



2006

Community

Service

Awards

January 12, 2006
6:30 p.m.

Michigan Historical Museum
702 W. Kalamazoo
Lansing, MI

2005-2006 MRPA Awards Committee

Linda Walter, Chair
Clinton Township Parks and Recreation

Carol Anderson
Troy Parks & Recreation

Sal DiCaro
Macomb Township Parks & Recreation

Darrin Duistermars
Holland Township Parks & Recreation

Kae Eidson
Grand Blanc Parks & Recreation

Portia Fields-Anderson
City of Pontiac

Terri Fields
West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation

Brett Kaschinske
Lansing Parks and Recreation

Andy Lang
Farmington Hills Special Services

Carla Scruggs
Saline Parks & Recreation

Angela Verges
Ypsilanti Township Parks & Recreation

Roy Vultaggio
Oak Park Parks and Recreation

Eric Wurmlinger
Chesterfield Township Parks and Recreation

Welcome to the 2006 MRPA Community Service Awards Ceremony

Welcome/Introductions

Mike Maisner, Executive Director
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Dan Stencil, President
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Entertainment

El Ballet of Maria Luz
Lansing, Michigan

Presentation of Awards

Linda Walter
MRPA Awards Committee Chair

Margaret Whitehead Senior Citizen of the Year Awards

Julie Bouma
MRPA Senior Committee Chair

MRPA Community Service Awards

MRPA Awards Committee

Closing Remarks

Mike Maisner, Executive Director
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

2005 Margaret Whitehead Award Senior Citizen of the Year

Service Award

Josephine Smith

Josephine Smith was nominated by City of Livonia because of her continual willingness to help whenever and wherever she is needed. She has volunteered her time and talents in Livonia's Community Resources Department for 20 years. She has donated much of her time during those 20 years to the senior citizens programs, which operate as part of the community resources department.

The specific contributions Josephine has made directly to the program are volunteering her time at the Civic Park Senior Center as well as serving as a member on the Commission on Aging. At the center, she welcomes new participants with a wide smile, organizes our annual garage sale, helps at our annual senior picnic for over 600 persons, handles our raffles, works in our gift shop, and fills in wherever she sees a need. In the community, she volunteers on the Senior Celebration Day committee, dips ice cream at the annual senior ice cream social, works at the annual City of Livonia arts and crafts fair, is president of the Silver Village Senior housing unit, and does friendly visiting and cooking for seniors who are shut in. She is always willing to lend her support to new program ideas.

Josephine is our "shining star"; every community should have a Josephine Smith. No task is too large for Josephine to tackle; she enlists all of her friends, other community leaders, and local businesses to guarantee that her projects will meet with success. She possesses such a positive attitude and our programs are benefited by her hard work, promotion of both senior and city programs, and her continuous gift of her time and talents.

2005 Margaret Whitehead Award Senior Citizen of the Year

Leadership Award Eugene Kleemann

Eugene Kleemann is being nominated for this award under the category of leadership. As a volunteer, Eugene spearheaded a major building expansion campaign at the senior center beginning in December of 2004 and ending in December of 2005, which will hopefully result in groundbreaking ceremonies next spring for an expanded fitness center.

Not only has Eugene donated countless hours of his time and energy to the campaign but personally donated \$21,000 to the fund. The SPACE Committee (Senior Programs Activity Center Expansion) was conceived by Eugene. He planned and executed a PowerPoint presentation before the township board of trustees at a public meeting. In addition he prepared a flip chart presentation for local businessmen that he could use to acquire funds from a variety of sources towards the senior center expansion. He made presentations to church groups and other local organizations all the while soliciting donations to the fund.

Eugene Kleemann, as Chairman of the SPACE Committee, exemplifies the powerful resource we have among our retired senior citizens. During his working career he held a variety of managerial positions at the Chrysler Corporation with various domestic and foreign assignments. A retired electrical engineer, Eugene, has willingly shared his insight, wisdom, and talents with the Clinton Township Senior Center where he has been a longtime member. Due to his tireless efforts, we may well see groundbreaking next spring to begin a 1280 square foot addition to the existing fitness room at the center.

MRPA Community Service Award Recipients

Bedford Township Park Commission – Al Musch

Al Musch Concrete

Al Musch exemplifies the spirit of Bedford Township. Mr. Musch has given untold hours of time in support of the parks and recreation program, donating his own time, and, through his company, Al Musch Concrete, labor and materials for many park projects. He has even compensated his employees to come and help with the projects, while donating the service to the community.

Al's involvement began with the first community built playscape at White Park. His involvement continued with the Carr's Grove Park community built playscape, assisting with design, layout and build of the playscape, putting down the cement pads to install several large cement animals and for new basketball courts. Through his efforts, children and adults are able to enjoy fun and fitness at the parks.

Mr. Musch is an active member with the Bedford Goodfellows and helps each year with the collection and distribution of food baskets for the needy. He truly cares about people, but he is often behind the scenes, not seeking recognition. This nomination is an opportunity to give him the recognition he deserves and to thank him for all that he has done for parks and recreation and the citizens of Bedford Township.

City of Birmingham – Birmingham Rotary Club

The Birmingham Rotary Club was chartered in 1924. Birmingham Rotary currently has approximately 80 members. On June 12, 2005 the Birmingham Rotary Club was involved in the rededication of Howarth Park. During the recent renovation to Howarth Park, the Rotary Club appropriated \$12,000 for Howarth Park renovation. This included a bench with an interior tree for patrons to enjoy the aesthetic beauty of the park, and trees along the west side of the park. The Rotary Club donated food and beverages, and fun activities for all the neighbors and public to enjoy during this special day.

