

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT:

Monica Meyers, Executive Director
Laurie Metanchuk, Director of Community Affairs
630-232-5980 forestpreserve@kaneforest.com

Forest Preserve District of Kane County
1996 S. Kirk Rd., Ste. 320, Geneva, IL 60134
www.kaneforest.com

Forest Preserve District increases swimming fines

GENEVA, IL — In the interest of safety, and to avoid unnecessary fines, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County reminds the public that swimming is not permitted in any Kane County forest preserve.

While tickets have always been a risk for those swimming in the preserves, District police felt the previous \$75 fine wasn't enough of a deterrent. On Aug. 14, after a request from staff, the Forest Preserve Commission voted to raise fines to \$150 (if paid within 10 days), and \$200 if paid after 10 days. The hope is that the higher amount will give people pause before entering the water. Fines are posted next to all District no-swimming signs. The *Use Ordinance* is also posted on the website and an abbreviated version is posted in all District kiosks.



Forest Preserve District of Kane County Police Chief Mike Gillofo displays the rescue sticks that all District police squads now carry. The rescue sticks automatically inflate when thrown in water.

“We want patrons to enjoy the forest preserves but to do so safely, said Director of Public Safety Mike Gillofo. “Swimming, especially at Siegler Lake within Big Rock Forest Preserve, is hazardous. The lake is a reclaimed quarry. It’s very deep, places to safely exit are limited, and there are no lifeguards,” he said.

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To further enhance safety, District police department now carry rescue sticks, to be used in cases of emergency. The device can be thrown into the water and will automatically inflate upon contact with water.

The Forest Preserve District wishes everyone an enjoyable and safe Labor Day weekend. Preserves are open daily, sunrise to sunset.

If you have any questions, please call the Forest Preserve District at 630-232-5980 or visit www.kaneforest.com. We may also be found on social media; search @forestpreserve.

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