

**Diana O'Kelly**

Lake County Board - District 10

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*I welcome hearing from you with questions or concerns about these or other County issues. If you contact me by e-mail, please include your phone number.*

Diana

**Ft. Sheridan Trails and Exhibits:** The Ft. Sheridan Forest Preserve trail from Sheridan Road to, and along, the Lake Michigan shore is now open for public use. If you have not taken this breath-taking walk, I encourage you to do so. Work is also progressing on the installation of public exhibits along the Ft. Sheridan trail celebrating the unique history and ecology of this property. Our preserves here in Lake County are a wonderful resource, and an inexpensive way for families to enjoy recreational and environmental education opportunities. Visitors enjoy nearly 112 miles of trail for a variety of outdoor recreation uses, fishing ponds and lakes, public access to the Fox River, award-winning nature and history education programs and events, and three public golf courses. Facilities of special interest include Independence Grove near Libertyville, Ryerson Conservation Area near Deerfield, Lake County Discovery Museum near Wauconda, Greenbelt Cultural Center near Waukegan, and ThunderHawk Golf Club near Beach Park. For directions, a program calendar, or additional information about your Lake County Forest Preserves, call 847-367-6640 and request a free copy of the Horizons quarterly newsletter or visit on-line at [www.LCFPD.org](http://www.LCFPD.org).

## **More open space preserved**

**Tanager Kames Chain 'O Lakes:** At its March meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved purchase of 130 acres of land which creates a new forest preserve on the Chain 'O Lakes, preserving one of Lake County's best remaining natural areas. This land buy increases the number of acquisitions made using funds from the successful, voter-approved November 2000 referendum to 41. Over 25,000 acres in Lake County are currently owned or managed as Forest Preserves.

The new property, named Tanager Kames, is an important acquisition in northwestern Lake County, an area of rapid development and population growth. The property is located in Grant Township west of Highway 12 and Route 59 and north of Big Hollow Road. It lies between Redhead Lake and Myers Bay of Pistakee Lake in the Chain O Lakes waterway,

and is one half mile north of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Volo Bog Nature Preserve. Considered one of the best remaining natural communities in Lake County, its distinctive geology, its high-quality natural features, and the presence of several unique species occurring in large numbers indicate a low level of site disturbance.

The property is surrounded on three sides by lakes and marshes, called kettles, formed as glaciers retreated. Wooded knolls that form three hills on the site are called kames, ridges of sand and gravel also left by melting glaciers. These conditions and the fact that the site has been relatively protected, make it an important acquisition for the Lake County Forest Preserves.

**Ethen Woods Addition:** At its April meeting, the Forest Preserve Board voted to purchase a 6.6 acre parcel as an addition to the Ethel Woods Forest Preserve. In addition to enlarging the existing preserve near its southwestern boundary north of Miller Road in Antioch, it also makes a potential trail connection between Ethel's Woods and Raven Glen, as well as meeting seven additional adopted land acquisition goals.

## **Moving forward on Independence Grove Playground**

Also at its April meeting, the Forest Preserve Board awarded a contract for installation of playground equipment at the Independence Grove Forest Preserve in Libertyville. The new Children's Grove play area will feature a unique layout where children with or without disabilities can learn and play together side by side, including play equipment especially designed for handicap accessibility and adaptability. The playground is partially funded with a grant from the Lexi Kazian Foundation, an organization whose mission is to help benefit children with special needs in Lake County and surrounding areas.

## **Youth Conservation Corps Summer Jobs Program**

High School students between the ages of 16 and 18 interested in paid environmental work (\$7.25-\$7.50 per hour, 40 hours per week) should explore the YCC summer jobs program, which is privately funded but run through the Forest Preserves. If you know someone interested, they can download an application from the YCC website - [www.youthconservation.org](http://www.youthconservation.org), or let me know and I will email an application. The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. May 1 at Forest Preserve Offices at 2000 N. Milwaukee Avenue in Libertyville; or you can bring the application to the lottery for the jobs held on May 13, where roughly half of the 30 jobs will be drawn for applicants who attend the lottery. For more information on the YCC, the job lottery or applications, call Brian Kruk, YCC Assistant Program Manager, at 847-968-3406.

**WANTED GOLFERS:** Have fun **AND** support the wonderful activities of the Youth Conservation Corps by joining celebrity golfers Jim Morrissey, former Chicago Bear linebacker, Patrick Mannelly, Chicago Bear tackle, and others at the annual Charity Golf Outing on Thursday, June 15 at ThunderHawk Golf Club near Beach Park. The outing is sponsored by Walgreens. Proceeds benefit the YCC summer conservation job program. For prices, reservations, details or to donate to the YCC, call 847-623-0900.

## Lake County Discovery Museum's Native American Art Collection

The Museum's collection of over 100 exquisite Native American Art pieces will be exhibited in its entirety for the first time from May 19 to August 20. Special programs in conjunction with the exhibit will include:

- May 6 "Songs and Stories of the Native American Flute" from 2-3:30;
- June 3's storyteller's "Peace Pipe Tales";
- August 13's afternoon of drumming, dancing and music with the Night Eagle Singers.

The Museum is located in the Lakewood Forest Preserve near Route 176 in Wauconda. Directions are on the FPD website. For more information, please visit [www.LCFPD.org](http://www.LCFPD.org).

**Attention Art / Photography Teachers:** If you are planning now for high school field trips, next fall the Museum will be the only Chicago destination for a traveling exhibit of Pulitzer Prize winning photos. The exhibit will feature the annual winner of the Pulitzer Prize for photography for each year since the prize was initiated in the 1940s. Please call 847-968-3400 for more information.

## Just in time for Mother's Day ... Native Plant Sale

Stop by Independence Grove (on the north side of Route 137 just east of Milwaukee Road) to purchase plants that thrive in our local gardens Saturday May 13 from 9-3 or Sunday May 14 (Mother's Day) from 12-3. New this year will be the sale of trees and shrubs. Plants will be replenished for the Sunday sale so come either day for good pickins'. Proceeds benefit the Forest Preserve Youth Stewardship education programs.

## **Smith Nature Symposium**

The theme of this year's celebration, May 6 and 7 at Ryerson Conversation Area in Deerfield, is "Operation Migration". Included are morning bird walks, afternoon workshops and a benefit dinner. The featured speaker is a man who has used ultralight aircraft to train Whooping Cranes to migrate from Wisconsin to Florida to create a new population of this endangered bird. Check the website for details and reservations about this popular event co-sponsored by Friends of Ryerson Woods and Abbott Laboratories.

## **Summer Camp and Day Programs in Nature and History**

Forest Preserve Summer Camps take place at Forest Preserves throughout Lake County for children ages 4 – 14 and are reasonably priced. For a brochure call 847-968-3335, or visit [www.lcfpd.org/media\\_center/index.cfm?fuseaction=media.viewPubs](http://www.lcfpd.org/media_center/index.cfm?fuseaction=media.viewPubs) to download an application.

## **Celebrate Seniors' Day at Independence Grove**

Plan to join other Lake County seniors at Independence Grove on June 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for music, food and fun.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 847 949-9111 or on my cell at 847 833-1019 or you can email me at [okelly10@aol.com](mailto:okelly10@aol.com).

Thanks,

Diana O'Kelly, Lake County Board Rep and Lake County Forest Preserve Commissioner