

NEWSRelease

**Frederick T. Owens Village Hall
14700 South Ravinia Avenue - Orland Park, IL 60462**

Media Contact: Margie Owens-Klotz
708/403-6277

Event Contact: Ray Piattoni
708/645-7529

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES

Orland Park Recreation to Host Thanksgiving Day Tradition *Village to Host 20th Annual Turkey Day Run*

ORLAND PARK – Most people who get up early on Thanksgiving morning arise to prepare their families' feasts. In Orland Park, a group of 400 put the meal plans aside and instead don sweats, socks, hats and running shoes to participate in the Village of Orland Park Recreation Department's annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot.

Just more than 100 spots remain for the village's twentieth annual 2.5 mile cross country run that will travel the streets, paths and woods of Orland Park on Thursday, November 27, 2008.

"Orland Park's first Turkey Trot was held in 1989," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. "Since that time, this event has sold out almost every year and we expect this year's run to sell out too," the mayor added.

Frozen turkeys are awarded to the first place male and female finishers. Awards are also presented to the top three runners in each age group and gender. All participants receive a long sleeve t-shirt and are eligible for the host of post race drawings. The run is open to all ages and is co-sponsored by Human Race Sports.

"Everyone who participates enjoys the activities after the run because the Recreation Department raffles off a large volume of prizes while the scores are tabulated," noted Trustee Brad O'Halloran, Recreation and Parks Committee chair.

"Another really neat aspect of this run is that it serves as a reunion run for area high school alumni. Most of these former track runners are in town for the holiday and a lot of

them sign up for the Turkey Trot to see their old friends and coaches from high school,” O’Halloran added.

Orland Park Recreation Administrator Ray Piattoni is overseeing this year’s event.

“This is a great cross country course, though we never know what the Midwest weather will be,” Piattoni said. “Some years, it’s mild with temps in the 70s, some years, it snows!” he added.

“Entire families make the village’s Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot an annual tradition,” Piattoni noted, adding, “Children as young as six participate with siblings and parents in this holiday event.”

Pre-registration is required and day of registrations are not accepted. Check in begins at 7:00 a.m. with the run starting at 8:00 a.m. The cost for village residents is \$18 each while non-residents pay \$23.

Registration is available at the Franklin Loebe Recreation Center, 14650 South Ravinia Avenue and at the Orland Park Sportsplex, 11351 West 159th Street. For more information, call 708/403-PARK or 708/645-PLAY.

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Runners of all ages and levels participate in the Village of Orland Park’s annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. For information about the 20th annual run on November 27, 2008, call Recreation Department at 708/403-PARK or 708/645-PLAY.