



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual Westmont Community Awards Dinner

Westmont Recognizes Excellence in the Community

Westmont, Illinois, April 28, 2017 – The Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau (WCCTB) hosted the Annual Westmont Community Awards Dinner to recognize area individuals and businesses. The Awards Dinner was held on April 20, 2017 at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center. The Westmont Chamber Community Awards Dinner is an annual tradition in Westmont designed to provide a special opportunity to pause and recognize the many wonderful volunteers, activities and businesses that work to make Westmont a great place to live, work and visit.

WCCTB President Kevin Carey noted that “Over one-hundred and forty-five Westmont area residents, business owners, and civic leaders attended the Westmont Chamber Community Awards program to demonstrate support for our community. The Westmont Chamber along with the Village of Westmont, Rotary Club of Westmont, Westmont Special Events Corporation and the Knights of Columbus are collectively proud to recognize the individuals and businesses that help contribute to the growth and success of Westmont, in a manner that keeps Westmont a great place to live, work and visit.”

During the awards program, the following special community recognitions and awards were presented:

- ✓ The 2016 Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year Award recognizes a Chamber business that has excelled in community service, business promotion, civic responsibility and contributions to the betterment of the Chamber and the Village of Westmont. The nominees for this award were: Alkaye Media Group and Myths & Legends Brewing Company. The Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year award was presented to Alkaye Media Group (38 N. Cass Avenue) in recognition of their high level of community interaction and support.

- ✓ The 2016 Roger Westman President's Award recognizes an individual who has performed outstanding service to the Chamber and the Westmont Community. The Roger Westman President's award was presented to Gregg Pill, Williamsburg Managers, Inc. by Westmont Chamber Past - President Al Carson.
- ✓ 2016 Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year Award recognizes individuals that reside in Westmont and that have demonstrated exceptional community involvement and leadership. Mayor Gunter noted "we have two wonderful people nominated for the Westmont Citizen of the Year that have made such a positive impact to the success of Westmont." The Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year award was presented to Diane Main of Westmont by Westmont Mayor Ron Gunter.
- ✓ The 2016 Educator-of-the-Year Award recognizes a local educator for their outstanding efforts in their field and to the betterment of the Village of Westmont. The Educator-of-the-Year award was presented to two educators from Westmont Junior High this year: Christina Meyer and April Veal.
- ✓ The 2016 Public Safety Officer-of-the-Year Award recognizes a local emergency medical technician, fire fighter, or law enforcement officer for their outstanding efforts in their field and to the betterment of Westmont. The Public Safety Officer-of-the-Year award was presented to Sergeant Michael Weibler, Westmont Police Department, for his exceptional level of work within the department on behalf of the entire Village of Westmont.
- ✓ The Rotary Club of Westmont President, Bob Blackburn, presented Bill Wavak with the Paul Harris Award in recognition of their exceptional level of community service and volunteer work.
- ✓ Westmont Special Events Corporation (WSEC) President, Sam Alonzo and Village of Westmont Director of Communications Larry McIntyre presented the "Making Memories Award." The 2016 WSEC "Making Memories Award" recipient is Virginia Szymiski.
- ✓ The Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Joseph Moffa presented the "Knight of the Year" Award to Dave Ortman. The Knights of Columbus "In Service to One, In Service to All" Award was presented to Larry Forssberg.
- ✓ The Village of Westmont 2016 Public Service Award was presented by Mayor Ron Gunter and Village Manager Stephen May to Jennifer Babyar for her outstanding dedication to the Westmont community.

