

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 the outstanding contribution and unselfish devotion for the advancement of parks, recreation and leisure in the community and the state of Illinois. The Park District of Oak Park would like to thank and congratulate this year's recipients: Jeanna Grant, Terry Harrison, Tim Kelly, The Infant Welfare Society and the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation.

#### BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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#### 2006 Community Service Awards Recipients

Jack Barclay  
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Sandra Sokol  
Wednesday Journal  
Village of Oak Park

#### 2005 Community Service Award Recipients

Spannuth Boiler Company  
Patrick Boticelli  
William Cacsey  
Judy Shepelak

#### 2004 Community Service Award Recipients

Community Bank of Oak Park & River Forest  
Dominican University  
Michael Block  
Hugh Helfer  
Albert Love

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

# 2007 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

FEBRUARY 21, 2008



WE MAKE A LIVING  
BY WHAT WE GET;  
WE MAKE A LIFE  
BY WHAT WE GIVE.

- SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

## JEANNE GRANT

Jeanne Grant has given the Oak Park Conservatory 14 years of volunteer service. She has been a steady and conscientious member of our volunteer team who has weathered many a change. She started in the old potting shed area which was just a glorified passage, then the move into a temporary trailer during construction. Jeanne now enjoys our new expanded operations area.

Jeanne finds the work calming and therapeutic. She enjoys that each week there is something different to see and that you can follow a crop from seedling or cutting to flowering and know you had a hand in its developments. Her special gift is in plant grooming. Jeanne likes to make the plants look good. She stated to John Seaton "all plant lovers are special people" and she enjoys the social side of her weekly volunteer time. Without the help and dedication of people like Jeanne Grant over the years the Conservatory would not be the place it is today.

## TERRY HARRISON

Terry Harrison directed the "Art in the Park" program held annually at Austin Gardens for nearly seven years. This project is a cooperative effort of the Park District of Oak Park and West Suburban Art Guild. Terry passed away on April 25, 2007 at age 72. Terry was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She went to college at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. After college, she worked as a pharmacist in Milwaukee where she met her husband, Tom. After marriage, Terry left her job in the pharmacy to become a full-time mom to children Michael Harrison, Michael Starr and Mary Atella. The Harrisons moved to Villa Park in 1964, and that's when Terry began to work seriously as an artist. She was a member of the West Suburban Artists Guild, even serving as an officer with WSAG. As an organization, we mourn the loss of a talented and inspirational figure who helped make Oak Park's "Art in the Park" the success it is today.

## TIM KELLY

Tim Kelly is one of those citizens you can ask for help and his response is, "When do we get started?" Tim served as a Commissioner of the Park District of Oak Park from 1997 to 2005. Tim was the President of the Park Board from 2001 to 2005. During his tenure, he was able to refocus the priorities of the District dramatically by assisting in guiding the community through a major environmental cleanup of Barrie Park, and setting the stage for addressing years of deferred park maintenance. Tim had the foresight in the year 2001 to begin fully including Oak Park citizens in planning for the future of the Park District with the establishment of the Park District Infrastructure Study. After retiring from the Board he once again demonstrated his selfless dedication to the community by being a founding member of the "Renew Our Parks" referendum effort. This effort led to the passing of the first Park District funding initiative in over 40 years allowing for the District to provide for future capital improvements and properly aligning the governance of the district. Most recently Tim stepped forward by giving of himself and his professional expertise by acting as the general contractor at the Park District's historical Cheney Mansion for the kitchen remodeling project which was part of the Oak Park and River Forest's Designer Showcase. Tim's volunteer efforts likely exceeded over 200 hours on this project - which turned out magnificently.

## INFANT WELFARE SOCIETY

The partnership between the Park District and the Infant Welfare Society was initiated in July 2005. The longest running designer showcase house program in Chicagoland, the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society's Annual Showcase focuses on superb examples of the established community's finest residential properties. The 2007 Designer Showcase House that featured Cheney Mansion was truly of benefit to our community, with updates to the Mansion's interior by some of the region's most prestigious professional interior designers. On the exterior the Infant Welfare Society facilitated efforts with landscape designers to showcase the gardens at the Mansion by providing container displays. With the mutual goals of improving the community and providing funding to provide health and medical services to the children this project became a win-win collaboration for the second time (Cheney Mansion served as the Showcase House once before). The event was an innovative method of raising funds to support the community's Infant Welfare Clinic. The popularity of the Showcase House has increased a thousand fold since its inception in 1972 - as have the clinic's needs and services. The Infant Welfare Society has expanded to provide medical, dental and social services support to children birth through 19 years of age whose families resources cannot provide private care.

### "IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS"

On behalf of the Park Board I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire membership of the Infant Welfare Society especially Mary Anderson, Leah Beckwith, Mary Lou Noll, Carole Sullivan, Jane Levy, Diane Menza, Deb Monson and Carol Wootton who exhibited a great deal of passion and just a little bit of persistence in making this project happen.

## OAK PARK RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The mission of the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation is to strengthen our community through philanthropy. The Foundation serves our community by: stimulating and facilitating individual philanthropy; being accountable and prudent managers of donor funds; making responsive and informed grants; and, convening resources to address community priorities and interests.

In November 1944, an irrevocable trust was established to provide for extraordinary maintenance of the grounds or improvements, for entertainment or other recreational activities, or erection of improvements in Austin Gardens Park. In June 2006, the Park Board authorized transfer of the trust from JP Morgan Chase to the Community Foundation for several reasons including: a change in the trustee would be beneficial, are lower administrative costs, the ability to grow the amount of the trust by contributions from others that have a special attachment to the park, and the non-financial benefits of having a local organization with a true interest in the betterment of the community managing the funds.

The Foundation has been helpful to the Park District in securing the Access to Recreation Grant in the amount of \$222,000; a \$2,000 CVS Grant; and the Good Heart Work Smart Grant in the amount of \$235,000 for Longfellow Park and Center improvements.