



## PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY BUILD

July 31, 2012

For Immediate Release



### **KENNER TO HOLD VOLUNTEER-LED PLAYGROUND BUILD AT GREENLAWN PLAYGROUND AT SUMMER'S END**

The City of Kenner Department of Parks & Recreation, along with the Greenlawn Booster Club, will be organizing a KaBOOM! playground community build on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at Greenlawn Playground. Kenner received a grant from KaBOOM! and the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group after being selected as a 2011 Playful City USA community and is using the grant to build new, much-needed play equipment with community involvement.

“The idea behind KaBOOM!’s volunteer-build model is that involving the whole neighborhood in a community project will make it much more of an investment,” says Mayor Michael Yenni. “Graffiti, trash and other maintenance issues are less likely to be a problem if everyone in the neighborhood put in their own time and sweat into building the playground.”

On build day there will be at least 50 volunteers who come out to install the play structure, with the guidance and supervision of a certified playground installer provided by the playground manufacturer, Bliss Products and Services. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for volunteers, as well as children’s activities to occupy the young ones and a first aid table for safety.

The community leader helping to put this project together is Ann Locantro, who is President of the Greenlawn Booster Club and who has been active in the Greenlawn community for years. “My children are growing up playing at Greenlawn – baseball, cheerleading and other sports – and I want them to have the best play equipment they can at their playground.” Ms. Locantro is actively recruiting volunteers from Greenlawn – parents, coaches, friends and family.

Councilman Joseph Stagni, whose district includes the Greenlawn complex, believes that there is nothing more important than giving children good recreational opportunities and playspaces. “The fact is play makes a big difference in the mental, physical and social maturation of our children,” says Councilman Stagni. “That’s why recreation is a priority with me.” He, along with Councilman Keith Reynaud, support the playground build and have contributed to Greenlawn Playground in other ways. Since 2006, the district councilman has spent \$600,000 on Greenlawn Playground & Gym, and this year new swings and picnic tables are planned for the park.

Greenlawn Playground is well-used by Kenner's Athletics Division. Football, baseball and softball take place here for children in the Greenlawn neighborhood, and basketball, volleyball and cheerleading are held at the gym down the street. The new and improved equipment will give the neighborhood a better look, it will encourage more children and families to play at Greenlawn, and the volunteer build will strengthen the community.

Anyone interested in volunteering can call Maria Bourgeois at the Kenner Parks & Recreation at 468-7211. The Department is also accepting donations from local businesses to use towards build day supplies, and all sponsors will be recognized in press materials, event signs and announcements.

# City of Kenner Parks & Recreation



**How many people do you know can say they helped build a playground for the children in their community? Come join your neighbors for a fun and rewarding day at Greenlawn Playground on SATURDAY, AUGUST 25!!**



## KaBOOM! Community Build

Greenlawn Playground

3323 Arkansas Ave., Kenner

Saturday, August 25

8am-4pm



For more information contact:

Maria Bourgeois 468-7211

Ann Locantro 329-0185

Councilman Stagni 468-7248

Councilman Reynaud 468-7249

- SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER AT [www.ourdreamplayground.org/projects/4658-greenlawn-playground](http://www.ourdreamplayground.org/projects/4658-greenlawn-playground) AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BUILD!
- BREAKFAST & LUNCH SERVED!
- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! YOU WILL BE GUIDED BY A CERTIFIED PLAYGROUND INSTALLER!
- BRING THE KIDS—CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES PLANNED!



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