Howarth Park was donated by John Bradford Howarth in 1947. Mr. Howarth has a deep respect and love for youth and adults and he was delighted in doing even the smallest thing that would bring some small delight to his friends and neighbors. Mr. Howarth labored for the wholesome recreation of youth.

Birmingham Rotary Club has been involved with other community projects that include building a picnic pavilion at Springdale Park, sponsoring a memorial sculpture at Birmingham City Hall. They furnished a community meeting room at the Birmingham Baldwin Public Library, provided automatic doors at the Birmingham Senior Center and provided exercise equipment at the Birmingham YMCA.

Brandon Township Recreation – Pam and Tony Chester

The Chester's have been highly involved in Brandon Township's Soccer Program for many years. They have given the youth of our community both recreational and competitive opportunities in the world of soccer. The countless volunteer hours that Pam and Tony have donated to our soccer program range from administrative and financial duties to coaching multiple teams in a single season. They are involved in every aspect of soccer, including ordering uniforms and equipment, scheduling games and referees, organizing and attending both federation and local meetings, and everything in between. Brandon Township Recreation Soccer has evolved into one of the area's largest and best-organized programs, largely due to the tireless efforts of Pam and Tony Chester.

Buchanan Recreation – Friends of McCoy's Creek Trail

This group was organized two years ago and in that time has gained outstanding community support for their efforts to revitalize Buchanan's historic creek. The group has designed a three mile trail through historic Buchanan which will be completely handicap accessible. More importantly they have enlisted the aid of hundreds of volunteers with a common purpose. These volunteers have cleaned a two mile portion of McCoy Creek of debris and industrial waste, established a nature trail looping through E.B. Clark Woods, removed a cement obstruction from the creek, built a 24'x 24' overlook deck in the woods and uncovered a historic mill foundation. The group has worked with several local and area organizations, included schools, the city, the state and has fundraising nearly \$100,000 to date.

Canton Township Leisure Services – Charlene Trick

Charlene Trick has made an outstanding contribution to the success of sled hockey in South Eastern Michigan. Charlene started District 3 Sled Hockey in Michigan because she felt that it was a needed and necessary program to implement. She is not a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist or General Recreation Specialist; she simply has a love of the game and interest in spreading the unique sport of sled hockey.

Charlene's family has been involved in the sport for over 25 years with her husband as a referee, her daughter playing in recreational leagues, and her son currently playing at Notre Dame. Her interest in finding recreational opportunities for people with disabilities, specifically sled hockey, began over 10 years ago when she first heard about the sport. After keeping her ears open for available ice and other resources, Charlene was able to start a program in Fraser about three years ago with the help and support of USA Hockey and individuals committed to the idea of promoting sled hockey. Charlene has genuine interest in acquiring knowledge of adaptations and disabilities and has made her players comfortable with her helpful advice and innovative ideas to make equipment more comfortable and usable.

She always makes herself available to lend a hand in whatever way she can. She organized and managed the Sled Dogs team in Fraser and started a team in Canton. She is a valuable resource for information as well as giving her time and energy to attend sled hockey events held by supporting organizations. Charlene Trick has made an outstanding contribution to the community through her drive to make sled hockey a success and this award acknowledges all of her hard work.

Clinton Township Parks and Recreation McDonald's of Clinton Township

McDonald's of Clinton Township has been a partner of Clinton Township Parks and Recreation and has already made a tremendous impact. The four stores located within the township are all owned and operated by McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's has not only donated cash, but has offered and provided goods and other services to help the cause.

McDonald's has been a great partner in the fight for healthier and safer Clinton Township. The stores have donated money towards the renovation of the department's Safety Town Village, donated pedometers for the Summer Daycamp Health and Fitness initiative, and donated 500 Apple Dippers and bottled waters to be given to each child for our Summer Farewell Festival.

McDonald's of Clinton Township has also given their resources for the betterment of our programs. Ronald McDonald has made appearances at our 20th Anniversary Concert as well as the annual Clinton Township Gratiot Cruise. Grimace and Hamburgler were also big hits at our annual Fall Family Festival where they passed out McDonald Land Cookies. McDonald's of Clinton Township also donated money for our Easter Egg Hunt. This donation helped save our event that had been cut out of the budget. Included with donation were coupons and coloring sheets for all kids that attended the event. We thank McDonald's Clinton Township for all they do in the community. Their desire to enhance the programs in our community and help our department has been greatly appreciated. Together, Clinton Township Parks and Recreation and McDonald's make a great team to service the residents of our great township!

Downriver Recreation Commission – Diann Pellerito

Diann Pellerito became involved with recreation in our community when her daughter began a dance program through Downriver Recreation Commission in 2002. Diann volunteered as "receptionist" and soon became the rock that helped this program become one of the our most popular activities. Dance students and parents rely on Diann for information, direction, ideas, and even and shoulder to lean on when problems arise. Diann has set the tone for the program and created an atmosphere of quality and culture within our community.

Diann has slowly become more involved in DRC and now sits on our Board of Commissioners and has recently been appointed as our chairman. Diann also sits on our library board and is involved with an annual St. John's Marsh Cleanup and many other community projects.

