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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WAUKEGAN HARBOR & MARINA ANNOUNCES NEW CHICAGO YACHTING CENTER First of Kind Development in 3 Decades Anchors Lake Front Redevelopment & Revitalization

WAUKEGAN, IL –Waukegan Harbor & Marina unveiled its plans to enter into a long-term ground lease with Bay Marine of Sturgeon Bay, Inc. to develop the *Chicago Yachting Center*, Bay Marine's state-of-the-art facility and operation will offer inside heated and outdoor storage, a fully certified service department and new, used and brokerage yacht sales. The improvements will include a new 85-ton liftwell in the Harbor's South Recreational Basin.

Bay Marine's co-owner, Matt Felhofer, states "Our new operation in Waukegan will set a new standard for boatyards around the entire Great Lakes. Bay Marine represents the best boat brands in the industry and supports that with the most qualified technicians on Lake Michigan. We have been in business for over 50 years and are excited to bring our brands and capabilities closer to the Chicago boating market. We are also excited to work with the City of Waukegan and the Waukegan Harbor to be a true cornerstone in the revitalization of the Waukegan waterfront."

"Waukegan Harbor is also planning the installation of a new non-motorized, handicapped accessible, launch ramp adjacent the already existing public motorized launch ramps. Additional new development and growth, including new restaurants, shops and expansion of the Lakefront "HarborWauk" will provide a welcoming environment to those seeking a boating experience or merely a stroll along the lake in pursuit of their love of the water," stated Gregg Pupecki, the Harbor's General Manager.

Waukegan Harbor's Master Planning Grant, issued by the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is currently underway. Edgewater Resources, of St. Joseph Michigan, has been selected by the District as its lead planner and designer. Public Outreach is ongoing and local stakeholders, including Waukegan's Citizens Action Group (CAG) have been involved in creating the vision for Waukegan's Lakefront revitalization, while preserving its rich history.

"These are exciting times for the Harbor, our Board and the community as we pave the way for rebuilding the jewel of the North Shore, Waukegan Harbor," stated Grant B. Farrell, Chair of the Port District Board. "The efforts of the entire community as well as the City of Waukegan and its staff to bring this project to fruition, is the first of many steps in making the redevelopment of our Lakefront a reality.

The Waukegan City Council unanimously approved the Bay Marine project in March and Mayor Wayne Motley stated "We are excited to have Bay Marine join other notable businesses in Waukegan. Their addition to the Lakefront following the successful environmental clean-up of both the North Harbor and the former Outboard Marine site is a clear indication that the right steps have been taken to advance Waukegan into a growth mode for our beautiful Lakefront and historic downtown."

For more information and to view the Chicago Yachting Center and other Harbor planned development renderings visit: <u>www.waukegan-harbor.com</u>



Waukegan Harbor & Marina is owned by the Waukegan Port District, which also owns the Port of Waukegan, its commercial shipping and port facilities, as well as Waukegan National Airport, which serves general aviation, corporate and private aircraft and is home to many notable Fortune 100 corporations. The District is a self-funded, governmental organization organized in 1957 under the authority of the State of Illinois and the City of Waukegan. The Harbor and Marina are professionally managed by SG Marina & SG Aviation.



Bay Marine is a Premier Yacht Dealership in the Great Lakes that represents the industry leading brands Hatteras, Riviera, Sabre, Back Cove, and Belize. Established in 1969 and headquartered in Sturgeon Bay, WI, Bay Marine is a full line dealership offering sales, service and storage of yachts up to 100'.



SG Marina & SG Aviation are divisions of Milwaukee, WI SG Management Company. SG currently manages marinas from Illinois to Florida, and has extensive Marina and Airport operations experience, and is a full service commercial real estate firm.

Attachments: Bay Marine Flyer