



**2007**

**Community**

**Service**

**Awards**

**January 10, 2007**  
**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

Brett Kaschinske, Chair Elect  
Lansing Parks and Recreation

Carol Anderson  
Troy Parks & Recreation

Julie Bouma  
Oak Crest Manors of Jenison

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

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 2007 MRPA Community Service Awards Ceremony

## Welcome/Introductions

Mike Maisner, Executive Director  
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Stu Alderman, President  
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

## Entertainment

Troy Golden Choraliers

## Presentation of Awards

Linda Walter  
MRPA Awards Committee Chair

**Youth Sports Awards**  
John Judnich  
Youth Sports Task Force 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

# 2006 Youth Sports Awards

## Coach of the Year Award

### Andy Johnson

In 1991 Andy Johnson began what would become a long journey into a coaching "career". Father of 4 kids, Andy's role as father and sport coach became more and more evident as his kids started to become more and more involved with athletics. Over the years, Andy has become a mainstay in the sport of floor Hockey in the Battle Creek area. While many coaches find it difficult to balance a busy job, family life, personal time, and coaching, Andy must have found the secret to success. In 2006, he was the head coach of 7 (seven) youth floor hockey teams, registered with the City of Battle Creek and Triple Threat Sports a community sports facility. These teams ranged in ages from U14, to U6 for both boys and girls in competitive and noncompetitive sports environments. Aside from floor Hockey, Andy coached a travel girls soccer team, 2 girls fast pitch teams, and a boys baseball team.

His Coach's resume may be long, but it can be tied to the level of dedication he shows each and every child. While his teams have had success on the fields and courts, he instills a sense of pride, effort, and sportsmanship into all of his players. All of this would not be possible without complete buy in from a diverse pool of parents who entrust Andy with helping to mold their children into model athletes whose desire to win is second to their desire to have fun.

# 2006 Youth Sports Awards

## Staff Member of the Year Award

### Coralee Ott

The Canton Community embraces baseball and softball with open arms and is home to several different youth organizations providing programs for t-ball, coach-pitch, baseball, softball, travel baseball & softball, fast-pitch softball, and little League. Coralee Ott is an integral part of youth baseball and softball programs within the Canton Community. As a part-time employee with Canton Township, Coralee is the Canton liaison and representative for the independently run Greater Canton Youth Baseball and Softball Association (GCYBSA). GSYBSA is the largest organization for youth baseball/softball within the community, servicing hundreds of new and returning kids each season. As the liaison, she organizes registration for GCYBSA, maintains equipment for all teams, updates the website on a daily basis, and manages the all volunteer coaching staff. Coralee is an extremely hard worker and has taken on the challenge of serving as the field director for all youth baseball and softball games and practices. She is responsible for coordinating game schedules for fifty-one fields, at twenty different locations, among eight different organizations. Aside from scheduling duties, Coralee takes on the task of making sure fields are prepped and lined for games, held seven days of the week, and purchases any field equipment necessary. Her efforts have tripled the numbers at our local Pepsi Pitch, Hit, and Run contest and managed to make each child feel like a pro-ball player at our Opening Day Festivities. In the past year, Coralee has shown the drive and initiative needed to make youth sports a success by going above and beyond her duties to bring the sport of baseball/softball to the masses.

## **2006 Margaret Whitehead Award Senior Citizen of the Year**

### **Service Award**

#### **Yolanda D'Annunzio**

Yolanda was nominated by the City of Berkley Parks and Recreation for her dedicated service to her community. Yolanda moved to the community of Berkley in 1960 after retiring from Daimler/Chrysler. Her initial association with Parks and Recreation was to transport her older sister to the senior center for our weekly Friendly Neighbors Club. It wasn't too long before she spear headed the Club's visitation program where club members would visit nursing homes and resident homes of individuals that were ill. The club would mainly visit as a group, but Yolanda took that to another level by spending additional time away from the group visiting Berkley residents on a one-to basis, and setting up the same opportunities for club members.

