior or misuse of public funds has become golden. Media outlets have targeted public spending by investigating a variety of public services: education, transportation and even recreation agencies, in terms of how these agencies spend their dollars and ethical decisions their leaders make. You cannot pick up the Sunday paper without finding an article in regards to these topics on the front page.

This has created an atmosphere where everybody and everything is being questioned, and as a result, it is extremely important for those in public service to provide as much information as possible regarding programs, projects or services that they provide to the public. We have not necessarily been comfortable providing this type of information in the past; however, without providing it, the public will form their own opinions based upon what they read in the paper or watch on television. These opinions, whether based on reality or not, may become reality and create many challenges for your agency and others. If something is reported about one agency, it is often assumed to happen in other agencies as well, even your own.

Just as important as providing the information is to make sure that you are able to explain how and why funds are being spent to justify the existence of these programs, projects and services. This may seem like a waste of time; however, it is a tremendous opportunity to have open dialogue and engage the citizens of your community regarding the worthiness of the programs, projects and services you offer. It is also the chance to discontinue a program that could or should have been eliminated years ago and create new ones to meet changing needs in your community.

Make sure to view park and recreation agency Web sites to see updates on Oregon Park District's Park West Development Plan, Naperville Park District's Centennial Beach Bathhouse Improvement and how the Mt. Vernon Parks and Recreation Department fits into the Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Mt. Vernon. If you want to receive a continuous stream of information, sign up and receive updates from the Park District of LaGrange or Fox Valley Park District. Park and recreation agencies throughout the state are doing a great job of communicating with their public through the use of these tools. If you are not providing this information and engaging your citizens, it is time to invest in the effort to do so.

Illinois Park and Recreation Association is following this course. The last several years have been financially challenging.

Media outlets have targeted public spending by investigating a variety of public services including education, transportation and even recreation agencies.



The association has been open about the processes that we have been going through and engaging the membership in dialogue. Our members have responded accordingly. They have asked tough questions in regards to how this came to be and have been receptive when we have been upfront and honest in response. Our members have also been willing to roll up their sleeves to provide both feedback and support. While working our way through these financial challenges, we requested feedback from our members in terms of how the programs and services that we provide can best meet their needs of becoming the very best park and recreation professionals possible. We have rebounded thanks to the dedication, support and hard work of our staff, Board of Directors, members and partners.

Just as important as providing fiscal information is to make sure that you are able to explain how and why funds are being spent to justify the existence of these programs, projects and services.

Our membership has provided thoughts on how we can help better serve their needs. We have listened to the suggestions and put together a plan of action. We have engaged the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) in open dialogue in regard to how we can work better together to provide for a more unified voice. This has resulted in work on renewal of our joint agreement between IPRA and IAPD as well as conversations about new ways that we can become more efficient and effective while working together.

In March, we embarked on a journey to provide new strategic direction for the Association by forming the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC). The dedication and focus of 27 members of this group headed by Chuck Balling, executive director of Glenview Park District, was extremely impressive. This group utilized the data collected from our membership survey, efficiency task force report and other research to formulate a plan for the future strategic direction of the association – Together We Grow.

On August 18, the IPRA Board of Directors discussed and approved the plan developed by the SPAC. This plan features a total of six different initiatives and nearly 50 goals that will be utilized to guide the Association through 2014. The staff is now in the process of prioritizing the goals for implementation over the course of the next three years.

These six initiatives are:

1. Focus resources on delivering benefits to members
2. Strengthen financial controls
3. Streamline the organization
4. Re-energize membership through proactive communications
5. Develop dynamic professionals and future leaders
6. Expand membership, expect involvement

In addition, to creating goals, this dialogue with the SPAC led to a revision of the IPRA mission, vision and values.

IPRA's mission is to develop professionals to advance communities by providing the best park, recreation and conservation education, resources and services.

IPRA's vision is to be the state and national leader in advancing professionalism in parks, recreation and conservation.

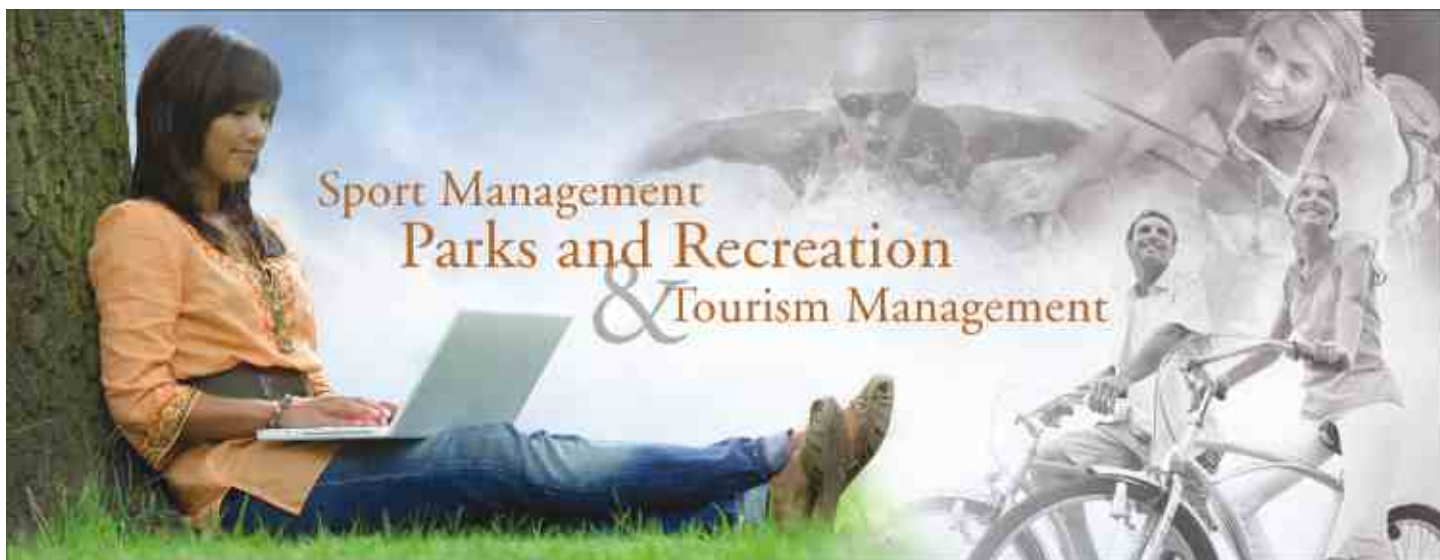
IPRA's values are advocacy, community, collaboration, education, inclusion, innovation, fiscal integrity, networking and member service.

You can view the full plan as well as updates on goals and objectives on the IPRA Web site – www.ilipra.org/togetherwegrow2014

Thank you to our members for asking tough questions and providing honest feedback when we requested feedback. Thank you to IAPD for engaging in dialogue in terms of how we can work better together for the advancement of the park and recreation profession and movement. Thank you to the hard work of the members of the SPAC and courage of the IPRA Board of Directors to move in a new strategic direction that follows the expressed views of our membership.

Our trying economic times dictate that there will be some more bumps in the road ahead. Skeptics out there expect us as public servants to be dishonest and unethical; however, together we can respond to these challenges if we can create opportunities for the engagement of members and citizens in the process, be open and honest in dialogue and respond to expressed changing needs. Together we can create a great future for parks and recreation

– Together We Grow.



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Jason Anselment
Legal/Legislative Counsel

Is Your Agency Using Social Security Numbers Legally?

As most local officials know by now, the recent changes to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) specifically exempt Social Security numbers from disclosure in response to a FOIA request.¹ But, did you know that as of July 1, 2010, actually disclosing an individual's Social Security number could be a Class B misdemeanor in Illinois?

The Identity Protection Act (IPA),² which became effective in Illinois on June 1, 2010, contains numerous requirements for local government agencies that are intended to safeguard the Social Security numbers those agencies collect, use, or otherwise maintain. These requirements cover a variety of circumstances and range from activities that are now strictly prohibited to those that may be permitted if certain conditions are met.

