

**Park District Director and Legal Counsel
Announce Retirements**

By: John Gladden, Communications Coordinator

With a combined legacy of 71 years of service to Medina County Park District, Director Tom James and Legal Counsel John Jeandrevin have announced their retirements effective September 30.

Under James' 25 years of leadership, the park district has seen the addition of 5,500 acres of land and the opening of more than a dozen new public parks. Much of the property has been acquired at minimal local cost through some \$8 million in grants obtained during his tenure.

James' influence extends well beyond Medina County, said Woody Woodward, executive director of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association.

"Tom has been a leader among park district directors around Ohio and has served as a mentor for many of them," Woodward said. "He's been attuned to legislative activities and to the legal nuances that impact our members. He's also served in numerous leadership roles within the state association. I can't overstate his impact on Ohio park districts."

James graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in education and began his career in public service as a special education teacher in 1973. While teaching, he worked part-time for Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, first as a gate attendant at Atwood Lake in his native Tuscarawas County and later as a park ranger. James went on to join MWCD full-time, working there a total of 22 years in multiple managerial roles. He was named director of Medina County Park District in 1993.

James is a graduate of North Carolina State University's Revenue Management School and has served on a number of state and local boards. He received the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Professional of the Year award in 2012 and the Excellence in Public Service Leadership Award, presented by Leadership Medina County, in 2016.

Nathan Eppink will become the new director of Medina County Park District on October 1 following a statewide search by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. Eppink currently serves as the park district's capital projects coordinator. James will remain with the park district in an advisory role through 2018.



Director Tom James



Nate Eppink

A native of Northeast Ohio, Eppink holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in communications from Cleveland State University. He began his career at Geauga Park District before joining Summit Metro Parks in 2005 as a marketing specialist. He was promoted to department chief in 2008 and to director of community engagement in 2016 -- overseeing all communications and interpretive services activities for the parks. He led Summit's 2013 levy campaign as a volunteer. Eppink has been active in OPRA and is a graduate of the National Recreation & Park Association's Directors School.

Jeandrevin's involvement in Medina County Park District began even before the first park was opened. In 1970, he became chairman of the Parks Advisory Committee -- which is today the non-profit Friends of Medina County Parks. Jeandrevin led multiple levy campaigns as the park district sought to establish a source of funding. He became legal counsel in 1972 when the park district hired its first full-time director.

Like James, Jeandrevin is a native of Tuscarawas County. He received his law degree from the University of Michigan and is a past president of the Medina County Bar Association. In addition to his service on numerous local boards, Jeandrevin and his wife, Virginia, led the effort to raise more than \$225,000 in private donations to build the inclusive playground at Carolyn Ludwig Mudge Park.

Attorney Jeff Holland will assume the role of park district legal counsel. Holland was the founder of the Medina County Land Conservancy which is, today, part of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. He is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire School of Law.

On September 20, Friends of the Parks will host *Celebrating a Legacy*, a special fundraising dinner in honor of James and Jeandrevin at Buffalo Creek Retreat. Tickets are \$35 per person with proceeds benefiting the Friends of the Parks Endowment Fund.

To receive an invitation or make a donation to *Celebrating a Legacy*, please contact John Gladden at jgladden.mcpd@gmail.com or 330-722-9374 by June 15. Be sure to include your name and address in your message.



Legal Counsel John Jeandrevin

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Donation Corner

Tree of Life

In Memory of Marion Russell Barnes
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In Memory of Mary Jane Weisheit
Earl and Christa Rindfleisch

In Memory of Sophie and George Wolfe
Virginia Kovach

In Memory of Matthew Conrad Morse
Gary and Mary Ann McManus

In Memory of Richard Maruszan
Nancy Temmer

In Memory of Rhonda Hulse
Earl and Christa Rindfleisch

In Memory of Frank K. Isaac
Virginia Kovach

Other

Brachiopod Fossil small critter carrier
Pat Brannon

Weasel Stand
John Troche

Wolf Creek Environmental Center

Monetary donation
Jason Miller
William Bertemes

Monetary Donation In Memory of Richard Maruszan
Carol Jordan

**Sign up for the Monthly
E-newsletter**

If you would like to receive a monthly e-newsletter from the park district, send an email to parks@medinacountyparks.com, and ask to be placed on the list.



EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Volunteer Opportunities

The park district utilizes a large group of volunteers each year to help with the operation of the parks. Many park programs and facilities exist due to volunteer efforts. We can use your time and talents in a variety of areas. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Mary Beth Clausing at 330-239-4814 or volunteercoordinator@roadrunner.com.



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Be sure to "Like" the Friends of Medina County Parks on Facebook



**Northeastern Ohio
Live Steamers:
ALL ABOARD!**

Bring your family and friends out to Lester Rail Trail for train rides around a miniature railroad and

station house. Members of NEOLS, a miniature railroad group, will offer this free park program. Adults and children, alike, will delight in this unique experience! All ages welcome. No registration required. Free.

**Saturday, June 23 - Lester Rail Trail
12:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

Saturday, July 28 - Lester Rail Trail - 4 to 8 p.m.