



Back cover: Detail of the roof ornamentation at Pleasant Home in Oak Park.

Front cover: Solar Panels at Fox Center.



Community Service Awards 2018

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Our Mission: In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks and facilities.



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

Congratulations

TO THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS OF THE
IAPD/IPRA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS:

Gary Cuneen

Renee Davis

Frank Heitzman

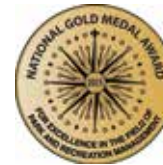
Maria Kunigk

Margaret Scully

The Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association annually present Community Service Awards to individuals and organizations in recognition and appreciation of their outstanding contribution and unselfish devotion for the advancement of parks, recreation and leisure in the community and the state of Illinois. Too often, we are consumed with our day-to-day tasks and forget to recognize the good work of others that help make our successes possible. Tonight we celebrate our partnerships with citizens that have made a significant impact in our community and the quality of life for our residents.

2019 BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Victor Guarino, President
Sandy Lentz, Vice-President
David Wick, Treasurer
Kathleen Porreca, Secretary
Paul Aeschleman, Commissioner



The Park District of Oak Park was the 2015 recipient of the National Gold Medal Award for excellence in park and recreation management. The Gold Medal is the most prestigious award in the parks and recreation industry. In 2015 the Park District was also awarded accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

The Park District is only one of four park and recreation agencies in the State of Illinois to win the Gold Medal and earn both State and National Accreditation.



Renee Davis, Maria Kunigk, Margaret Scully
Community Advocates

Volunteerism is crucial for the Park District to deliver on its mission—volunteers raise funds, enable the Park District to offer programs that it otherwise could not, and improve the quality of the programs. This is certainly true with our three Community Service Award Recipients, Renee Davis, Maria Kunigk, and Margaret Scully.

Each of these individuals have children in figure skating programs and are great supporters of the Park District and the rink. Since Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex re-opened in 2014, Renee, Maria, and Margaret have given their time, talents and creativity to the figure skating program. They have been instrumental in working with staff to create the vision for our Annual Ice Shows, and using that vision to design, build and install show scenery. During show week, they prepare snacks and plan and host a party for the skaters, and they recruit other parent volunteers to work backstage on show nights. They have provided this same effort towards our Holiday Exhibition resulting in increased participation and improved show quality each year.

Renee, Maria, and Margaret, have helped to make figure skating more accessible to all by planning and arranging the Skate and Equipment Exchange. Parents can purchase gently used skating items for reasonable prices, or sell items their children have outgrown.

The Park District and staff are sincerely grateful to Renee, Maria, and Margaret and appreciate all of their efforts. They have pushed us to produce the best shows possible, helped to increase participation and added to the skaters experience in such a positive way.



Gary Cuneen *A Community Advocate*

Sustainable practices is a main focus of the Park District of Oak Park. We constantly strive to look at ways to reduce our impact on Mother Earth while looking to save tax dollars. The Park District has been engaged in numerous sustainability projects over the past six years and many are due to the efforts of Gary Cuneen and his role at Plan It Green.

Gary is the founder and Executive Director of Seven Generations Ahead and Plan It Green. He has been an advocate for sustainable practices for many years and is an expert in our community. His impact and reach goes far beyond the Park District as he works to educate government and community leaders on ways to leave our environment better than we found it. One of the primary drivers of his efforts is the Oak Park River Forest Report Card that sets a variety of goals and measures the two communities' progress.

In 2017, Gary contacted the Park District regarding a potential funder for expanding its solar initiatives. The conversation became so much more and through Gary's help the Park District was able to secure a \$100,000 grant to add solar, water harvesting, tea-composting and bees to our historic Oak Park Conservatory. Additionally, in 2015 at the Intuition Leadership Breakfast the Park District was seated with a representative from ComEd, where staff struck up a conversation on energy efficiency. This discussion led to tens of thousands of dollars in savings and reduced/free products. One of Gary's greatest assets is getting likeminded people together to bring about great change.

Gary continues to serve as a valuable resource to the Park District by providing his expertise and insights into sustainability practices to help make Oak Park a better, more sustainable community. The Park District extends its sincere gratitude to Gary Cuneen.

Recent Community Service Award Winners

2017

Tom Kindler
Charlie Saville
Laura Thompson

2016

McLouis “Mac” Robinet
Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory

2015

Boy Scout Troop #4020
Good Heart Work Smart Foundation
American Youth Soccer Organization
Chicago Edge Soccer
Oak Park Youth Baseball/Softball

2014

Irving School Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)
Dan Jordan
Ridgeland Common Working Group

2013

Jason Geil
Dee Jeffries
David T. Kindler
Frank Lipo
Joshua Siegel

2012

Jamil Bou-Saab
James Budrick
Mimi Burkland
Senator Don Harmon
Christina Morris
Reed Smith, LLP



Frank Heitzman *A Community Advocate*

Maintaining our historical properties is a priority for the Park District. Pleasant Home, a National Historic Landmark, is one of three historic properties owned by the district. Many restoration projects have been completed at this prized property over the years and Frank Heitzman has been a huge contributor to many of them.

Frank has been involved in the Pleasant Home Foundation, Board and Restoration Committee for many years. He has given countless volunteer hours of professional architecture, design, research and more. The building would not be as beautiful as it is today without the assistance of Frank.

The most recent contribution from Frank includes the massive roofing project where Pleasant Home was restored back to its original roofing material. Frank was able to design and source the clay tile shingles to match the original tiles and re-design the original architectural ornaments such as the cresting, that have not been seen on Pleasant Home in decades. All of this work was designed to maximize the Park District's investment and came in under budget. Frank not only gave his time and expertise to create drawings, but also assisted with project meetings and oversight. Frank was always willing to meet onsite, even on short notice. Even though this work was all done pro bono, you would never have known that by the way Frank continually went above and beyond.

Frank continues to serve as a resource to the Park District by providing countless pro bono hours of architecture service and counsel to help make Pleasant Home the incredible architectural gem that it was when first built in 1897. The Park District extends its sincere gratitude to Frank Heitzman.