

For Immediate Release

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Subject: **Park Board selects new Executive Director**

CENTERVILLE, OH: Centerville-Washington Park District Board of Commissioners has selected Arnold “Arnie” Biondo to lead the organization as the new executive director. Biondo replaces Carol Kennard, who will retire at the end of December after serving as executive director for 17 years.



Arnie and Nancy Biondo

Biondo was selected from a national candidate search conducted by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association.

“We were extremely happy with the quality of candidates who put forward their names for consideration,” said David Lee, president of the park board. “During the search process it was clear to us that Arnie was an excellent person for the position because of his extensive experience in strategic planning and management of parks, along with his warm personality.”

Arnie has served in the field of parks and recreation for more than 38 years. His most recent position was as the executive director of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in Wheaton, Illinois where he initiated and championed the first ever strategic planning effort, reaching out to school, park, conservation and city officials for input in the effort. Prior to his time at Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, he spent 18 years as executive director of Carol Stream Park District in Carol Stream, Illinois. He led the Carol Stream Park District to earn the *National Gold Medal Award for Excellence* in Park and Recreation Management in 2002 and again in 2008. He is a member of the American Academy for Park & Recreation Administration (AAPRA), an organization of distinguished practitioners and scholars committed to the advancement of the park and recreation field. Membership to AAPRA is through peer nomination. Though much of Biondo’s career has been in Illinois, he is no stranger to the greater Dayton area. He served as the superintendent of recreation for the City of Kettering from 1981 to 1982.

Biondo received a bachelor’s degree in recreation and park management from University of Oregon and a master’s degree in leisure services, marketing and management from DePaul University. He is married to a Dayton native, Nancy, and has three children, Peter, Matthew and Emily.

“I couldn’t be happier about joining CWPDP. The parks, preserves, sport fields, facilities and programs are top notch,” said Biondo. “It’s clear to me that the residents of Centerville and Washington Township place high value on their recreation and open spaces. I look forward to continuing to meet their needs.” He will officially begin his position as executive director on December 1. Arnie will be available to meet the community at the Centerville-Washington Park District’s next special event, the Sixth Annual Holiday Luminary Walk, Friday, December 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Grant Park, 501 Normandy Ridge Road.

The Centerville-Washington Park District currently operates eight community parks, eight nature parks, and 33 neighborhood parks encompassing nearly 1,000 acres in Centerville and Washington Township. For more information about the Centerville-Washington Park District, please call (937) 433-5155 or visit www.cwpd.org.