In 1962 Yolanda began her work with our Arts and Crafts program and their annual bazaar contributing her time and talent to raise money for the senior center. She not only contributed her hand made works to the bazaar but was the Head Cook as well. Many visitors would participate in the bazaar just to taste her famous meals. Over the years Yolanda has not only made many items to benefit the senior center but taught people how to knit, crochet and quilt. She turned 97 years young this year and is still active in promoting her passion in crafting. You can stop by her apartment on most days and find her listening to her Italian music and knitting another masterpiece. On those days when the pumpkin bread is fresh out of the oven or the home made meatballs and pasta is hot and ready, she won't let you leave without a few samples and a full stomach.

Yolanda loves spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren sharing her knowledge of life with them. She participates with the Berkley Belles Red Hat Society, enjoys being active and emits a positive light that encourages those around her. Yolanda makes a magnificent recipient of the Margaret Whitehead Senior of the Year Award for Service!

### **Leadership Award**

#### **John Thomas**

John has been a dedicated volunteer and hard-working part-time staff member of the Independence Township Senior Center for over 25 years.

## 2006 Margaret Whitehead Award Senior Citizen of the Year

*John Thomas, continued...*

Shortly after he retired from General Motors in 1981, he became the first volunteer mini-bus driver for the transportation system. Since then he has worked for and supported every program and service the center provides.

An avid athlete, John helped the senior center coordinator develop the sports program in the 1980's with volley ball and softball. He participated in fund-raising efforts at sports venues, sought sponsors for teams, and maintained a Men's Athletic Association checking account. John assisted with many fund-raising events and continued to volunteer any time and any place he was needed. He became a part-time paid site supervisor of sports of a few years but "retired" in 1999. When the position became open again in 2002 with no one to fill the vacancy, John agreed to step in again to support the sports program. At 82 years of age, he keeps the schedules organized, oversees six volunteer softball team managers, and communicates with the county league personnel and the township parks staff. No detail escapes his attention.

As a member of the newly revised Senior Advisory Committee in 2001, John researched options for a new senior center or community center. He wrote to Lansing for specific techniques to fund a new building and he campaigned heavily for the ballot issue of a Community/Senior Center in November 2002. He attended every meeting and challenged local politicians to answer to the needs of local seniors. When John was at a meeting, the attendees knew he would defend the rights of voters and seniors vigorously and intelligently. Using his considerable engineering skills, John drew several versions of a possible blueprint for a new senior center on two levels. When the ballot issue failed, he did not give up but continued to study options. John became a key figure in the Citizens for Seniors committee this year in an effort to fund a 3.1 million senior center bond issue and a \$650,000 operation cost millage.

Members of the Senior Advisory Committee, participants in the programs, and local politicians recognize John Thomas as an advocate for senior issues and a leader in the fight to obtain a new center. His intelligence and perseverance have earned him the respect of residents in the community. Without this avid spokesperson for seniors, the plight of the independence Township Senior Center would not have gained the attention of the township board and community. We salute John Thomas as a champion of the Independence Township Senior Center.

## **MRPA Community Service Award Recipients**

### **Adrian Parks and Recreation – Sue and Tim Wilson**

Sue and Tim Wilson are long time supporters of Parks and Recreation in the Adrian community, both personally and through their business, Adrian Locksmith and Cyclery. The Wilson's were instrumental in building community support for our new skate park. They helped promote the project, sought public input, lobbied for City support with the City Commission, solicited donations through their business, and contributed funds for the project. Since the skate park has become a reality Sue and Tim have continued their support by sponsoring Free Skate days, providing prizes for contest days and promoting the park and it's events at their store.

Adrian Locksmith and Cyclery has sponsored several of our department's spring and fall bike races; providing funding, prizes, technical support for the racers, and promotion of the events. They have also supported our annual fundraiser for the Stubnitz Environmental Education Center for several years by donating a bicycle for auction.

In addition Sue and Tim have been active volunteers in the community. They have coached soccer, lead scout troops, served on non-profit boards, sponsored BMX demonstrations with youth leadership messages at local elementary schools, and pulled floats in the homecoming parade, just to name a few. They also work very hard to create a welcoming environment for youth at their store as well as provide job opportunities for several local youth. Sue and Tim are committed to making Adrian a better place to live and work; we appreciate their efforts and our partnership with them.