New Restrictions on Collecting Social Security Numbers

Some of the IPA's restrictions on the collection and use of Social Security numbers may force changes in your agency's current practices. For example, a local government agency can no longer require individuals to use their Social Security numbers to access the agency's Internet website. In fact, before ever collecting another Social Security number from an individual, agency officials and employees should first ask themselves at least two questions. First, does a State or federal law, rule, or regulation require the agency to obtain the Social Security number? If not, is the collection, use, or disclosure of the Social Security number otherwise necessary to the agency's performance of its duties and responsibilities? If the answer to both these questions is "no," then the IPA now generally prohibits your agency from collecting or using the Social Security number. If the answer to either of these questions is "yes" the local government agency may collect the Social Security number, but it must document the relevant need and purpose for the number before collecting it. Once collected, the agency may only use an individual's Social Security number for the purpose for which the agency collected it.³

Other Permitted Uses

Of course, as with most laws, there are exceptions to these broad restrictions. For instance, the restrictions mentioned so far do not apply in any of the following six situations:

- Local government entities like your agency may disclose Social Security numbers to their employees, contractors, subcontractors, or agents or to another governmental entity or its employees, contractors, subcontractors, or agents if the disclosure is necessary for the entity to perform its duties and responsibilities. Note, however, that before your agency discloses a Social Security number to a contractor or subcontractor, it must first receive a copy of the contractor's or subcontractor's policy that sets forth how the IPA's requirements to protect Social Security numbers will be achieved.
- Your agency may disclose Social Security numbers pursuant to a court order, warrant, or subpoena.

- The collection, use, or disclosure of Social Security numbers in order to ensure the safety of State and local government employees, persons committed to correctional facilities, local jails, and other law-enforcement facilities or retention centers, wards of the State, and all persons working in or visiting a State or local government agency facility is permitted by the IPA.
- Local government agencies may still collect, use, or disclose Social Security numbers for their internal verification or administrative purposes.
- The disclosure of Social Security numbers by a State agency to any entity, including your agency, for the collection of delinquent child support or of any State debt or to a governmental agency to assist with an investigation or the prevention of fraud is permissible.
- Finally, the IPA allows the collection and use of Social Security numbers to investigate or prevent fraud, to conduct background checks, to collect a debt, to obtain a credit report from a consumer reporting agency under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, to undertake any permissible purpose that is enumerated under the federal Gramm Leach Bliley Act, or to locate a missing person, a lost relative, or a person who is due a benefit, such as a pension benefit or an unclaimed property benefit.⁴

In addition to these specific situations, agencies should keep in mind that the IPA expressly states that it does not apply to the collection, use, or disclosure of Social Security numbers if required by State or federal law, rule, or regulation. The IPA also does not apply to documents that are recorded with a county recorder or required to be open to the public under any State or federal law, rule, or regulation, applicable case, law, Supreme Court rule, or the Constitution of the State of Illinois.⁵ In fact, the IPA does not supersede any more restrictive law, rule, or regulation regarding the collection, use, or disclosure of Social Security numbers.⁶

Uses that Are Strictly Prohibited

Even if Social Security numbers are permissibly collected, used, or disclosed under any of the provisions cited above, local government agencies must still remember that the IPA contains other rules that restrict the manner in which they may use or disclose this highly sensitive information. For instance, local government agencies may not publicly post or publicly display an individual's Social Security number. Agencies can no longer print the number on any card that is required to access their products or services,⁷ and merely encoding or embedding a Social Security number in or on the card by using a bar code, chip, magnetic strip, or other technology in place of removing the Social Security number is also not an option.⁸ Not only are agencies prohibited from requiring a Social Security number in order to access their websites as previously discussed, but they also cannot require anyone to transmit their Social Security number over the Internet for any reason, e.g., to

access a specific service of the agency, unless the Internet connection is secure or the number is encrypted.

Moreover, local government agencies are now generally prohibited from printing an individual's Social Security number on any materials that are mailed. However, the IPA does allow Social Security numbers to be included in some documents sent by mail. For example, materials mailed in connection with the administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act or with a tax administered by the Department of Revenue may include Social Security numbers. In fact, anytime a State or federal law requires that a Social Security number be included in a document to be mailed, the agency may do so. Documents sent as part of an application or enrollment process or to establish, amend, or terminate an account, contract, or policy may also be mailed. Agencies can mail documents to confirm the accuracy of the Social Security number as well. Be advised, however, that if your agency mails any material that contains a Social Security number pursuant to these exceptions, you must always ensure that the number is not visible without opening the envelope in which it is contained.⁹

The Identity Protection Act and FOIA

Although FOIA states that public bodies may redact Social Security numbers from public documents as "private information" prior to disclosure,¹⁰ the IPA clarifies that redaction is required before allowing public inspection or copying of information or documents.¹¹ Consequently, because local governments now have only 5 business days to respond to a FOIA request and simultaneously face the penalties associated with illegally disclosing a Social Security number under the IPA, steps must be taken to meet these dueling requirements.

For starters, agencies should identify all documents within their possession that may contain Social Security numbers and ensure that FOIA officers are aware that this information must be redacted. As discussed below, the IPA now requires agencies to ensure that Social Security numbers are provided in a format that can be easily redacted, but this will not address those documents collected prior to the IPA. To the extent the agency is uncertain whether a requested document contains a Social Security number or the number cannot be readily located because the requested document predates the IPA's requirements, perhaps compliance with the IPA would be grounds for an additional 5-day extension under FOIA. Regardless, something your agency can do which will help it meet these competing challenges presented by FOIA and the IPA is to complete one of the IPA's major obligations ahead of schedule.

Deadline for Your Agency's Identity-Protection Policy Looming

Although all of the requirements mentioned so far have been the law since at least July 1, 2010, many government agencies probably still have work left to do under the IPA. By June 1, 2011, all local governments must draft and approve an Identity-Protection Policy. While governments are free to adopt stricter standards than required under the IPA, the policy must meet minimum requirements. For example, the policy must identify the IPA and require training for all employees who have access to Social Security numbers. This training should include instructions on the proper handling of information that contains Social Security numbers from the time of collection through the destruction of the information. The policy must also direct that access to information or documents containing Social Security numbers be limited to only those employees who are required to use or handle this information or documents containing it. As previously mentioned, the policy must require that Social Security numbers requested from an individual be provided in a format that makes the number easily redacted in the event the document is required to be released as part of a public records request. Finally, because the policy must also require the agency to provide a statement of the purpose for which the agency is collecting and using Social Security numbers to

any individual who is asked to provide his or her number or anyone else who asks for a copy of the policy, agencies would be well-advised to just include this statement of purpose in their policy.

The IPA does not require the actual implementation of the components of your agency's Identity-Protection Policy until twelve months after the policy is approved, but it would be wise to begin implementing the policy as soon as it is approved. First, it is simply good practice to take all necessary steps to protect sensitive information your agency obtains such as Social Security numbers. Furthermore, many of the identity protections are already required under the IPA, and your agency's policy will inform employees about their responsibilities that already exist today. Finally, identifying and training employees who handle Social Security numbers now will not only avoid pitfalls under the IPA, but they will facilitate your agency's response to FOIA requests, too. For these many reasons, it behooves your agency to draft, approve, and implement its Identity-Protection Policy sooner rather than later.

Of course, what agency has time to complete a task that is not due until the middle of 2011? Obviously, drafting an Identity-Protection Policy which adequately addresses the IPA's numerous requirements will take a lot of time and attention, and your agency undoubtedly has many other deadlines between now and June 2011. Before you move this task to the back burner, visit the IAPD's website. There you will find a model Identity-Protection Policy that the IAPD has prepared for your agency's use. To download the model policy, visit www.ilparks.org, click on "Legal Assistance" and then click on "Member Resources". Because the model policy has been prepared exclusively for IAPD members, you will need your username and password. Although this template may need to be adapted to fit the needs of your agency depending upon the specific reasons your agency collects and uses Social Security numbers, the model policy should be a useful starting point and save a lot of time.

Requirements after Policy Approved

Within 30 days of approval of an Identity Protection Policy, your local government agency must file a written copy of the policy with its governing board. The agency must also advise its employees that the policy exists and make a copy available to them. A copy of the policy must also be available to any member of the public upon request. Note that future amendments to the policy must be handled similarly.