- ✓ Mayor Ron Gunter presented a Mayor's Special Recognition Award to Village Clerk Virginia Szymski.
- ✓ The 2016 Westmont Community Improvement Award recognizes individual business property owners and businesses that have improved the appearance of their property. Community Improvement Awards for 2016 were presented to:
 - Clemens Enterprises, Inc., 8 ½ N. Cass Ave., (Alison Clemens)
 - Dazzling Styles by Karol, 4116 N. Cass Ave., (Karolina Ortiz)
 - Express Oil Change and Tire Engineers, 25 W. 63rd Street, (Richard Wilkie)
 - Grill 89, 800 East Ogden Ave., (Paul Woodard)
 - Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center, 3500 Midwest Rd., (Steve Ellingsen)
 - PPG Paints, 1147-49 Fairview Ave., (Chris Gallus)
 - St. Sophia's Forgotten Felines, 112 E. Chicago Ave., (Katie Naze)
 - Westmont Village Apartments, 6713 Lake Shore Drive, (Katherine Williams)

- ✓ The 2016 Westmont Dining Reader's Choice Awards is a program co-sponsored by the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau and Shaw Media. The public was able to vote for their favorite restaurants, dining experiences and food during the time period of March 9, 2017 – March 29, 2017. There were 28 categories provided to consider. The winners were:

Best Asian Cuisine – Hanbun

Best Bakery – Standard Market Bakery

Best Banquet Space – Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center (*2nd year in a row*)

Best BBQ – Uncle Bub's BBQ (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Breakfast – Citrus Diner

Best Burger – DJ’s Sport Bar and Grill

Best Catering – Uncle Bubs BBQ (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Coffee Shop – Brewed Awakening (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Drinking Establishment – DJ’s Sports Bar and Grill

Best Family Friendly Restaurant – Uncle Bub’s BBQ & Catering (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Fast Casual – Woodgrain Neapolitan Pizzeria

Best Fast Food – Chipotle (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Fine Dining – Bakersfield (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Full Service – J. Fleming’s Absolutely Delicious

Best Holiday Brunch – Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center
(*2nd year in a row*)

Best Ice Cream – Tasty Treat (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Indian Cuisine Restaurant- Saffron Restaurant (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Italian Cuisine – Vincitori

Best for Live Entertainment – J. Fleming’s Absolutely Delicious

Best Lunch – Citrus Diner

Best Mexican Restaurant – Taco Grill & Salsa Bar

Best for Outdoor Dining – J. Flemings Absolutely Delicious (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Pizza – Woodgrain Neapolitan Pizzeria

Best Salad – Standard Market Grill (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Sandwich – J. Flemings Absolutely Delicious (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Seafood – Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Sushi – Sushi House (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Video Gaming – DJ's Sports Bar & Grill (2nd year in a row)

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The Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau, (WCCTB), is the voice of the Westmont Business community and provides the platform for our business community to work in support of enhanced economic development and growth for our Westmont Area. Learn more about WCCTB at www.westmontchamber.com.

Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce President Kevin Carey, 2016 Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year Award recipient Al Kohout, Alkaye Media Group, Westmont Chamber Executive Director Larry Forssberg



Pictured 2016 Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year Award recipient Diane Main, Mayor Ron Gunter



Pictured from left to right, Debby Piha, 2016 Educator-of-the-Year Award recipient April Veal, 2016 Educator-of-the-Year Award recipient Christina Meyer, Westmont Chamber of Commerce President Kevin Carey



Pictured from left to right, Rotary Club of Westmont President Bob Blackburn, 2016 Paul Harris Award recipient Bill Wavak



Pictured from left to right, Village of Westmont Director of Communications Larry McIntyre, Westmont Special Events Corporation President Sam Alonzo, 2016 WSEC "Making Memories" Award recipient Virginia Szymiski, Mayor Ron Gunter



Pictured from left to right, Mayor Ron Gunter, Village Clerk Virginia Szymiski, Village of Westmont 2016 Public Service Award recipient Jennifer Babyar, Village Finance Director Spencer Parker, Village Manager Stephen May



Pictured Mayor Ron Gunter, Special Mayor Recognition Award recipient Village Clerk Virginia Szymski



Pictured Knights of Columbus “In Service to One, In Service to All” Award recipient Larry Forsberg, Grand Knight Joseph Moffa, Knight of the Year Award recipient Dave Ortman, Westmont Chamber President Kevin Carey



Event photos can be retrieved at the Photo Gallery at www.westmontchamber.com and the Photo Gallery of the village of Westmont:

<https://villageofwestmont.smugmug.com/2017/2017-04-20-Westmont-Community-Awards/i-h6bzP5X>

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