



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## STATE OF ILLINOIS GRANT FUNDS

As you may or may not know, NWSRA staff pursued funding through the State of Illinois, made possible by the sponsorship of Senator Anne Gillespie in June 2023. In May 2024, after several months of paperwork, attorneys, and clarification between staff and the grant administrators at the Department of Human Services, NWSRA was officially granted the funds in the amount of \$250,000.00. The grants funds were designated for the inclusion staffing expenses which occurred in the 2023 summer months. In June 2024, NWSRA officially received the check for \$250,000.00 due to the hard work and dedication of Tom Draper, Superintendent of Marketing and Communication, and Anne Kiwala, Superintendent of Development.



## SEARCH OF A NEW STABLE HOME

NWSRA has hosted its horseback riding program at the Palatine Stables for years - building some truly amazing memories during that time. Recently the Palatine Park District has had to make the difficult decision to close the stables. The closing of the stables is painful for everyone especially since the stables have been a staple in the Palatine and NWSRA communities for years. NWSRA is an extension of the the Palatine Park District; therefore, we are working towards the same goal - to find a new location for the NWSRA Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program. The Horseback Riding program will remain at the Palatine Stables through the fall 2024 season. The NWSRA staff and Executive Director, Ben Rae, from Palatine Park District, have been in communication with Walk On Equine Assisted Activities Stables.



The Executive Director, Mary Rachel is talking her board about the potential of hosting the NWSRA Therapeutic Riding Program.

Walk On began as a dream. In 2006, that dream started to become a reality. There were six women, all of whom had a passion for equine assisted services, whose dedication brought Walk On to life. The first participants began riding at Walk On in 2007, and since then we have had hundreds of different people come through our doors to experience the magic that horses provide. Over the years, our wonderful neighbors in Barrington and the surrounding communities have supported our program with both volunteers and financial support. Because of this community support, Walk On has grown and flourished over the years. Walk On is located in Barrington, Illinois. Their mission is to promote well-being and inspire individuals to reach their highest potential by harnessing the healing power of horses. Equine Assisted activities provide motivational, educational, and recreational benefits that enhance the quality of life for people with physical, cognitive, social and emotional disabilities through interaction with horses. The goal of Walk On is to partner with the horse to inspire the participants to reach their highest potential. Experiencing the magic of horses is at the heart of every program at Walk On. The programs are created for each participant to build their physical, cognitive, social, emotional and behavioral abilities through a variety of horse related activities.



# Disability Education & Sensitivity Training

In our ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive and accessible environment for everyone, NWSRA is proud to present a six week Disability Education and Sensitivity Training Workshop Series for the Township of Schaumburg Disability and Senior Services staff. The series is designed to enhance understanding, empathy, and practical skills around disability, accessibility and inclusion within the workplace and all programs and services. The Township employees will engage in a comprehensive exploration of disability as a diversity dimension, focusing on both awareness and action. Key topics covered include; Understanding Disability, Cultivating Empathy, Legal Frameworks and Rights, Inclusive Communication, Barrier Identification and Removal, and Actionable Strategies to become and Ally and Advocate. The series will consist of six 75 minute sessions, each focusing on one of the above mentioned aspects. NWSRA is being paid for presenting this Workshop series!



## JUNE DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, June 16, 2024 - Father's Day  
Wednesday, June 19, 2024 - Juneteenth  
Thursday, June 20, 2024 - Personnel Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, June 26, 2024 - Bridges of Popular Creek Golf Outing  
Thursday - Saturday, June 27 - 29, 2024 Abilities Expo Schaumburg Convention Center