Summary

As of July 1, 2010, there are new requirements that local government agencies must follow when collecting, using, and disclosing Social Security numbers. Although agencies have until June 1, 2011, to draft and approve an Identity-Protection Policy, implementing the policy and training all affected employees about the proper handling of Social Security numbers without delay may prevent your agency and its employees from violating the law. Because intentional violations of the Identity Protection Act are punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, it is important to take this new law seriously. To assist your agency in these efforts, the IAPD has drafted a model Identity-Protection Policy, which is available exclusively to our members at the IAPD website www.ilparks.org by clicking on "Legal Assistance" and then "Member Resources".

¹ 5 ILCS 140/2(c-5); 140/7(b)

² 5 ILCS 179/1 et seq.

³ 5 ILCS 179/10(b)(3)

⁴ 5 ILCS 179/10(c)(6)

⁵ 5 ILCS 179/20

⁶ 5 ILCS 179/55

⁷ 5 ILCS 179/10(a)(2)

⁸ 5 ILCS 179/30

⁹ 5 ILCS 179/10(a)(4)

¹⁰ 5 ILCS 140/2(c-5); 140/7(b)

¹¹ 5 ILCS 179/15

MEET THE CANDIDATES



for Illinois Governor

1. What is your vision for Illinois parks, conservation and recreation?

I have always believed that our state's parks are an asset to everyone in Illinois. As long as I am Governor, I will make sure that their true importance is recognized. It is our responsibility to be stewards of the environment we have inherited, and our right to enjoy the forests, prairies, lakes, rivers, and other green areas our beautiful state has to offer. Our state's wildlife areas can serve as an important economic asset for Illinois, fostering economic activity that will create and sustain jobs for years to come. For these reasons, one of my first actions as governor was to re-open state parks closed by my predecessor.

As Governor, I will do all I can to maintain and keep open our state parks, so that people from all over can travel and enjoy them. I hope to invest more into conserving our state's most beautiful areas.

2. As Governor, what new resources are you willing to make available to park agencies to help them fulfill their missions to "leave no child inside" and to promote healthier living habits for Illinois citizens?

We can and must find innovative ways to fund programs that are important to us, even in difficult financial circumstances, for the benefit of everyone in Illinois. For example, when I restored \$9 million in funding to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that had been cut under my predecessor, our state received an additional \$16 million in Federal matching funds for the same causes. As part of the Illinois Jobs Now! plan, we have also made \$150,000,000 in grants available to parks and recreational agencies to invest in projects that will promote recreational activity and create jobs.

Investing in recreation and preservation is a wise choice for Illinois. It will create jobs and improve the lives of everyone in Illinois by helping to ensure clean air and water, and adequate recreational facilities for everyone in our state. We must encourage our children to enjoy and respect nature, to be active, and to spend time outdoors, because it is both the right thing to do for our children, and a smart way to help our economic recovery.

3. Because IAPD has a strong partnership and working relationship with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, please share the criteria you will use for selecting the director of the department and for providing resources for hiring IDNR personnel.

Soon after becoming Governor, I appointed Marc Miller to lead the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. An avid outdoorsman and an Illinois native, Mr. Miller served in my Lt. Governor office as a policy adviser on environmental issues. In that position, he worked directly on projects related to my responsibility as head of the Illinois River Coordinating Council. Marc brings valuable experience in government and an enthusiasm for the outdoors that makes him an optimal fit to lead DNR.

4. What initiatives would you support for additional funding for park districts and forest preserves to satisfy the growing demands of citizens for recreational facilities and services?

Investing in public recreational facilities, parks, and preservation areas is an important and effective way to improve the lives of people in Illinois for generations to come.

I believe we can invest in preserving and improving our state's recreational areas and contribute to our economic recovery at the same time. For that reason, \$150,000,000 will be invested in grants to parks and recreational facilities through the Illinois Jobs Now! plan, funding children's programs, making improvements to our state's parks, and creating jobs that will help our economy to recover.

5. During your career as an elected public official, what have you accomplished for park districts and forest preserves in the state of Illinois and, ultimately, for quality of life issues related to parks, recreation and conservation?

The Illinois Sierra Club has called me "Our Green Governor," because of my commitment to ensuring clean air and water in Illinois, and to preserving our state's forests, prairies, rivers, and lakes.

When I took office in January 2009, one of my first actions as Governor was to re-open Illinois State Parks closed by my predecessor. I made this decision not because of my own appreciation for our state's parks, but because they are tremendously important to our state.

Illinois' natural attractions are an economic asset, drawing revenue from tourists coming to see Starved Rock, Illinois Beach State Park, and dozens of other places throughout the Prairie State.

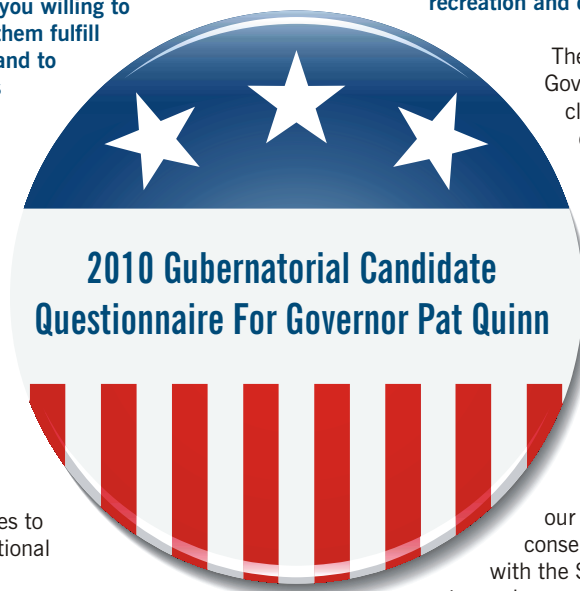
For my entire career, I have fought to keep our air and water clean, and to expand conservation areas wherever possible. I have stood with the Sierra Club and other groups to fight efforts to weaken environmental rules, and to save areas like Plum Island and Banner Marsh, which were threatened by developers and energy companies.

6. Do you see any unintended consequences for local governments stemming from the recent revision of the Freedom of Information Act? If so what are they and what remedies are you willing to support?

I believe that the changes to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act that I signed into law last year were a necessary and appropriate part of a series of reforms our state needed. I have always believed sunshine is the best disinfectant, and that strengthening FOIA was an important step toward making our government more transparent, efficient, and honest.

7. What are your personal recreational pursuits?

I enjoy playing basketball, tennis, and going for walks on the lakefront and on our state's miles of biking and running trails. I believe enjoying the outdoors is important to staying healthy, and a great way to spend time with friends and family. As a father, I always instilled this belief in my two sons, David and Patrick.



1. What is your vision for Illinois parks, conservation and recreation?

Illinois's land is a valuable asset to be managed and cared for, and enjoyed by all. We are all concerned about the economy, but that cannot be used as an excuse to leave our parks and recreation programs out of the budget. Our natural and dedicated recreational resources are a key component to any economic development plan. Our system of open space, state and local parks, our water recreation facilities, and our bike paths and trails create tourism and add to our quality of life.

Parks, conservation and recreation programs at the state level receive significant funding through fees and special taxes such as the Real Estate Transfer Tax which are deposited into special state funds. As a businessman, I understand cost accounting and overhead; I also understand raiding a fund because of a lack of political will to make the hard choices to balance the budget. As Governor, the Brady Administration will not raid special funds.

Land acquisition and facilities construction and maintenance must be a part of the regular Capital Plan of state government as well as local government. The Capital Plan must be created in an open atmosphere and detail short-term and long-term projects and anticipated needs. As Governor, the Brady Administration will include a section of the annual Capital Plan dedicated to our parks and conservation and recreation areas and programs.

It is important to invest in our land and recreation resources even when state revenues are down. Like most Illinoisans, I am confident that the state can enjoy a strong economy while still protecting its vital land and water resources.

2. As Governor, what new resources are you willing to make available to park agencies to help them fulfill their missions to "leave no child inside" and to promote healthier living habits for Illinois citizens?