Diann has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis after she began volunteering with DRC. Her dedication and involvement has not faltered since this was discovered. She has managed to juggle her volunteer work, medical appointments and treatments. Diann also heads up a MS support group and actively fundraises for research purposes. Her energy is endless and sets quite a standard for us all to keep up with. She exemplifies volunteerism and "community service" in recreation and our community.

Farmington Hills Special Services – Barbara Hafey

Barbara Hafey isn't about getting credit or recognition, but she deserves it. Barbara has volunteered at well over 15 special events a year for the last 5 years; in addition, she helps out our communities Optimist Club at several of their events. Her life is full of "making a difference", as her day job is working for the YMCA. She is the definition of "the best volunteer anyone could ask for". Barbara not only helps out at our events, she is often the first one there, and she takes charge and gets the job done! We truly appreciate everything Barbara has done for us throughout the years and often times we can only say thank you. This year, we would like to show how grateful we are, for everything she does, by nominating Barbara Hafey.

Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation – Grand Blanc Rotary Club

As Rotary International prepared to celebrate its 100th Anniversary, local chapters were asked to identify a community project to become involved with and support. The Grand Blanc Rotary Club selected Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation and its current sledding hill project, specifically the construction of a warming shelter at the base of the hill.

While several local businesses made contributions to the construction of the warming shelter, the Rotary Club spearheaded the fundraising efforts with an art auction and a pancake breakfast. The club raised \$8,000 toward the construction of the 20' x 40' shelter, which was built with clear vinyl sides to give parents the ability to observe their children on the hill, while being warmed by overhead radiant heaters. In addition, the club volunteered several hours of labor to paint the shelter once the construction was complete.

The shelter was originally part of longer range plan to be included at the sledding hill in future years. However, because of the hard work and support of the Grand Blanc Rotary Club, the warming shelter is complete and ready for use in the inaugural season of the sledding hill at Creasey Bicentennial Park in Grand Blanc.

Gratiot County Parks and Recreation – UAW Local 602 and Local 652, General Motors Volunteer Community Service Program

The men and women of the United Auto Workers and employees of General Motors Corporation do more than build cars and trucks. They also build public parks and support the desire of county residents for quality outdoor recreation experiences.

The Gratiot County park system had been closed to public use for nearly five years due to lack of financial resources. In November 2004, the voters approved a dedicated millage for county park operations. In March, a new parks and recreation director was hired. The expectation was for the parks to be open and functional by the Memorial Day holiday.

In April, the new director applied and was approved for participation in the UAW-GM Volunteer Community Service Program. Workers for Lansing, Michigan UAW Locals 602 and 652 were soon on the scene with skills, knowledge, motivation, and often with their own personal tools to complete requested work assignments.

In the period of April through September, six UAW workers 1) dismantled a number unsalvageable facilities, 2) removed 25-30 dead and dangerous trees, 3) repaired, re-roofed and painted several picnic shelters, 4) re-planked 65 picnic tables, 5) installed 3,600 linear feet of fencing, 6) manufactured an attractive steel gate for a new boulevard entrance drive, 7) planted 500 red pine seedlings, 8) constructed a storage shed for lifeguard equipment, 9) installed traffic barriers, constructed a heavy-timber appearing entrance sign, and completed other tasks too numerous to list here. They also took on many of the day to day maintenance tasks associated with park operations.

A number of additional projects that will carry the workers through the fall and winter months are being planned. The residents and visitors who visit Gratiot County's two outdoor recreation areas have much to be thankful for in the gift represented by the UAW-GM Volunteer Community Service Program.

City of Grosse Pointe Woods – Frank Orlando Frank's Alexander and Polen Meat Market

Frank has been an ongoing supporter of recreation events in Grosse Pointe Woods by generously making donations to several events and programs. For at least the past 15 years, he has provided discounted prices on hot dogs, buns, chips and other items to the Grosse Pointe Woods Warriors Swim Team for team picnics following swim meets. Furthermore, he also supports many annual recreation programs, such as the Winterfest, the Jack Boni Family Perch Derby, the Annual City Picnic, and various other events. For the Annual City Picnic, Frank's store delivers fifteen hundred hot dogs, buns, and bags of chips to the park in the morning before the festivities begin. The prompt and courteous delivery from Frank's store saves Grosse Pointe Woods staff time and energy by eliminating the need to store the goods in advance.

Frank's staff is always pleasant plus he offers generous pricing for Grosse Pointe Woods events. When entering his store, they greet customers with a friendly smile and always make an attempt to carry our orders to the car for us. The city and its residents are fortunate to have such an outstanding merchant in the neighborhood.

Howell Area Parks and Recreation – Peter Bowen

Peter Bowen has been an outstanding volunteer for the City of Howell Parks and Recreation Department and other volunteer organizations in the area. Peter's most recent accomplishment is the Howell Independent Aquathon, which is entering its fourth year as a major event in Howell. In its third year, the Aquathon drew approximately 50 participants from the surrounding area and will continue to grow under Peter's guidance and hard work.

Peter has also been very active in the Howell Melon Run for many years, starting as volunteer working the course and now is a member of the Melon Run committee and the official race starter. Other events Peter contributes his time and talents to are the Fantasy of Lights Parade 5K run which draws almost 1,000 runners the evening after Thanksgiving and the Run Drugs Out of Town event sponsored by the School Youth Asset Coalition.

Peter has also been a member of the Parker Skate Park committee which recently opened in Howell. He was active in the design, fundraising and construction of the Park. Peter's volunteerism doesn't end with recreation; he has volunteered as a youth mentor through various programs in the Howell Schools and is an active member and valuable leader for Howell's Interact Club, a youth version of rotary.

