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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Buffalo Grove Park District Receives Aquatics Award

(Buffalo Grove Park District, Buffalo Grove, IL) - The Starfish Aquatics Institute (SAI) awarded the Buffalo Grove Park District's Aquadome Pool, Spray 'N Play and Willow Stream Pool the prestigious Five Star Award following a risk management audit. Past Aquatics Coordinator Tim Beckmann, Facilities Coordinator Rick Missing, Facilities Technician Clint Poynor, Director of Recreation and Facilities Ryan Risinger, and Facilities Foreman Randy Smith accepted the award on behalf of the District.

"Very few aquatic facilities qualify to receive this honor," stated Leslie Donovan, President of SAI. "It represents a tremendous commitment to safety and training, and exceptional performance by the lifeguard staff on duty at the time."

The Buffalo Grove Park District staff has 80 total staff members that contributed to the achievement of the 5-Star award. Only 26 agencies across the United States received this award and 12 were from the state of Illinois. The 5-Star Lifeguards involved during the 5-Star review process the day of the unannounced facility audit are Aly Warren, Brigita Braslauskaitė, Alex Shkiler, Krysta Walter, Kari Antman, Jon Mass, Jesse Hall, Matt O'Rourke, Jenna Oliver and Scott Stone.

The 5-Star Pool Managers are Dani Rogers and Hal Bressler. Dani Rodger also received the Shinning Star Award, an individual award given to those that have the highest professional and risk management standard seen by SAI. Only 12 Shinning Star Awards were given out in 2012; and, it is the highest individual award a staff person can receive by SAI.

Dani Rogers has been with the Buffalo Grove Park District for little over 10 years at various levels on the pool management staff. "Dani is very committed to aquatic safety; and, the Park District is very proud of her for passing that passion down to new staff members each summer," stated Tim Beckmann.

The Buffalo Grove Park District is subject to 3 to 5 unaccounted risk management audits a year; and, no one at the Park District knows when or where this will happen. SAI plans these audits around anytime the Park District is open to the public.

SAI is one of the largest lifeguard, swim instructor and pool operator certifying agencies in the United States. SAI also provides services on an international level in Europe, Asia, South America, the Middle East, and very soon in Africa. The Institute offers state-of-the-art training courses and also provides risk management services to the aquatic industry.

“We are very proud to have the Buffalo Grove Park District as a member of the SAI family and that they have chosen to train their staff using our programs,” said Donavan. “We also commend them for participating in the StarReview risk management audit program and believe our focus on professionalism and accountability gives our providers the opportunity to lead the industry in effective and safe programming.”

Founded by Jill White, a renowned aquatics expert, SAI uses an integrated experiential approach to learning. All SAI training programs incorporate this innovative technique. The Buffalo Grove Park District is using the StarGuard® Lifeguard Certification program.

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