As Governor, my top priority will be to provide the leadership to make our state a competitive place to live and work again and to get the Illinois back to living within its means. There is not an area of state government that can't do more with less. I will make the difficult decisions necessary to balance Illinois' budget without raising taxes. I believe the long-term solution to the state's fiscal imbalance is bringing back the 700,000 jobs Illinois has lost in recent years, which would ultimately result in a \$3 billion annual infusion of tax revenues to the state treasury. In the short term, I will order a top-to-bottom prioritization of state spending to curtail programs that are outdated or underperforming and reconstruct government from the bottom up.

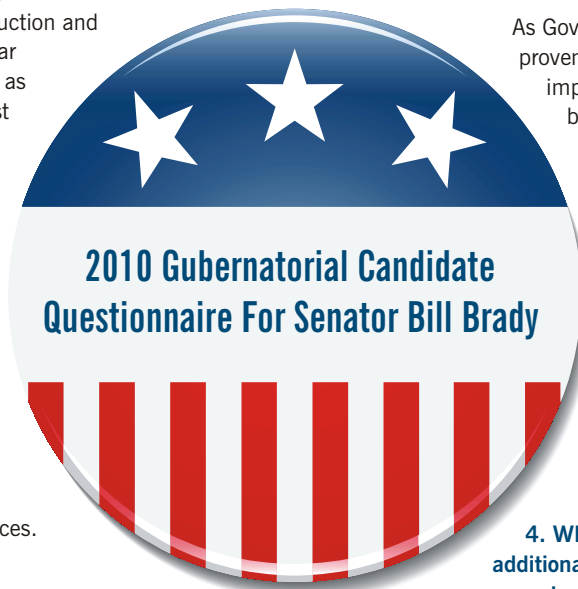
I also believe that our parks and recreation facilities are important to our children and are a key tool in our fight against obesity. A Brady Administration will work toward strengthening the relationship between park districts and school districts to create and promote new ideas to keep our children active and healthy. My Administration will also work to create new opportunities for park districts to form more public-private partnerships and create more new, innovative parks like the Southwind Park in Springfield, IL. In the end, our park system and our recreation assets are not just for the days of our youth, but are for all the days of our life.

3. Because IAPD has a strong partnership and working relationship with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, please share the criteria you will use for selecting the director of the department and for providing resources for hiring IDNR personnel.

As Governor, I will look for key administrators with proven records of accomplishment. I believe it is important for an agency director to have some business experience if possible, and to have experience managing similar-sized organizational units. Additionally, I believe we need "can do – will do" administrators who can accept a challenge and work through it with commonsense rather than ask for more money to hire more bureaucrats. And lastly, we need administrators who want to work with stakeholders – our customers, to forge lasting partnerships and maximize local control wherever possible.

4. What initiatives would you support for additional funding for park districts and forest preserves to satisfy the growing demands of citizens for recreational facilities and services?

Again, as Governor, my top priority will be to balance our state budget and bring back the over 700,000 jobs we have lost under the Blagojevich/Quinn Administration. With a deficit of \$13 billion and growing, we must cut out the waste and sweetheart deals, throw open the windows of transparency, and act quickly to put a financial plan in place that works to properly set our spending priorities and put us in a position where the state no longer raids special funds. This action alone will both improve the revenues coming to the state and increase the amount of dollars available for programmatic and local spending. A Brady Administration will not stoop to raiding funds and it will not stand for having public dollars misdirected and misspent by the bureaucracy.



5. During your career as an elected public official, what have you accomplished for park districts and forest preserves in the state of Illinois and, ultimately, for quality of life issues related to parks, recreation and conservation?

I am a strong believer in the value of parks and recreation for our quality of life. I opposed the closing of our State Parks and I opposed the raiding of all Special State Funds – especially those used to support our parks, recreational activities, and open space.

6. Do you see any unintended consequences for local governments stemming from the recent revision of the Freedom of Information Act? If so what are they and what remedies are you willing to support?

No law is ever perfectly written. As a state Senator and a state Representative before that, I and my colleagues worked hard to craft the best legislation we could that struck a balance between addressing the issue at hand and not being overly prescriptive. This balancing act is difficult.

The greatest problem for any law is the possibility of its being misapplied. There have already been some reports of instances where the Freedom of Information Act is being used politically to block or limit access to information at the local level. There also appear to be some questions as to who is exempt because the law was silent in some areas. And there are always the questions of fairness or equal application of rules, and of cost. There should be no doubt that future revisions will be needed. As Governor, I am firmly committed to working with all parties to increase the openness and transparency of government at all levels.

7. What are your personal recreational pursuits?

I am a walker. I love to walk through my neighborhood parks. Some parks are quiet and leave me alone with my thoughts to breathe, to reflect and to recharge; other parks are busy, noisy and overflowing with life. In the end, parks are about so much more than a playground or open space, they are there for us through the cycle of our life.



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COMPILED BY PETER M. MURPHY

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- Updated **eligibility standards** for park board candidates
- Changes to the **Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL)**
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2011 election calendar

**Prepared by Peter M. Murphy, IAPD President and CEO
and Jason Anselment, IAPD Legal/Legislative Counsel**

For purposes of this calendar, “election authority” means the County Clerk, the municipal Board of Election Commissioners or the County Board of Election Commissioners. “Local election official” means the clerk or secretary of a unit of local government or a school district. “Business day” means any day in which the office of an election authority, local election official or the State Board of Elections is open to the public for a minimum of seven hours. (10 ILCS 5/1-3)

All citations contained herein are “Illinois Compiled Statutes, 2010,” as amended.

FILING AND REGISTRATION DATES

(a) If the first or last day fixed by law to do any act required or allowed by the Election Code falls on a state holiday or a Saturday or a Sunday, the period shall extend through the first business day next following the day otherwise fixed as the last day for filing or the close of registration, irrespective of whether any election authority or local election official conducts business on the state holiday, Saturday, or Sunday. (10 ILCS 5/1-6(a))

(b) For the section of the Election Code upon which this calendar is based, “state holiday” means New Year’s Day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday, Lincoln’s Birthday, President’s Day, Casimir Pulaski’s Birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans’ Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and any other day from time to time declared by the President of the United States or the Governor of Illinois to be a day during which the agencies of the State of Illinois that are ordinarily open to do business with the public shall be closed for business. (10 ILCS 5/1-6(b))

Key dates associated with the
**CONSOLIDATED
PRIMARY ELECTION**
February 22, 2011

2010

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 23

First day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected, rather than appointed, may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or, if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory. (10 ILCS 5/28-2(g))

Monday, OCTOBER 25

Last day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected, rather than appointed, may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or, if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory. (10 ILCS 5/28-2(g))

Monday, OCTOBER 25

Last day to file petition (must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators) to create a political subdivision with the appropriate officers or board. (10 ILCS 5/28-2(b))

NOTE: Objections can be filed on or before the date of the hearing with the appropriate circuit court clerk. (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

NOTE: If initial officers are to be elected at the election for creation of a new unit of government, candidates for such offices shall file nomination papers 99-92 days before such election (November 15-22, 2010). (10 ILCS 5/10-6)

NOTE: The circuit court clerk shall publish the hearing date for a public policy petition filed in his/her office not later than 14 days after the

petition is actually filed, but at least 5 days before actual hearing (final orders within 7 days of hearing). (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

Monday, NOVEMBER 1

Last day to file objections to petitions to create a political subdivision in the office of the circuit clerk. (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

Monday, NOVEMBER 22

Last day for filing of petitions (must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators) for referenda for the submission of questions of public policy (local). [EXCEPTION: proposition to create a political subdivision, referenda initiated under the Liquor Control Act and Section 18-120 of the Property Tax Code. (10 ILCS 5/28-2, 28-6, 28-7)]

NOTE: Petitions to initiate backdoor referenda must be filed under the deadline specified in the specific statute authorizing the referenda, but in no case later than 92 days prior to the ensuing election.

