



# Community Service Awards 2014

Thursday, February 19, 2015



PARK  
DISTRICT  
OF OAK PARK



## Welcome

### *Park District Mission:*

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

## 2014 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

**Congratulations to all of this year's recipients of the IAPD/IPRA Community Service Awards: Irving School Parent/Teacher Organization, Dan Jordan (AYSO), the Ridgeland Common Working Group.**

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 helps make our successes possible. Tonight we celebrate our partnerships with citizens and community organizations that contribute to our mission of providing quality parks and recreation experiences to the residents of Oak Park.



## Irving School Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)

Over many years, the Irving School PTO led a Village-wide effort to bring a new community asset to Oak Park. Their work building partnerships with the Park District, School District 97, Oak Park AYSO and Chicago Edge, as well as garnering support from community members outside of Irving School, ultimately led to the creation of a new recreational space that has proven to be a huge success. The installation of a new U10 soccer synthetic turf field has been a boon for local soccer programming and school physical education activities. Parents and children alike continue to be thrilled with the design, and people of all ages use the space not just as a schoolyard, but as a public community gathering space. The Irving PTO's commitment to building key partnerships and raising funds combined with their advocacy efforts across Oak Park have made this long-time vision a reality.

Thank you to these key leaders:

Laura Crawford

Margaret Justice

Jassen Strokosch

Barbara Hoffman

Barbara Metric

Juliane Kelly

Michelle Chapman-Rienstra

Reshma Desai

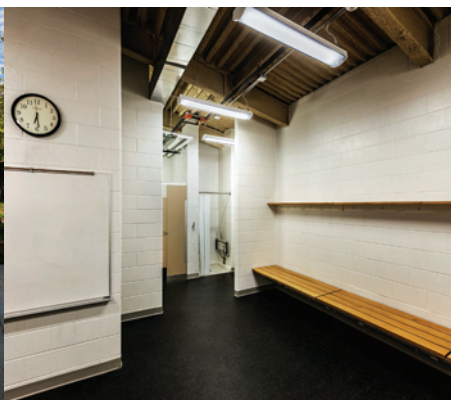




## Ridgeland Common Working Group

Commitment, vision, collaboration, persistence and perseverance. These are the traits which describe the Ridgeland Common Working Group, a group of citizen volunteers who worked selflessly to make the vision of the new Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex a reality. The Ridgeland Common Working Group formed in October 2006 to begin the discussion of a new facility to serve our community. They oversaw the Existing Conditions Study, the original Ridgeland Common site planning process and eventually the development of the final RCRC plans. They attended numerous working group meetings, community meetings and Park Board meetings always with their eye on the prize.

This group, made up of problem solvers, strategists, community leaders and experts in their chosen fields, worked diligently for the betterment of our community and in the best interest of the Park District. Their hard work and dedication culminated in the grand opening of the Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex on June 14, 2014, a mere seven-plus years in the making.







This new community hub offers our residents of all ages and abilities the opportunity, through swimming, skating, fitness programs, birthday parties and more, to enjoy family time, friendships and laughter, as it helps to build a stronger, more connected community. The Park District extends its sincerest thanks to:

Craig Failor  
Mark Gartland  
Marty Bracco  
David Kindler  
Rick Kuner  
Dick McKinlay  
Gerry Lordan  
Joe Modrich  
Dan Sullivan  
Christine Graves

You have made a lasting impact on our community and for this we are truly grateful.



## Dan Jordan

### American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 697

Dan Jordan knew nothing about soccer back in 2000 when he started volunteering for AYSO as the assistant coach for his daughter's soccer team. Who could have imagined that he would still be an AYSO volunteer today, 15 years later! Dan has served as an AYSO Coach, Division Coordinator, Referee Administrator, Assistant Regional Commissioner and Regional Commissioner. He's also used his home as an AYSO storage locker, served as a registration day worker, been the lost-and-found keeper, ball-blower-upper and more among his many, many AYSO tasks.

AYSO is a recreational soccer league in which everyone who wants to play, can play. The only requirements are interest and enthusiasm, and Dan has applied those same requirements to his volunteering. Dan has given enormous energy and countless hours towards running and improving youth soccer in Oak Park. Under his watchful eye, the league has grown to over 1,700 kids, the largest youth league in town, and on any given Saturday in the fall there are over 80 games being played by kids ages 6-18. And, with his guidance, we've added a spring league which serves over 800 soccer-loving youth of Oak Park.

In addition to the number of kids playing soccer, the number of kids who are refereeing games has grown. Dan has formalized the referee training and scheduling for AYSO. This has had a positive impact on the quality of the soccer experience and given the youth referees a skill they can use later in life. Lastly, Dan has worked closely with the Park District. He supported the Irving School project, attended many Park District planning meetings, and was often seen lining fields.

The Park District is happy to have the opportunity to thank Dan for everything he has done to further soccer in our community - from taking that first step as an assistant coach to serving as AYSO Regional Commissioner and everything in between. Dan has made a lasting impact on AYSO, in our parks, and on the community of Oak Park.









**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”**

**- Margaret Mead**