Huntington Woods Parks and Recreation

Huntington Woods Men's Club

Huntington Woods Men's Club was formed in September 1975, with the stated purpose to develop leadership skills and civic consciousness along with social fun. Over the past 30 years, club members have joined together for a variety of civic, social and fundraising events. With the support of the community, the Men's Club has raised more than \$900,000. The monies raised have resulted in substantial donations to the City of Huntington Woods, as well as local groups for a variety of projects.

Some of their many projects have included: computers for Burton Elementary School; Jaws of Life and Infra-red System for Public Safety; a reading room, stained glass window and computers at the Huntington Woods Library; Decorative entrance walls marking the entrance to Huntington Woods; City Hall Marquee, city billboards, and city plaques; the Town Clock; and beautiful cast iron street signs for every street in the city.

The Men's Club is also a major contributor to Junior Achievement; Boy Scouts; Cub Scouts; Berkley Students Against Drunk Driving; Berkley/Huntington Woods Youth Assistance; Tri-Community Coalition; Burton

Elementary School; Scrap Metal Drive; decorative lighting to enhance “down-town” Huntington Woods; restoration of the LaSalle Fountain with new perennial gardens and SOS dinners.

Jackson Parks, Recreation and Grounds – Friends of Recreation

Friends of Recreation is a committee of individuals that went above and beyond the call of volunteers to ensure that youth and seniors of the Jackson community will be guaranteed affordable recreation opportunities for the next ten years. It is an honor to recognize volunteers from Jackson, because of their efforts in support of the City of Jackson Parks and Recreation Department as one of the leaders in recreation programming throughout the state. Jackson has a large support group of adults, service clubs, senior groups as well as a professional dedicated staff assuring quality recreation for our community.

The Friends of Recreation Committee was formed in fall of 2004. The mission is to recruit citizens living inside the Jackson School District and ask voters to approve a 1/5th recreation millage in the spring of 2005. This millage would generate nearly \$250,000 per year for the next ten years. The millage supports youth and senior recreation and enrichment programs. It began with a small committee and grew to a large group of citizens which assured the children and seniors in the Jackson community that they would have quality affordable recreation just as they had themselves while growing up in the Jackson Area. It ended with a “yes” vote of 80% by the community in the spring of 2005. We attribute this large margin of victory because of the effort put forward by the Friends of Recreation Committee and the trust the public has developed towards the recreation department through its years of service and its never ending support from parents and volunteers who have come full circle with its programs.

This millage assures seniors and youth, pre-school through grade twelve, the opportunity to participate in the many new and traditional programs. Youth programs such as summer playgrounds, soccer, basketball, tackle football, swimming, tennis, cheerleading, gymnastics, several special events, along with new enrichment programs in music and the arts will continue to be offered just as they have been for the past 45 years. With the passing of this millage parents and children will never have to worry about not being able to participate because of program costs. Jackson Recreation Seniors 50+ enjoy programs in exercise, swimming, bingo, euchre and an extensive senior travel for several years. Several special events along with holiday dinners and weekly lunches highlight our senior programs. The Jackson Recreation Department services nearly 100,000 adults, children, and seniors each and every year.

The Friends of Recreation, is humbled, but very proud to be nominated to receive the MRPA community service award. It is a great way to honor the entire Jackson community for its support over the years.

Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation – Dave and Anne Breithaupt

Dave and Ann Breithaupt have organized, directed and administered the Kalamazoo Open Tennis Tournament for the past 25 years. The Kalamazoo Open has grown steadily and has become immensely popular within the Kalamazoo area. This would not have been achievable without the dedication and commitment of the Breithaupt family. Dave and Anne have given countless hours of leadership, administration and collaboration with the City of Kalamazoo Department of Parks and Recreation to develop this excellent tournament.

The Breithaupts have promoted the tournament and have gone above and beyond by securing sponsorships to assist the City of Kalamazoo in providing these tournaments, as well as, securing top quality facilities to run this program. Dave and Anne have been active leaders in the Kalamazoo area from youth to senior tennis and this is seen through their enthusiasm and commitment to the Kalamazoo community. The devotion and allegiance of Dave and Anne, for the past 25 years, make the entire Kalamazoo community a better place.

Lansing Parks and Recreation – Stan and Martha Levandowski

For the past seventy-four years the Levandowski family has owned and operated L&L Food Centers in the greater Lansing area, including Delta Township, DeWitt, East Lansing, Holt, Okemos, and two stores in Lansing. However, aside from conducting business in the greater Mid-Michigan area, Stanley and Martha Levandowski, have also been generous supporters of the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department. For many years the Levandowski's have conducted community outreach activities with the Potter Park Zoo. Community service is nothing new to this couple, whether it is with funds, giving of their time or both, the Levandowski's have never hesitated to lend a hand to support Potter Park Zoo.

One of the many examples of the Levandowski's support of the parks and recreation department and Potter Park Zoo is their hosting of L&L Zoo Days. This two day event provides free admission and parking to all who wish to visit Potter Park Zoo. In addition to paying for all the admission and parking fees, the Levandowski's also donate food to be given out free to the public, enlists their own employees to volunteer at the event, as well as pay for additional staffing while volunteering themselves. Last year alone L&L Zoo Days brought over 20,000 visitors to Potter Park Zoo. Through the efforts of the Levandowski's, L&L Zoo Days has become one of the most popular events offered by Potter Park Zoo.