Wednesday, DECEMBER 1

Last day to file objections to petitions for referenda for the submission of questions of public policy (local). [EXCEPTION: proposition to create a political subdivision, referenda initiated under the Liquor Control Act, and Section 18-120 of the Property Tax Code. (10 ILCS 5/10-8, 28-4)]

Monday, DECEMBER 6

Last day for local governing boards to adopt a resolution or ordinance to allow a binding public question to appear on the ballot. (10 ILCS 5/28-2(c))

Monday, DECEMBER 6

Last day for County, Municipal, Township and Park Boards to place advisory referenda on the ballot by resolution. (55 ILCS 5/5-1105.5; 60 ILCS 1/80-80; 65 ILCS 5/3.1-40-60; 70 ILCS 1205/8-30)

Thursday, DECEMBER 23

Last day for the circuit court clerk and the local election official to certify any binding public question or advisory referenda to the election authority having jurisdiction over the political subdivision. (10 ILCS 5/28-5)

2011

Thursday, JANUARY 13

First day for any registered voter presently within the confines of the United States to make application by mail or in person to the election authority for an official ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

Thursday, JANUARY 13

Last day for organizations of citizens that have as a stated purpose the investigation or prosecution of election fraud and proposition proponents or opponents to register their names and addresses of their principal officers with the proper election authority if the organization wants to qualify for poll watchers at the consolidated primary election. (10 ILCS 5/7-34)

Monday, JANUARY 24

First day for the election authority to publish notice of a question of public policy appearing on the ballot at the Consolidated Primary. Such notice shall be published once in a local community newspaper having general circulation in the political or governmental subdivision. The notice shall also be given at least ten (10) days before the date of the election by posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the election authority. The local election official shall also post a copy of the notice at the principal office of the political or governmental subdivision, or if there is no principal office at the building in which the governing body of the political or governmental subdivision held its first meeting of the calendar year in which the referendum is being held. (10 ILCS 5/12-5)

**Monday,
JANUARY 24**

Last day for citizens of the United States temporarily residing outside the United States who are not registered but otherwise qualified to vote and who expect to be absent from their county of residence on election day to make simultaneous application to the election authority having jurisdiction over their precinct of residence for absentee registrations and absentee ballots and the last day for the election authority to mail such ballots. (10 ILCS 5/20-2.1, 20-3)

**Wednesday,
JANUARY 26**

First day for the election authority to post a schedule for early voting at each location where early voting will be conducted. Such posting shall remain at each site until the last day of the early voting period (February 17, 2011). If the election authority has a website, they shall make the schedule available on the website. (10 ILCS 5/19A-25)

**Wednesday,
JANUARY 26**

First day for grace period registration or change of address in the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Wednesday,
JANUARY 26**

First day for grace period voting at the election authority's office, or location designated by the election authority, or by mail, at the discretion of the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Sunday,
JANUARY 30**

Suggested last day for election authority to supply absentee materials to local election officials (qualified municipal, township and road district clerks) who conduct in-person absentee voting. (10 ILCS 5/19-2.1)

**Monday,
JANUARY 31**

First day for local election officials (qualified municipal, township and road district clerks) to conduct in-person absentee voting. (10 ILCS 5/19-2.1)

**Monday,
JANUARY 31**

First day for early voting at the office of the election authority and locations designated by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/19A-15)

**Wednesday,
FEBRUARY 2**

Last day for employee to give employer written notice that he or she will be absent from the place of employment on election day because he or she has been appointed as an election judge under the provisions of 10 ILCS 5/13-1 or 13-2. (10 ILCS 5/13-2.5, 14-4.5)

**Monday,
FEBRUARY 14**

Last day for the election authority to publish notice of a question of public policy appearing on the ballot at the primary. Such notice shall be published once in a local community newspaper having general circulation in the political or governmental subdivision. The notice shall also be given at least ten (10) days before the date of the election by posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the election authority. The local election official shall also post a copy of the notice at the principal office of the political or governmental subdivision, or if there is no principal office at the 15 building in which the governing body of the political or governmental subdivision held its first meeting of the calendar year in which the referendum is being held. (10 ILCS 5/12-5)

**Monday,
FEBRUARY 14**

Last day for any voter who is a member of the United States Service and for his/her spouse and dependents of voting age who expect

to be absent from the county of residence on election day to make application for an official ballot (may make application via facsimile machine or other method of electronic transmission) to the election authority having jurisdiction over their precinct residence; and the last day for the election authority to mail such ballot. (10 ILCS 5/20-2, 20-2.3, 20-3)

**Tuesday,
FEBRUARY 15**

Last day of grace period registration or change of address in the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Tuesday,
FEBRUARY 15**

Last day of grace period voting at the election authority's office, or location designated by the election authority, or by mail, at the discretion of the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Thursday,
FEBRUARY 17**

Last day for election authority to receive application by mail from any registered voter presently within the confines of the United States and the last day for the election authority to mail such ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2, 19-4)

NOTE: Certain situations other than absence from county of residence also permit voters to apply for an absentee ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

**Thursday,
FEBRUARY 17**

Last day for local election officials to publish specimen ballot. (10 ILCS 5/7-21)

**Thursday,
FEBRUARY 17**

Last day for early voting at the office of the election authority and locations designated by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/19A-15, 19A-20)

**Monday,
FEBRUARY 21**

Last day for any registered voter presently within the United States to vote in person at the election authority or approved local election official for an official ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

**TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2011
CONSOLIDATED
PRIMARY ELECTION**

**Tuesday,
FEBRUARY 22**

Date when authorized local election officials who have not delivered in-person absentee ballots to the election authority shall deliver in-person absentee ballots to the election authority's central ballot counting location before the polls close. All unused in-person absentee voting supplies are to be returned to the office of the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/19-2.1)

**Tuesday,
MARCH 8**

Deadline for the county clerk or board of election commissioners to complete the validation and counting of provisional ballots. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(a))

**Tuesday,
MARCH 8**

Deadline for the county clerk or board of election commissioners to complete the tabulation of absentee ballots that were (1) postmarked by the midnight preceding the opening of the polls on Election Day, and were received after the close of the polls on Election Day but not later than 14 days after the election or (2) not postmarked at all, but did have a certification date prior to the Election Day on the certification envelope, and were received after the close of the polls on Election Day but not later than 14 days after the election. (10 ILCS 5/19-8)

**Tuesday,
MARCH 15**

Last day for canvassing election results by local canvassing board. (10 ILCS 5/7-56, 22-17(c))

NOTE: The county clerk and board of election commissioners have the responsibility of canvassing the returns of the Consolidated Primary Election under their jurisdiction. (10 ILCS 5/1-8, 7-56, 22-17)

NOTE: Within 48 hours of conducting the canvass as required by the Election Code, the election authority shall deliver an original certificate of results to each local election official. (10 ILCS 5/7-56)

NOTE: If the election authority canvasses the results of a public question submitted to referendum pursuant to a court order, the election authority shall immediately transmit a signed copy or an original duplicate of its completed abstract of the votes to the court which ordered the referendum. (10 ILCS 5/22-18)

**Tuesday,
MARCH 15**

The last day the election authority shall transmit to the State Board of Elections the following: (1) the number, by precinct, of absentee ballots requested, provided and counted, (2) the number of rejected absentee ballots, (3) the number of voters seeking review of rejected absentee ballots, and (4) the number of absentee ballots counted following review. (10 ILCS 5/19-20, 20-20)

**Key dates associated with the
CONSOLIDATED
ELECTION
APRIL 5, 2011**

2010

**Tuesday,
SEPTEMBER 21**

First day to circulate nomination papers (must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators) for

nonpartisan candidates for township and municipal library boards, library district boards, park district boards, school boards and forest preserve district boards who file December 13-20, 2010. (10 ILCS 5/10-4, 10-6)

**Thursday,
NOVEMBER 4**

First day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected, rather than appointed, may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or, if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory. (10 ILCS 5/28-2(g))

**Monday,
DECEMBER 6**

Last day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected, rather than appointed, may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or, if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory. (10 ILCS 5/28-2(g))

**Monday,
DECEMBER 6**

Last day to file petition (must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators) to create a political subdivision with the appropriate officers or board. (10 ILCS 5/28-2(b))

NOTE: Objections can be filed on or before the date of the hearing with the appropriate circuit court clerk. (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

NOTE: If initial officers are to be elected at the election for creation of a new unit of government, candidates for such offices shall file nomination papers 113-106 days before such election (December 13-20, 2010). (10 ILCS 5/10-6)

NOTE: The circuit court clerk shall publish the hearing date for a public policy petition filed in his/her office not later than 14 days after the petition is actually filed, but at least 5

days before actual hearing (final orders within 7 days of hearing). (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

NOTE: See the specific statute governing the unit of local government to be established for filing procedures. (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

**Monday,
DECEMBER 13**

Last day to file objections to petitions to create a political subdivision in the office of the circuit clerk. (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

**Monday,
DECEMBER 13**

First day for filing in office of the local election official or board of election commissioners, original nomination papers (must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators) for nonpartisan candidates in park districts and forest preserves). (10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

NOTE: Filing is between 113-106 days prior to the Consolidated Election. December 13, 2010 is the 113th day prior to that election and is the first day of filing in those offices which are open.

