



Springfield Park District

www.springfieldparks.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD SAINTS CHALLENGE FOR CHARITY TOURNAMENT AND SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT/ SSBA SCHLITT PARK RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

[Springfield, IL] On Friday and **Saturday May 12-13, 2017**, the Springfield Saints baseball club is hosting the first annual "Saints Invitational- Challenge for Charity". This inaugural baseball tournament will pit competitive 13 and under baseball teams from our region against one another to see which team takes home the trophy! More importantly, the teams will compete against one another in their efforts to gather non-perishable food items, dry goods and gently used outerwear and shoes for the less fortunate. Teams from Springfield and the surrounding area as far as Quincy will be participating in the tournament and its most worthy cause. The location of the event will be at Schlitt Park in Springfield.

The Springfield Park District and the Springfield Southwest Baseball Association are also excited to announce that during the tournament, they will conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony **Saturday May 13th at 12:15 p.m.** to christen the newest gem of Springfield and central Illinois baseball! The Springfield Park District has partnered with the Springfield Southwest Baseball Association to bring the first synthetic turf baseball diamond, dedicated to recreational play, to the city of Springfield.

An extensive construction project was recently completed on the "major" baseball diamond at Schlitt Park which consisted of installation of a turf infield, new dugouts, fencing and various other features. The revamped park has provided, and will continue to provide for many years to come, a benefit to Springfield, Sangamon County and central Illinois youth baseball.

This project would not have been possible without the generous donation and hard work from the Springfield Southwest Baseball Association who are affiliate partners with the Park District for programming Youth Baseball to Springfield and surrounding communities. Board members from both organizations, as well as the participating teams, will be on hand to cut the ribbon on the project Saturday, May 13th at 12:15pm.

Schlitt Park is located at 1100 Avon Drive in Springfield. Schlitt Park, a 5-acre neighborhood park, was added to the park system in 1971. It is on Springfield's west side, off Oakmont Drive north of Old Jacksonville Road. The park is bordered by Owen Marsh Elementary School to the north, an apartment complex to the south, a residential neighborhood to the west and industry to the east. This park was named after Fred P. Schlitt, who was a past Park Board President.

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Again, the event, Saturday May 13th, will be at 12:15pm and we hope to see you there!

Questions or requests for interviews/ quotes should be directed to:

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For more information on this event and others going on within the Springfield Park District, please visit our website at **www.springfieldparks.org**.