The dedication and commitment the Levandowski's have for Potter Park Zoo is immeasurable. Through they shy away from the spotlight, their outstanding contributions to Lansing Parks and Recreation, Potter Park Zoo, and to the City of Lansing deserve recognition. Community service is more than words to Stanley and Martha; it is a way of life where they lead by example.

Lansing Parks and Recreation – John Strickler

John Strickler's dedication to the restoration, preservation, and promotion of the Grand River and the recreational facilities along its shoreline is widely recognized. Through his efforts as the Communication Director of the Board of Water and Light and partnerships with the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department, community volunteers, and businesses, facilities such as the River Trail and Adado Riverfront Park have become the recreation jewels of the downtown Lansing area.

Since 1994, John has taken the lead on community activities such as the Adopt-A-River Program and the annual Chili Cook Off with the primary focus of bringing people back downtown and to promote the downtown parks and river trail. The Adopt-A-River Program brings volunteers together twice a year to do a one day cleanup of Lansing's river system and the River Trail. The Chili Cook Off, once a small event along the Lansing River Trail, is now one of the largest festivals held downtown. Through John's efforts in recruitment, this festival now attracts as many as forty restaurants, organizations, and businesses that serve up as much as 2,000 gallons of chili to thousands. Visitors to the festival are able to sample chili, listen to blues and jazz music while enjoying a scenic stroll along the River Trail. Funds raised by this event help keep the Adopt-A-River Program funded and aids in educating public of the recreational resources available to them.

John Strickler's vision has helped turn a struggling resource into a shining example of what stewardship to community can produce.

Lapeer Parks and Recreation – Lapeer Optimist Club

The Lapeer Optimist Club originally provided \$120,000 to fund the development of 5 soccer fields in 1989. Over the years, the continued growth of soccer created a need to add additional fields and support facilities. Once again, the Optimist Club stepped forward and donated \$315,000 to combine with \$171,500 in Lapeer City Funds and leverage a \$406,500 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. Other contributions and in-kind services have increased the total cost of the Lapeer Optimist Community Soccer Field Expansion Project to nearly \$1,000,000. Improvements include 5 additional fields, restroom/concession building, accessible pathways and viewing areas, pavilion, playground, maintenance building, lighted main field, landscaping, signage, goals/bleachers, and more. The field will serve over 1,000 youths participating in soccer each spring and fall season.

Lapeer Parks and Recreation – Lapeer Rotary Club

The Lapeer Rotary Club has been a primary donor to rehabilitate a 5 acre City of Lapeer neighborhood park called Audubon Park. The park was originally developed in the 1960s. The rotary club recently installed new playground equipment two years ago, and this year donated \$20,000 to leverage

a Michigan State Housing Development Authority Neighborhood Preservation Program grant of \$86,000 for overall improvements totaling \$106,000. Park features include a paved pedestrian pathway, new pavilion, basketball court, and replacement of 30 ash trees, renovation of the ball diamond, decorative fencing and landscaping. Future plans will connect the Audubon Park pathway to the City of Lapeer Linear Park which travels along city-owned abandoned railroad corridor west of the park.

Livonia Parks and Recreation – Livonia Civic Chorus

The Livonia Civic Chorus spans a period of 40 years. In 1965, the parks and recreation department was seeking to sponsor a group of individuals who had a love for music and would like to share their talents within the community. When hearing about a special group of men and women from a local church choir who were gathering at each other's homes to sing for enjoyment, the recreation department and representatives from the group created a sponsorship that has flourished over the years.

From its very beginning, the members of the Livonia Civic Chorus decided they wanted to do more than just stand on risers and sing. Their repertoire covers a variety of musical selections and styles, blending both new and traditional music to ensure they offer a little something for everyone. They have built a reputation of delighting audiences with entertaining, full-scaled musical productions that often feature choreography, novelty numbers, costumes and skits.

Livonia Civic Chorus who annually sponsor two music scholarships to help develop and promote the musical talent of local student, and the sheer enjoyment of singing are the qualities that make the Livonia Civic Chorus what it is today.

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation – Dr. Richard Stilwill

Dr. Richard Stilwill is a popular dentist in the Meridian Township community who not only distinguished himself as an inspiring scout master of Troop 109 but also created and coordinated the annual autumn camporee. When it seemed that scouts would not be able to engage in late autumn camping experiences due to the dangers posed by hunting near traditional camp locations, he approached the Meridian Township Park Commission with an idea. As a result of that idea, he spearheaded an innovative series of eight (8) annual camporees in the Historical Village of Central Park. The events attracted as many as five (5) Boy Scout Troops, five (5) Cub Scout Packs and several Girl Scouts, totaling as many as 120 participants in a single year. The Scouts were mobilized to complete projects that improved trail safety and helped repair the historic barn. These scouts did all of this without leaving a trace of their campsite when they were finished. For his leadership in helping youth learn significant historic and life enhancing lessons while also benefiting our parks, we wish to honor Dr. Stilwill.

Northville Parks and Recreation – Northville Youth Assistance

Northville Youth Assistance is a shared service of the City of Northville and Northville Township, with support from Northville Public Schools. The program is to improve the lives of Northville's youth and their families through advocacy and program development. The program provides a variety of programs that center around building resiliency skills in the community youth to help prepare them for the challenges that face them.