**Monday,
DECEMBER 20**

Last day for filing in the office of the local election official or board of election commissioners, original nomination papers (must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators) for nonpartisan candidates for township and municipal library boards, road district boards, library district boards, park district boards, school boards, community college boards, regional boards of school trustees, fire protection district boards and forest preserve district boards. (10 ILCS 5/10-6(2))

**Monday,
DECEMBER 20**

Last day for filing a Statement of Economic Interests with the county clerk as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. The receipt must be filed with the local election official or election authority that received the nomination papers. (5 ILCS 420/4A-105; 10 ILCS 5/10-5)

**Tuesday,
DECEMBER 28**

Last day for an individual who has filed for two or more incompatible offices to withdraw from all but one of the offices with the local election official or election authority. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

**Tuesday,
DECEMBER 28**

Last day for filing objections to nomination papers for nonpartisan candidates (whose nomination papers were filed during the period December 13-20, 2010) in the office of the election authority or the local election official with whom the nomination papers are on file. (10 ILCS 5/10-8)

**Wednesday,
DECEMBER 29**

Last day lottery shall be conducted by the State Board of Elections, the election authority, local election official or board of election commissioners when two or more petitions are received simultaneously for the same office by more than one independent candidate or more than one new political party candidate or by more than one nonpartisan candidate as of the opening hour of the filing period. (10 ILCS 5/10-6.2)

2011

**Monday,
JANUARY 3**

Last day for filing petitions (must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators) for referenda for the submission of questions of public policy (local). [EXCEPTION:

proposition to create a political subdivision, referenda initiated under the Liquor Control Act, and Section 18-120 of the Property Tax Code. (10 ILCS 5/28-2, 28-6, 28-7)]

NOTE: Petitions to initiate backdoor referenda must be filed under the deadline specified in the specific statute authorizing the referenda, but in no case later than 92 days prior to the ensuing election.

**Monday,
JANUARY 10**

Last day to file objections to petitions for referenda for the submission of questions of public policy. [EXCEPTION: proposition to create a political subdivision, referenda initiated under the Liquor Control Act, and Section 18-120 of the Property Tax Code. (10 ILCS 5/10-8, 28-4)]

**Tuesday,
JANUARY 18**

Last day for local governing boards to adopt a resolution or ordinance to allow a binding public question to appear on the ballot. (10 ILCS 5/28-2(c))

**Tuesday,
JANUARY 18**

Last day for county, municipal, township and park boards to place advisory referenda on the ballot by resolution. (55 ILCS 5/5-1005.5; 60 ILCS 1/80-80; 65 ILCS 5/3.1-40-60; 70 ILCS 1205/8-30)

**Thursday,
JANUARY 27**

Last day candidate may file Withdrawal of Candidacy in the office of the local election official or election authority. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

**Thursday,
JANUARY 27**

Last day for local election official to certify offices and the names of candidates to appear on the consolidated election ballot to the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/10-15)

**Thursday,
FEBRUARY 3**

Last day for the circuit court clerk and the local election official to certify any binding public question or advisory referenda to the election authority having jurisdiction over the political subdivision. (10 ILCS 5/28-5)

**Tuesday,
FEBRUARY 22**

Last day for the election authority to have a sufficient number of ballots printed and available at the authority's office for mailing to persons in the United States Service or their spouses and dependents and to citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States. (10 ILCS 5/16-5.01)

**Thursday,
FEBRUARY 24**

First day for any registered voter presently within the confines of the United States to make application by mail or in person to the election authority for an official ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

**Thursday,
FEBRUARY 24**

Last day for organizations of citizens (which have as a stated purpose the investigation and prosecution of election fraud) and proposition proponents and opponents to register their names and addresses and the names and addresses of their principal officers with the proper election authority if the organization wants to qualify for poll watchers at the Consolidated Election. (10 ILCS 5/17-23, 18-6)

**Tuesday,
MARCH 8**

First day for election authority to publish notice of the Consolidated Election. The notice must include the polling hours, and the offices for which candidates will be elected to. Such notice must also include a list precinct polling addresses unless published separately at least ten (10) days prior to the Consolidated Election. Such notice of the

Consolidated Election shall be published once in one or more newspapers published in each political subdivision, and if there is not such newspaper, then published once in a local community newspaper having general circulation in the subdivision, and also once in a newspaper published in the county wherein the political subdivisions, or portions thereof, having such elections are situated. (10 ILCS 5/12-4)

**Tuesday,
MARCH 8**

First day for the election authority to publish notice of a question of public policy appearing on the ballot at the Consolidated Election. Such notice shall be published once in a local community newspaper having general circulation in the political or governmental subdivision. The notice shall also be given at least ten (10) days before the date of election by posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the election authority. The local election official shall also post a copy of the notice at the principal office of the political or governmental subdivision, or if there is no principal office at the building in which the governing body of the political or governmental subdivision held its first meeting of the calendar year in which the referendum is being held. (10 ILCS 5/12-5)

**Tuesday,
MARCH 8**

Last day for citizens of the United States temporarily residing outside the United States who are not registered but otherwise qualified to vote and who expect to be absent from their county of residence on election day to make simultaneous application to the election authority having jurisdiction over their precinct of residence for absentee registrations and absentee ballots; and the last day for the election authority to mail such ballots. (10 ILCS 5/20-2.1, 20-3)

**Wednesday,
MARCH 9**

First day for election authority to post a schedule for early voting at each location where early voting will be conducted. Posting shall remain at each site until the last day of the early voting period (March 31, 2010). If the election authority maintains a website, it shall make the schedule available on its website. (10 ILCS 5/19A-25)

**Wednesday,
MARCH 9**

First day for grace period registration or change of address in the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Wednesday,
MARCH 9**

First day for grace period voting at the election authority's office, or location designated by the election authority, or by mail, at the discretion of the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Sunday,
MARCH 13**

Suggested last day for election authority to supply absentee materials to local election officials (qualified municipal, township and road district clerks) who conduct in-person absentee voting. (10 ILCS 5/19-2.1)

**Monday,
MARCH 14**

First day for early voting at the office of the election authority and temporary locations designated by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/19A-15)

**Monday,
MARCH 14**

First day for local election officials (qualified municipal, township and road district clerks) to conduct in-person absentee voting. (10 ILCS 5/19-2.1)

**Wednesday,
MARCH 16**

Last day for employee to give employer written notice that he or she will be absent from the place of employment on Election Day because he or she has been appointed as an election judge under the provisions of 10 ILCS 5/13-1 or 13-2. (10 ILCS 5/13-2.5, 14-4.5)

**Monday,
MARCH 28**

Last day for the election authority to publish notice of a question of public policy appearing on the ballot at the Consolidated Election. Such notice shall be published once in a local community newspaper having general circulation in the political or governmental subdivision. The notice shall also be given at least ten (10) days before the date of the election by posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the election authority. The local election official shall also post a copy of the notice at the principal office of the political or governmental subdivision, or if there is no principal office at the 15 building in which the governing body of the political or governmental subdivision held its first meeting of the calendar year in which the referendum is being held. (10 ILCS 5/12-5)

**Monday,
MARCH 28**

Last day for any voter who is a member of the United States Service and for his/her spouse and dependents of voting age who expect to be absent from the county of residence on election day to make application for an official ballot (may make application via facsimile machine or other method of electronic transmission) to the election authority having jurisdiction over their precinct residence; and the last day for the election authority to mail such ballot. (10 ILCS 5/20-2, 20-2.3, 20-3)