### **The Bedford Township Recreation Commission - Indian Creek Community Soccer Field Project Group**

Growing participation in soccer in our community created the need for additional field space. A very dedicated group of community volunteers made up of parents, members of the business community and their employees, the Buildings and Grounds Director for Bedford Public Schools, parents from the Bedford Soccer Association, and David Fuller, a young man working on his Eagle Scout Project, donated over a thousand hours of volunteer time, and thousands of dollars in materials, labor, equipment, and funds to help Bedford Public Schools Community Education Recreation Department and the Bedford Township Park Commission improve the current soccer fields and develop four acres of new community soccer fields to be used as multi-sport game fields. The project included clearing, excavation, leveling, seeding,

***Indian Creek Community Soccer Field Project Group, continued...***

weeding and feeding the new and existing soccer fields, building a foot bridge over the creek to allow access to the east soccer fields, spreading over 3,000 cubic yards of recycled asphalt (donated and delivered by the Monroe County Road Commission) to provide driving and parking access to all the soccer areas and building standing kiosks with maps that show field layout. The project is ongoing. Plans include leveling additional land to create additional practice fields, installing a water well, (another Eagle Scout candidate will complete a second bridge in the spring), and expanding the walking trail around the soccer fields north of Indian Creek. This project has truly been, and continues to be a "community effort"- one that we are very proud of. People gave thousands of hours of time and thousands of dollars in materials and equipment to make this project a success. All of these individuals deserve special recognition and thanks for their participation. A special thanks also goes to the Bedford Public Schools Board of Education who has graciously allowed the development of this property for community recreation activities benefiting children and families in our community.

**City of Birmingham - Dr. Timothy P. Page**

Booth Park is labeled as the gateway to Birmingham from the north as referenced in the City of Birmingham's 2016 Report. The Booth Family donated just 3.93 acres in size, this neighborhood park to the city through the Canbrook fountain in the 1940's. Prior to the major park improvement project in 2006, the property was relatively undeveloped. It supported a playground area, open space and served as a trailhead for the city's Rouge River Trail.

In 2001, Dr. Timothy P. Page, Birmingham resident, approached the Parks and Recreation Board with the idea of building a children designed community built play structure.

The Birmingham City Commission as a component of a community group design initiative to develop the entire park site approved this project. A Playground Steering Committee was formed to layout plans that included involvement of over 200 students who shared their ideas on what kind of a park they wanted. Leathers & Associates, Inc. from New York State coordinated plan design.

Final design plans for the play structure included a 20th century hose-drying tower, a replica of a 20th century trolley car and a replica of an 1800's gristmill. During the course of the actual park development, the steering committee began organizing over 600 volunteers to build the play structures for older kids and tots. Work began September 5, 2006. One week later the community built play

*Dr. Timothy P. Page, continued...*

structures were complete and Steering Committee's dream had come true.

The City of Birmingham used \$816,000 from a resident approved Recreation Bond fund and over \$150,000, the steering committee raised in private donations to fund the park improvement project. The belief that "it can be done" and the dedicated efforts of Dr. Timothy P. Page and the Playground Steering Committee, is what made this project a reality. A formal dedication and grand opening will be conducted in June 2007.

### **Brandon Township Recreation - Bill Kratt**

Bill Kratt, owner of Hamilton's Of Ortonville since 1977, has been a top-notch dedicated supporter of Brandon Township Recreation since 1981.

Our annual Septemberfest is a one-day family fun-filled event. From 2001 to 2005 Bill Kratt donated his large cargo truck including fuel, for Septemberfest to haul bleachers, tables and chairs from Davisburg and back.

For over 15 years Bill has donated fencing, and water dishes, feed bowls, hay bales, for animals at our petting zoo. Bill also provided staff to set up pens and tear them down at his expense.

When Brandon Township Recreation decided to place protective tile on top on the baseball field fences, Bill donated the use and fuel of the large cargo truck to travel to Ohio two times.

Hamilton's Of Ortonville is a huge benefit to our community. Bill Kratt is a great example of a community-minded citizen. In closing, Brandon Township Recreation is grateful for Bill Kratt's generosity throughout the years.

### **Clinton Township Parks and Recreation - Clinton Valley Little League, Michigan District 6**

Clinton Valley Little League (C.V.L.L.) Michigan District 6 is a parent-run organization serving the Clinton Township Community for nearly 50 years (established in 1958)! They are supported by a 16-member board and over 150 coaches and volunteers. In the 2006 baseball season, C.V.L.L. served more than 600 participants (ages 5-16 years old). This includes the Challenger Program, which provides a positive experience for children that have mental and/or physical disabilities. The Challenger Program just completed their 12th season!