Founded in 1987, as a community prevention program, the original focus of NYA was on mentoring youth and their families through the efforts of a supportive relationship with a trained volunteer mentor. Mentoring youths so they may become mature, responsible adults is still the primary focus of the NYA program 18 years later. In addition to mentoring, NYA provides free counseling for youth and families in the Northville community, tutoring for elementary school children, and homework help for middle school children, community service in lieu of suspension for middle school and high school students, youth empowerment classes and speakers on parenting issues. A separate component offers first time youthful offenders counseling educational groups and community service as a diversion from the court system. NYA is an integral organization in the Northville community, serving as co-founder of Northville Youth and Family Forum, and co-sponsor with Northville Parks and Recreation of several community programs including Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, SKRUFF (Suburban Kids Rockin' Under Ford Field) teen concerts and teen activities.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation – Mr. Larry Falardeau

Oakland County Parks is nominating Larry Falardeau for a community service award because of his outstanding contributions to trails and parks and recreation. Larry has truly made a difference in the lives of the communities, colleagues and professionals he has encountered by enhancing the quality of life for Oakland County. Larry is an avid outdoorsman and trail advocate. He walks the walk and talks the talk in regard to health, fitness, and preservation of natural resources and linear parks.

These are some of Larry's accolades are he is a registered landscape architect, he graduated from MSU with honors in Landscape Architecture in 1971, accomplished painter featured in National Bank of Detroit/Oakland County Information Technology Center, Bay Harbor Yacht Club, Rose Jeep Chrysler, St. Joseph Church, as well as numerous private collections. He received Trail related awards like Polly Ann Trail, he received the Pioneer in Public Service Award from the Michigan Rails to Trails Conservancy, Johanna Roskopp Award from the Clinton River Watershed Council for protecting the Clinton River, recipient of the Conservationist of the Year Award from the Oakland Conservation District, and recognized by the Village of Beverly Hills for environmental stewardship of the Rouge River corridor.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation – Michael Banks Eastern Mountain Sports/SOLAR Club

Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) is an outdoor specialty retailer that offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation equipment and clothing as well as experienced and knowledgeable staff members who are outdoor enthusiasts themselves. The SOLAR Club is a group of outdoor adventurers whose mission is to promote and teach outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship and to get outdoors. Michael Banks, a SOLAR Club Steering Committee Member and an EMS employee, has been instrumental in EMS and the SOLAR Club partnering with local parks and recreation organizations to provide supplies, giveaways and worked with Michael as well as SOLAR Club Members Lynn Dubay, Joan Tobin, Clayton Lucey and many others over the past three years to provide the fall and winter Women in the Wilderness Programs. This program teaches women from Michael has, on his own time, recruited most of the wonderful instructors that make this such a high quality and enjoyable program. Without his dedication and enthusiasm, my job would be much more difficult than it is. For that alone we owe him a multitude of thanks.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation – Caribou Coffee

Canines and hot Caribou Coffee made for a warm combination at the Lyon Oaks and Orion Oaks Bark Parks last winter.

What began as a trial to add another dimension to pet owners' Bark Park experiences has expanded to a year-round partnership between Caribou Coffee and Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

The Royal Oak location of Caribou Coffee began by sponsoring free monthly iced tea/coffee hours at Orion Oak last fall and winter. Three other locations in the Lyon Township area soon came on board to provide the same amenities at Lyon Oaks. The company provided beverages for the annual Park Districts Forum in June 2005 and also the inaugural "Dogs Days of Summer" event at Red Oaks Waterpark. Held in September after the pool closes for the season, these unique events welcomed dogs of all types and sizes to swim and participate in various games and contests.

In addition to gaining good exposure for their business at the parks, Caribou Coffee offered business card drawing for Oakland County Parks Family Fun Passbooks at 12 different store locations throughout the summer months. They have also provided gift certificates which have been used for staff incentive programs in the park system.

The Caribou Coffee connection gets a big "bow-WOW!" from Bark Park visitors and a thumbs up from Oakland County Parks as the partnership continues into the future!

City of Plymouth Recreation

Plymouth Canton Hockey Association

The Plymouth Canton Hockey Association (PCHA) and the City of Plymouth have been partners in recreational youth athletics for over 30 years, since the Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena was built by the City of Plymouth in 1972.

The PCHA, has gone out of their way to make lasting commitments to the City and to Recreation within the Plymouth Community. They have done this by aggressively taking out long term ice contracts with the City, partnering in many charitable events and making financial donations to the Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena with no strings attached. All of this has been done selflessly in the support of recreational youth athletics and community pride.

Pontiac Recreation Division – Darlene Williams

Darlene Williams is responsible for saving girls' and women's sports in Pontiac by keeping alive basketball, volleyball, and softball. She coaches, mentors, teaches, fundraisers, and provides employment opportunities for youth, while organized and coordinating the leagues.

The annual Back to School Picnic for the Society of African American Police is another one of her volunteer efforts. Hundreds receive school bags filled with school supplies after a day of food and fun.

Her commitment and dedication is a testament of her character and passion for the growth and development of youth and adult women. Darlene is the ultimate volunteer and Pontiac is better due to her efforts and contributions. The City of Pontiac is glad to publicly applaud Darlene for her contributions.

City of Port Huron – James C. Acheson

Keeping families connected, keeping kids off the streets, and building our city into a stronger community is very important to the City of Port Huron Recreation Department. Although with out the support of a community, these goals can not be obtained. One person who is making a difference with his outstanding contribution to the Port Huron Recreation Department and its efforts is Mr. James C. Acheson. His very generous donations toward children, teens, and family recreation programming has made Port Huron an even better place to be. Through his generosity he has given citizens and tourist in Port Huron a chance to enhance their quality of life through recreation. The City of Port Huron and its residents would like to thank Mr. Acheson for helping to make our city one to be proud of.