**Monday,
MARCH 28**

Last day for election authority to publish notice of the Consolidated Election. The notice must include the polling hours, and the offices for which candidates will be elected to. Such notice must also include a list precinct polling addresses unless published separately at least ten (10) days prior to the Consolidated Election. Such notice of the Consolidated Election shall be published once in one or more newspapers published in each political subdivision, and if there is not such newspaper, then published once in a local community newspaper having general circulation in the subdivision, and also once in a newspaper published in the county wherein the political subdivisions, or portions thereof, having such elections are situated. (10 ILCS 5/12-4)

**Tuesday,
MARCH 29**

Last day of grace period registration or change of address in the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Tuesday,
MARCH 29**

Last day of grace period voting at the election authority's office, or location designated by the election authority, or by mail, at the discretion of the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/4-50, 5-50, 6-100)

**Thursday,
MARCH 31**

Last day for election authority to receive application by mail from any registered voter presently within the confines of the United States and the last day for the election authority to mail such ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2, 19-4)

NOTE: Certain situations other than absence from county of residence also permit voters to apply for an absentee ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-3)

**Thursday,
MARCH 31**

Last day for early voting at the office of the election authority and locations designated by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/19A-15, 19A-20)

**Friday,
APRIL 1**

Last day for election authority to have official ballots available for inspection by candidates or their agents. (10 ILCS 5/16-5)

**Monday,
APRIL 4**

Last day for election authority in counties having a population of not more than 500,000 to publish a list of all the nominations that are to be voted for at the Consolidated Election. (10 ILCS 5/16-10)

**Monday,
APRIL 4**

Last day for any registered voter presently within the United States to vote in person at the election authority or approved local election official for an official ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

**TUESDAY
APRIL 5, 2011
CONSOLIDATED ELECTION**

**Tuesday,
APRIL 5**

Last day for authorized local election officials to deliver in-person absentee ballots to the election authority's central ballot counting location before the polls close. All unused in-person absentee voting supplies are to be returned to the office of the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/19-2.1)

**Tuesday,
APRIL 19**

Deadline for the county clerk or board of election commissioners to complete the validation and counting of provisional ballots. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(a))

**Tuesday,
APRIL 19**

Deadline for the county clerk or board of election commissioners to complete the tabulation of absentee ballots that were (1) postmarked by the midnight preceding the opening of the polls on Election Day, and were received after the close of the polls on Election Day but not later than 14 days after the election or (2) not postmarked at all but did have a certification date prior to the Election Day on the certification envelope, and were received after the close of the polls on Election Day but not later than 14 days after the election. (10 ILCS 5/19-8)

**Tuesday,
APRIL 26**

Last day for canvassing of election results by the county clerk or board of election commissioners. (10 ILCS 5/22-17)

**Tuesday,
APRIL 26**

The last day the election authority shall transmit to the State Board of Elections the following: (1) the number, by precinct, of absentee ballots requested, provided and counted, (2) the number of rejected absentee ballots, and (3) the number of voters seeking review of rejected absentee ballots, and (4) the number of absentee ballots counted following review. (10 ILCS 5/19-20, 20-20)

**BEFORE PROCLAMATION BY
THE ELECTION AUTHORITY**

In those jurisdictions where in-precinct counting equipment is used, the election authority shall re-tabulate the total number of votes cast in 5 percent of the precincts within the election jurisdiction prior to the canvass. In jurisdictions that employ direct recording devices, the election authority shall test the voting equipment in 5 percent of the precincts prior to the proclamation. (10 ILCS 5/24A-15, 24B-15, 24C-15)

ABSTRACT OF VOTES

NOTE: The county clerk and board of election commissioners have the responsibility of canvassing the returns of the Consolidated Election under their jurisdiction. (10 ILCS 5/22-17)

If the election authority canvasses the results of a public question submitted to referendum pursuant to a court order, the election authority shall immediately transmit a

signed copy or an original duplicate of its completed abstract of the votes to the court which ordered the referendum. (10 ILCS 5/22-18)

**AFTER PROCLAMATION
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION**

The election authority shall issue a certificate of election to each person declared elected to an office by such local canvassing board (10 ILCS 5/22-18). For political subdivisions that are multi-county, the election authority of the county where the principal office of the political subdivision is located shall make the certificate of election. (10 ILCS 5/22-18)

DISCOVERY RECOUNT

Within five (5) days after the last day for the proclamation of the results of the canvass, petitions for discovery recount may be filed by any qualified individual with the appropriate election authority. (10 ILCS 5/22-9.1)





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Announcing the *IP&R* 2011 Editorial Calendar

become a part of the *IP&R* expanded direction

by Todd Silvey, Illinois Parks & Recreation editor

Did you ever wonder where the concepts for great articles in magazines (such as Illinois Parks and Recreation) get their spark? The best ideas arise from voices of experience that live the stories that beg to be told. Groundwork for an expanded article base have been laid for future *IP&R* issues, whether it be more diverse information dedicated to the aquatics or environment feature issues, or a unique topic thrown into the mix to make future magazines a better read. Building a publication filled with more stories will mean a need for more contributions from a variety of sources. To call upon this need is to call upon people to step up, to share their ideas and invest a few hours putting those ideas into words and polishing them into an interesting and informative article. It has been said that if you can speak, you can write. It doesn't take a literary professional to create a good solid body of work. Just like years in the past, the IAPD is counting on its members to share their experiences and expertise with the rest of the Parks, Recreation and Conservation community.

The biggest hurdle is the first ten words; in my own history of prompting articles from "non-writers", a suggestion is to possibly form a team effort. Friends who share the same thoughts or background for the proposed story can inspire a creative flow, sometimes above and beyond a single person's effort.

Glance at the page on your right; consider some of the upcoming editorial themes. Think about how you could become a published author in Illinois Parks and Recreation Magazine. Compositions for focus or feature stories should range from 1,000 to 1,750 words (4 to 6 pages double-spaced). This may include a 200 to 400-word sidebar of related information or an illustrative essay. A picture is worth a thousand words and we will also need high resolution images or artwork to support your story.

Remember, this magazine is a team effort. Don't be afraid to contact Todd Silvey for direction or suggestions. Do you have an idea that doesn't fit one of the listed themes? Don't be afraid to put it on paper and submit it. Stories on any topic are considered at any time and are valued.

2011 EDITORIAL CALENDAR

Issue	Focus	EDITORIAL DUE DATES		ADVERTISING DUE DATES	
		Feature Length Editorial Materials Due	People & Places Section Materials Due (Stories at 300 words with Jpegs of 300 dpi)	Ad Reservation Date	Ad Materials Due
Jan/Feb	Conference	10/1/10*	11/15/10*	11/15/10*	11/30/10*
March/April	The Environment Issue	1/1/11	2/1/11	2/1/11	2/7/11
May/June	Modern Marketing for Your Agency	3/1/11	4/1/11	4/1/11	4/7/11
July/August	The Special Challenges and Opportunities of Urban Parks	5/1/11	6/1/11	6/1/11	6/7/11
Sept/Oct	Aquatic Issue	7/1/11	8/1/11	8/1/11	8/7/11
Nov/Dec	Un Themed	9/1/11	10/1/11	10/1/11	10/7/11
Jan/Feb 2012	Conference	10/1/11*	11/15/11*	11/15/11*	11/30/11*

* The conference issues are on an accelerated schedule. All editorial and advertising materials are due sooner than normal.



**Be Wise – Advertise
 In Illinois Parks & Recreation**
 Businesses that want to achieve the benefits of advertising in the magazine or the IAPD/IPRA Directory and Buyers' Guide should contact the magazine's advertising representative:

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PEOPLE & PLACES



IAPD Debuts New Interactive Website

The Illinois Association of Park Districts has launched a new website at www.ilparks.org. This new site is your one stop shop to learn all you need to know about Illinois parks, recreation and conservation.

By logging into the site, you'll be able to enjoy "members only" sections of the website, as well as receive the member rates for IAPD events/workshops and purchases through the IAPD website store. Members can also utilize a searchable IAPD membership.

The new website contains a park, recreation and conservation community calendar to keep you apprised of other agency activities. Peter Murphy, IAPD President and CEO, commented, "The new website is very interactive. Members and staff can take advantage of the social networking capabilities to transform the site into a "Facebook" for fellow parks, recreation and conservation agencies throughout the state.

