

FEATURED: Paul Zollinger, 9, of Sterling looks over the Sports Illustrated in which the Sterling Park District's Pumpkin Dash was honored as a Good Sports Community.

Philip Marruffo/SVN



Prized PUMPKIN DASH



Philip Marruffo/SVN

GOOD COMMUNITY: National Recreation and Park Association Chairman of the Board Ron Lehman (left) hands Larry Schuld of the Sterling Park District (right) a road sign pronouncing Sterling as a Sports Illustrated Good Sports Community at the Westwood Sporting Complex Wednesday afternoon.

City named Good Sports Community by Sports Illustrated

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About a half-dozen soccer balls bounced off the basketball floors and the temporary walls that created an indoor soccer arena at Westwood Sports and Expo Center Wednesday night.

It was somehow emblematic of the effort and activity of the Sterling Park District that the pounding of the balls was silenced just long enough for officials to take a moment for a pat on the back for a job well done.

Wednesday, a sign was dedicated at Westwood commemorating the park dis-



Philip Marruffo/SVN

PRESENTING: Illinois Association of Park Districts Executive Director Ted Flickinger (left) and National Recreation and Park Association Chairman of the Board Ron Lehman (right) spoke at the Sterling Park District's Good Sports Ceremony Wednesday.

trict for being named a 2005 Sports Illustrated "Good Sports Community."

It was one of several that will be put up around town, including one at each of the

city's four main entrances.

"It is very gratifying to bring such a positive recognition to the city of Sterling. It is one of the highest honors

Look for the signs

The commemorative signs will be installed:

- On Route 40 on the Sterling side of First Avenue Bridge.
- On Route 40 at the north edge of town.
- On Route 2, on the east and west ends of town.
- In front of the Westwood Sports and Expo Center.

we can receive," said Michael Clark, marketing manager for the park district.

In a special section in Sports Illustrated last month, Sterling was named one of eight such communities in the country. The section highlighted communities that, through sports, created a focus on fair play, skill development, helpful parent involvement and positive coaching methods.

Prominent in the article was the annual Pumpkin Dash, an October favorite since 1991 that features games and races for children of all ages. Park district staff submitted a lengthy proposal for the

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS

Resolution

WHEREAS, The Illinois Association of Park Districts represents more than 2,100 elected officials serving more than 380 park districts, forest preserves, conservation and recreation agencies throughout the state of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The Association takes special pride in recognizing those individuals and organizations who have demonstrated a deep and continuing commitment to the enhancement of recreational opportunities for the citizens of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The Sterling Park District has received a special honor in 2005 having been named as one of the eight SPORTS ILLUSTRATED Good Sports Communities of the Year by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and SPORTS ILLUSTRATED; and

WHEREAS, The Sterling Park District was chosen from hundreds of communities nationwide that participated in the SPORTS ILLUSTRATED Good Sports initiative; and

WHEREAS, The Sterling Park District has captured the true spirit of park districts through the basic principle that: Everybody should play; and

WHEREAS, This principle is reflected in the 3,500 kids that are active in the Sterling Park District's 20 youth sports each year and the 500 programs offered by the Sterling Park District to Sterling-area citizens of all ages; and

WHEREAS, The Sterling Park District's commitment to "Everybody should play" is demonstrated by low fees for participants, financial assistance for families and open memberships for children in neighboring communities so that they have the opportunity to use the Westwood Sports and Expo Center, the skateboard park, the roller hockey rink or any of the other outstanding facilities at the Sterling Park District; therefore be it

RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS, That we commend the Sterling Park District on being chosen as one of the SPORTS ILLUSTRATED Good Sports Communities of the Year and congratulate the board and staff for their ongoing commitment to the residents of Sterling and their high standard of excellence that is worthy of emulation by all; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this preamble and resolution be presented to the Board of Commissioners of the Sterling Park District as an indication of the respect and esteem in which the district is held by the members of the Illinois Association of Park Districts.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2006.



Pamela O. Newton

Pamela O. Newton
IAPD Chair

Ted Flickinger

Ted Flickinger, Ph.D.
IAPD President/CEO