Portland Parks and Recreation – Terry “Chopper” Schrauben Owner of Wagon Wheel American Grill

Terry “Chopper” Schrauben owner of the Wagon Wheel American Grill and Meadow Bowl lanes has been an active supporter of the Portland Recreation Department for many years. For example last year he sponsored 4 adult softball teams, 6 adult basketball teams and 1 adult volleyball team as well as co-sponsoring numerous youth programs. He co-sponsors our Belly Flop and Bowl winter break program. The event includes bowling and lunch at the Wagon Wheel and then Chopper provides transportation with his bus to the neighboring community for swimming. He also co-sponsors and hosts out senior euchre tournaments and our mother son sports prom. We hold our Daddy/Daughter dance at an elementary gym and Chopper has provided free dinners for the girls that evening if their date purchases a meal. This October for the first time we co-sponsored a Halloween lock-in for 4th thru 8th graders at the Wagon Wheel American Grill. The event was a sleepover that included; a costume contest, bowling, games, movies and two meals. The first time event had 100 participants and was filled prior to the deadline.

Roseville Parks and Recreation – Roseville Optimist Club

At this time it is our honor to nominate the Roseville Optimist Club for Michigan Recreation and Park Association Community Service Award. The Roseville Optimist Club and its’ outstanding members have been a valuable partner to the City of Roseville and the Roseville Parks and Recreation Department for several years. The Roseville Optimist supports our department both with monetary donations and volunteer support.

In the fall of 2005, the Roseville Optimist Club assisted with the development and solely finances a scholarship program for children living in the Roseville community. The bi-monthly funding cycle allows for all children wishing to participate in Roseville Parks and Recreation classes/activities an opportunity. At this time, all children who have had an application submitted on their behalf have been awarded a scholarship. This is the true meaning of “no child left behind”.

The work of the Roseville Optimist Club in our community stretches beyond this outstanding scholarship program. Roseville Optimist Club members volunteer for several events at Roseville Parks and Recreation throughout the year. Some of these events include: Daddy/Daughter Dances, Family Night at the Movies, Big Bird Run and the former Roseville Family Fun Fest. In addition, they are also the sole sponsors of our annual Rumbly’n’ Tumblin’ Pumpkin Rolldown event.

The Roseville Optimist Club is a true partner to our city and department in every sense of the word. It would be an honor to recognize the outstanding members of the Roseville Optimist Club for all they have done for our city and its’ residents.

Saline Parks and Recreation – Gary Bastien

Gary is an outstanding example of someone who gives back to his community by sharing his time and expertise in track and field. Gary was a 4-time MAC champion in the decathlon and was a member of the 1983 U.S. Pan American team, amongst many other accomplishments in the sport. Each year, Gary gives back by running the local Hershey Track and Field competition in Saline and mentoring the children in the Detroit Metro Youth Fitness competition.

But it is more than just volunteering that makes Gary special. Before each competition he tells the young athletics the story of his first track competition when he was younger. He did awful. But through practice and determination he became a world class athlete. Of course, the story is more detailed and only Gary knows how to tell it the right way to inspire kids to keep working at their goals. Gary is the kind of guy who will stay after a meet or practice as long as he can to help someone improve his or her time, throwing technique, start, or anything else. Yes, Gary works full time and is very active with his family, yet his passion for track and field is evident in his commitments to the Saline youth who are intrigued with the sport.

Southfield Parks and Recreation – Miracle League of Michigan

The Miracle League, established in Southfield in 2004, provides a baseball program for youth with disabilities. A volunteer organization, Miracle League has constructed a \$500,000 handicapped accessible field at Southfield Civic Center and provides play for over 200 area youth with disabilities.

City of St. Clair Recreation – Fredrick S. Moore

Mr. Moore is a lifetime resident, entrepreneur, civic leader and visionary for the City of St. Clair. He has maintained a strong vision to improve the quality of life through City of St. Clair parks, recreation and beautification.

This nominee's individual support of City of St. Clair recreation programs, land acquisition and park development projects is admirable. As a Board of Trustee on local and county foundations, he now only helps to secure project funding he personally oversees the design and completion of these projects. His individual efforts include acquiring over 50 acres of property for future little league ball field and park development. His support and private donations to existing city park and landscaping improvement is also commendable and deserving of special recognition.

For this nominee, improving the quality of life through parks and recreation is a passion that has enhanced and will continue to enhance the lives of City of St. Clair residents and beyond.

Trenton Parks and Recreation – Trenton Baseball Association

This summer, the Trenton Baseball Association took the initiative to enter the “Diamond in the Rough” contest where the winner would receive a \$20,000 make-over to an existing ball field. The nationwide contest was sponsored by Major League Baseball, GMC and Lowes. Voting was done online. The Trenton Baseball Association mobilized the entire community and conducted a huge marketing blitz to get out the vote. Through the power of the internet, the blitz extended to the far reaches of cyber world. The drive and passion of the Trenton Baseball Association members resulted in Trenton receiving the highest number of online votes and being named the North Central Region grand prize winner of a \$20,000 professional upgrade to one of Trenton’s ball fields. To validate their hard work, Trenton’s vote total was twice as many as those received by the competition. The Association has also taken on the renovation themselves, spending numerous hours building dugouts, setting posts, lining up additional contractors and volunteers to create this state-of-the-art facility. The newly renovated Haas Ballfield will be dedicated in the spring of 2006. Trenton Baseball Association is much deserving of this state-wide recognition. Not only have they helped to improve Trenton’s facilities, they have left a legacy for their children and grand children’s future. This partnership is a perfect example of how “We Create Community through People, Parks and Programs.”

