FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT ANNOUNCES A RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE VELASCO TENNIS COURTS AT WASHINGTON PARK

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2013
Place: Velasco Tennis Courts at Washington Park
Time: 5:00 pm
League Play begins at 5:30 pm

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District is excited to announce the ribbon cutting for the restoration project at the Velasco Tennis Courts at Washington Park. As part of the 2012 Site & Improvement Fund, $90,000 was earmarked for a Capital Project to restore the Velasco Tennis Courts at Washington Park. $84,760 dollars went for the contract of resurfacing and $5,240 dollars went to fence repairs and painting. The Park District utilized internal resources with General Maintenance crews to perform the fence repairs and painting in order to keep the project costs down.

The project began in June of 2013 and was completed by July 31, 2013. All Weather Courts, Inc out of Dawson, IL performed the resurfacing portion of the project and the scope of the work included repair to twelve (12) tennis courts. All Weather Courts repaired 2400 lineal feet of cracks and they applied 2 coats of latex acrylic crack resurfacing product over the entire area.

The new color of the Velasco Tennis Courts follows the color scheme suggested by the United States Tennis Association (USTA). The USTA changed colors in recent years from all green courts to blue courts with green on the outside areas. The U.S. Open and the rest of the open series are played on courts with this same color scheme that is now present at the Velasco Tennis Courts. The new court colors had been tested by the USTA and proven to enhance visibility of the ball for both the players and spectators. Layout and striping were also applied to USTA specifications. The Velasco courts now include 10 and under tennis playing lines in accordance with USTA recommendations and instructions for 6 of the 12 tennis courts.

Manny Velasco, the Racquet Sports Director stated that it had been over seven years since the Washington Park Tennis Courts had been resurfaced and restored. He was quick to point out the generosity of All Weather Courts - a local owned business, who in addition to performing the restoration helped obtain a donation from Sportsmaster, Inc. who donated 12 new nets and all the hardware as a contribution to the project. The Washington Park tennis courts are the home court to Springfield High School Tennis, the UIS Springfield team enjoys regular practice sessions on the courts as well, there are several leagues that take place at the Velasco Tennis Courts and a whole host of private lessons. The tennis courts are open to the public to play for a nominal court fee, so you can see the restoration will serve the need of many entities.

We hope you will join us for our Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday, September 25th as we showcase this wonderful improvement to the Velasco Tennis Courts. There will be refreshments, a visit with Manny Velasco, Representatives from the Springfield Park District and All Weather Sports as well as the Wednesday night Doubles League will be in play to demonstrate on the new courts! The Springfield Park District is excited to be able to bring this enhancement to the tennis courts at Washington Park and we are happy to announce its completion and opening to the public.

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For more information on this project and other Park District news related items, please visit our website at www.springfieldparks.org