Jason Anselment Announced as IAPD Legal/Legislative Counsel

Jason Anselment is the new Legal/Legislative Counsel for the Illinois Association of Park Districts. Jason acts as contact for legal questions on Park District, Forest Preserve, Conservation and local government issues by members and their local counsel. Jason will serve as association liaison to General Assembly.

Raised in Southern Illinois Hamilton County, Jason graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Illinois College of Law. Jason's professional experience includes serving as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Springfield, Illinois, where some of his key duties included development, analysis and interpretation of the municipal code and public policies. He also represented the City at hearings and other proceedings and analyzed new and pending legislation. Jason was also in private practice for several years and is experienced in local government finance and general corporate and real estate law.



New Publications Director announced at IAPD

The Illinois Association of Park Districts recently named **Todd Silvey** as the new Publications Director and Editor of Illinois Parks and Recreation magazine.

Todd comes to the IAPD from a career as president and editor of his own national magazine for over 20 years. With a professional background and education in publishing, graphics and event promotion,

Todd plans to become a broad contributor to the varied responsibilities of the IAPD including continued development of the new ilparks.org website, as well as marketing and social media.

Schaumburg Park District Included in Finalists for 2010 National Gold Medal Awards

A sixth Illinois parks and recreation agency was announced as a finalist in contention for the 2010 National Gold Medal Awards. The Schaumburg Park District was omitted as part of the distinguished group of finalists announced in the July/August issue of IP&R. We sincerely regret the oversight.

The Illinois nominations by category are as follows:

Class II (population 100,001 – 250,000)
The Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria
Class III (population 50,001 – 100,000)
Schaumburg Park District

Class IV (population 25,001 – 50,000)
The Bartlett Park District
The Elmhurst Park District
The Gurnee Park District
The Glen Ellyn Park District



The Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition.

Winners in each of the six categories will be announced during NRPAs Annual Congress and Exposition in Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 25 to 29, 2010.



Crystal Lake Park District Hires New Executive Director

The Crystal Lake Park District has hired **Jason Herbster** as its new Executive Director to succeed Kirk Reimer who retired on May 31, 2010 after 38 years of employment with the district.

Before joining the Crystal Lake Park District, Herbster spent the last 9 years with the Glenview Park District and most recently served as that agency's Director of Recreation Services. While in Glenview, Herbster transitioned the District into the 165,000 square foot Park Center Recreation Center, lead a team in

the building of two outdoor aquatic facilities simultaneously, restructured the recreation department and saw program revenue nearly double. Prior to arriving in Glenview, Herbster worked for the Schaumburg Park District as a Facility Manager and for the Palatine and Alsip Park District's as an Athletic Supervisor. Herbster's extensive background includes program management, facility management, financial management, facility development, team building and intergovernmental relations.

Herbster has a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in Park and Recreation Resources and began his employment with the Crystal Lake Park District on May 3, 2010.



"Best of the Best" Awards Gala Gears-Up for October 1, 2010 Event

The Illinois Association of Park Districts awards gala is drawing close with reservations for dinner and awards program accepted until September 24th. For all of you making plans, remember that you can make your gala reservations online at www.ilparks.org. Those reserving online will also receive discounted rates.

Peter Murphy, IAPD President and CEO explains, "The Best of the Best Awards gala is an opportunity to thank those who have committed their time, resources and talents."

The black tie optional gala will begin at the Wheeling Park District's Chevy Chase Country Club at 6:30 with a cocktail reception and the dinner and awards program featured from 7:00 to 9:30pm.

Guest room reservations are available at the Westin North Shore in Wheeling at a block rate of \$99 when asking for the Illinois Association of Park Districts block rate.

Awards Gala to Feature New Wall of Wines Fundraiser

The 4th Annual Awards Gala is offering an exciting addition, the Best of the Best Wall of Wines. All net proceeds from this special fundraiser will go to Friends of Illinois Parks and the Power Play Beyond-School Grant Program.

The IAPD is seeking donations of a bottle (or bottles) of wine with a value of at least \$15.00 per bottle. Awards gala guests will purchase an opportunity to pull a bottle of wine from the wall. All wine bottles will be individually wrapped – so when the guest pulls/chooses a bottle, they will unveil a surprise bottle of wine.

If you have any questions on how to become involved, please contact the IAPD offices at 217/523-4554 or Sue Triphahn at 847/496-4449.

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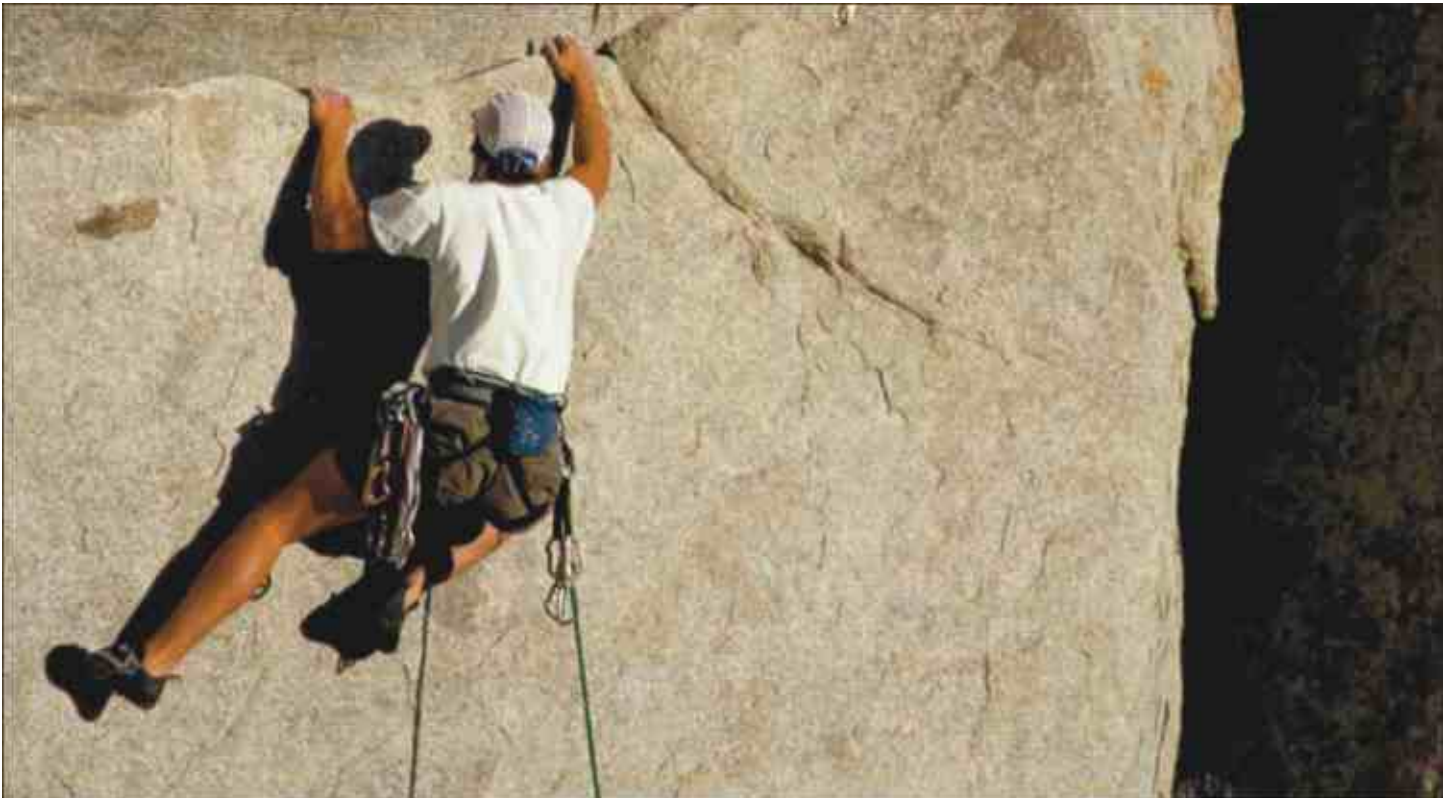
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