Troy Parks and Recreation – USA Credit Union

It is with great pleasure that the Troy Parks and Recreation department nominates USA Credit Union for their financial and staff support of our Summer Family Festival. Their efforts resulted in a successful family event for more than 3,000 Troy residents. USA Credit Union is a new area business committed to same family values expounded upon in our City’s recreation vision. A true partnership from the start, their enthusiasm and creative energies were an inspiration to our staff. With our new friends, we took forward to exploring new horizons and strengthening the bond of USA Credit Union and the City of Troy for the betterment of the community.

Wayne Parks and Recreation – Wayne Stage Door Committee

The Wayne Stage Door Committee has been a valuable asset to the City of Wayne Parks and Recreation Department. This volunteer committee was formed in January 2003 during the time when the state revenue sharing budget cuts were creating cutbacks in our department. This committee has raised more than \$48,000 since its inception to keep the Wayne Community Theater in operation. In addition to assisting in funding, the group has provided quality programming and volunteers many hours performing, building sets, selling tickets and much more. The Wayne Stage Door Committee is a true gem in the City of Wayne

Westland Parks and Recreation – Marlene Doran

In 1976 Marlene Doran was an occupational therapist with a dream. Together with many parents from the Wayne/Westland community she helped to create Tri-City Therapeutic Recreation Program in 1976. Occasionally when the program was threatened by budget cuts and other issues she continued to serve and was always there to speak on behalf of the program members. Today, the program still exists as Westland Therapeutic Recreation Program and the Warriors of Westland. She is still available as an emergency lifeguard, volunteer leader or organizer.

Mrs. Doran worked full time for Wayne/Westland Community Education for over 30 years before retiring. Now she is a part time adaptive aquatics and arthritic aquatic exercise teacher for Wayne/Westland Community Leisure Education. Besides her exemplary career, her volunteer service is even more noteworthy. She has been a member of the VFW #3323 Auxiliary since 1992 and has served in each one of the officer positions and was recently awarded volunteer of the year. She is co-head swimming coach for Special Olympics Area 23. She has been awarded the Silver Beaver Award by the Boy Scouts of America. She is a long-standing member of ARC of Western Wayne County. She is also an elder at the United Methodist Church of Wayne. Since 1978 Mrs. Doran has also been an active member of the Westland Civitan Club. Through that organization, she has served as president, Michigan District Governor, and North Central District Governor (Midwest region). She was part of a committee that created the Civitan Handicapped Intervention and Prevention Program (C.H.I.P.P.).

Mrs. Doran has a great talent for getting different groups to come together for a project. She is widowed with three adult children, four adult stepchildren and ten grandchildren.

**Congratulations to our partner,
Northville Youth Assistance,
in receiving a
2005 MRPA Community Service Award.**

**Your programs and services help make Northville
a great place to live, work and play.**

Your Friends and Northville Parks and Recreation

**Northville Youth Assistance
775 N. Center Street
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 344-1618
youthassistance@twp.northville.mi.us**

**MENTORING ♦ COUNSELING ♦ HOMEWORK HELP ♦ TUTORING
PARENT EDUCATION ♦ YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CLASSES**

Congratulations Diann!

**Your true award is Jacqueline's shining face held
high as she performs in Miss Tiffany's
Traveling Dance Program
through Downriver Recreation Commission!**

**Thank you on behalf of our children
and grandchildren!**

From,
Cindy Babisz and Family



Clinton Township Parks & Recreation
salutes

McDonald's of Clinton Township

**for sponsoring healthy snacks & activities
for the children of our community.**

The Clay Township Board of Trustees
congratulates

Diann Pellerito

**on receiving the MRPA
2005 Community Service Award.**

**Your efforts have enhanced the lives of
the children involved
with Downriver Recreation Commission.**

**Congratulations to Peter Bowen,
MRPA Community Service Award
recipient for 2005!**

The Howell Area appreciates your hard work
and dedication to benefit our community. You have served
in the highest spirit for many years and have demonstrated the
best of what makes our community the best.
Thank you for all you have done and continue to do!

**With heartfelt gratitude
and appreciation!**

Mayor Geraldine K. Moen,
Howell City Council, and City staff.

Congratulations!

Josephine Smith

**2005 MRPA Margaret Whitehead
Senior Citizen of the Year**

Thank you for everything you do.

From,
Civic Park Senior Center and the City of Livonia

Congratulations Gene Kleemann, And Many Thanks!



The quality of life in our community is due, in great part, to members like you, who give so much of their time and talent, in support of quality programs for all ages.

Bill Sowerby
Clinton Township Treasurer



Congratulates Our Community Service Winners

- ◆ Caribou Coffee for event sponsorship and support
- ◆ Mike Banks of Eastern Mountain Sports & SOLAR, for volunteerism
- ◆ Larry Falardeau, Oakland County Planning for contributions to trails

*“Creating Community Through
People, Parks and Programs”*



Vision Statement

The Michigan Recreation and Park Association is a professional organization committed to providing professional development, advocacy, programs and services to a membership dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by creating community through people, parks and programs.