

The Historical Society of Oak Park & River Forest 217 Home Avenue, Oak Park

The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest has been located on the second and third floors of Pleasant Home in Mills Park since 1969, operating a local history museum, research center, and archives.

The museum includes a period bedroom, a children's activity room, and changing exhibits on fashion and area history. The Historical Society has a collection of thousands of photographs, costumes and artifacts that make the area's history come alive. The collection is accessible through special programs, exhibits, and the Gale Research Center by appointment. Museum hours are Th-Su, 12:30-2:30 p.m. \$5 adults. Featured exhibits in the Society's Museum on the second floor of Pleasant Home are Tarzan, Mars, and the Fertile Mind of Edgar Rice Burroughs and The Roots of Oak Park, an exhibit that traces the early days of the community until 1902.

Call (708) 848-6755 for more information about any of these activities, or to make an appointment to conduct research.

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Access to Recreation
a Reality for All**



**"Donate Now" online to the
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*Call (708) 848-1560 for more
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West Suburban Special Recreation Association Providing Special Recreation Opportunities in our Community 2915 Maple Street, Franklin Park, Illinois 60131

**(847) 455-2100
www.wssra.net**

As an extension of the Park District of Oak Park, West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA) offers our residents therapeutic recreation programs. Persons with disabilities, of all ages and ability levels are served by WSSRA. Summer programs are held weekdays, evenings and on Saturdays.

"At WSSRA, we always want our participants to have fun. After all, it's through play that children learn best. WSSRA staff provide the play themes, equipment and supervision so that children can have opportunities for successful play. As a result, the participants practice using language, increase their motor skills, build self-confidence and express their creativity," said Marianne Birko, WSSRA Superintendent.

Teens and adults with developmental disabilities such as autism, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy and



Oak Park resident Frank Patterson proudly shows off his big catch during a WSSRA fishing program.

intellectual impairments also have fun while building skills at WSSRA programs. Gaining social skills, self esteem and independence are often the result of participating in a WSSRA social, art, fitness, travel or athletic program.

"For adults with sensory impairments and/or physical disabilities, WSSRA programs can reduce the sense of isolation that can sometimes occur when someone is home a lot. Our programs offer relaxation and can be the vehicle for new friendships to start," Birko stated.

"WSSRA support staff is the key in allowing our participants to feel successful. We offer a minimum participant to staff ratio of 4:1 with one-to-one assistance provided when needed.

WSSRA provides great opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to enjoy the summer season. New participants and volunteers are always welcome to join in the fun," Birko said.

For more information about joining a WSSRA program call 847-455-2100 or visit wssra.net.

**Families are invited to the
WSSRA 11th Annual
Wacky Quacky Duck Splash
and
Carnival of Fun!**

**Saturday, July 18 from 2-6PM
at Proksa Park,
3001 Wisconsin, in Berwyn**

Parents bring your kids and enjoy Trackless Train set-up, Carnival Games, Tie-Dye and three other Crafts to make and take home! The Carnival of Fun activities will end with the annual Wacky Quacky Duck Splash at 5:45 PM. Hundreds of cute little plastic ducks will race down the creek at Proksa Park. Come out to cheer them down the creek. See who wins the \$500.

Call WSSRA at (847) 455-2100 for more information. Sponsored by West Suburban Special Recreation and Berwyn Park District.

West Suburban Special Recreation Association is an extension of the PDOP, offering a variety of recreation programs for individuals with disabilities of all ages and ability levels.