*Clinton Valley Little League (C.V.L.L.) continued...*

C.V.L.L. is also a generous organization. They have been a loyal sponsor of our annual Easter Egg Hunt Program. Clinton Valley Little League, Michigan District 6 and Clinton Township Parks and Recreation make a great team, working together for a common goal: Creating Community by Making Memories That Last a Lifetime!

**Downriver Recreation Commission - The Wirgau Family**

Downriver Recreation Commission is a department of a small community, operating with one full time staff person (myself) nine months out of the year.

Our format for the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick and Flag Football program consisted of our Varsity players and myself working with the 5th and 6th graders in our community. PPK scores were used as a rating system for flag teams. This proved to be a lot of work but a very satisfying program. Many families attended as regular spectators and as the popularity grew, so did the program. Parents began requesting 4th grade participation. Shortly after we were adding 3rd graders. Some how we juggled registration, late sign-ins, PPK and team placement for flag. Then the Fun began! Each week for the following 8 weeks, fields were set up with cones, flags were untangled, scores were tallied, directions were given, disputes were settled, etc. Exhausting to say the least!

Then the Wirgau Family arrived! Their sons Austin and Colton registered for the program. Their mom, Tonya Wirgau, quickly volunteered to man the registration table and soon became a "Jill of all Trades". Their father, Art Wirgau, stepped up as referees and decided we needed an extensive rating process. Needless to say he provided that the following year with rating stations and extra volunteers! Little sister Alexandra, Allie, handled everything from nametags, to water bottles, to handouts!

By the second year of the program, Art Wirgau perfected the ratings system to the point that our Varsity Department sat up and took notice. He added Middle School students as extra volunteers that allowed us to increase time with skill building and level of play. And of course the spectators grew!

*The Wirgau Family, continued...*

In the meantime, Tonya and Allie suggested a cheerleading program since all of the little sisters were already hanging around every Saturday morning any way. Our trophy and medal distributor is still laughing about our 247 cheerleaders for 126 football players!

Colton and Austin continued to participate in the program and played well. As they played they grew older and I developed worry of the Wirgau family moving up and out. The benefits of the Wirgaus were apparent and improvement in the program grew. The Varsity Coach even invited the flag football players to run through the inflatable "Fan Tunnel" helmet during the Homecoming Game! We were at our peak!

Here we are in 2006. Lo and behold, the Wirgau's have remained dedicated and dependable with our program! There are some changes though. For instance, Colton and Austin are now coaching the 3rd and 4th grade teams. Tonya still helps with registration and has been promoted to head Time Keeper! Art continues to oversee the ratings process, improving and fine-tuning, then switching to referee when the games begin.

Most important is the encouragement and positive message Art can be overheard giving the kids and the coaches. It's that kind of consistent support that keeps everyone on track and performing to the best of their abilities.

Let's not forget about Allie! She has taken on the role of scorekeeper and is affectionately known as our official mascot!

After reading about my experience with this wonderful family, one would think how nice, they have plenty of time to devote to flag football. Quite contraire! The Wirgau Family is equally, involved in school activities and projects. They are active with their church activities and programs. Art is currently coaching in the Middle School Football Program. Tonya is the right hand woman for the Middle School Parent Group. It is amazing how much they volunteer in our community as a whole. They give, and give, and give, and give!

By nominating the Wirgau Family for this community Service award, it is hoped to give a little back to them in appreciation. They truly deserve recognition for supporting parks and recreation in our

*The Wirgau Family, continued...*

community. They make a difference every day, with every act of service they perform. The Wirgau's enhance our resident's quality of life and exemplify creating community through people parks and programs! Thank you Wirgau Family!

**City of Grosse Pointe Woods - Bill Matouk**

Bill is a longtime resident and business owner of Grosse Pointe Woods. His family has been serving the community with high quality and friendly service for several years. His dedication to community recreation programs has been ongoing for over 20 years. As a baseball coach, he assisted the woods/Shores Little League and Babe Ruth League with picnics or donations for various events, especially the 50th Anniversary Celebration. He has also supported the leagues for many years by purchasing ads in their programs and providing in-kind donations.

In addition to supporting Grosse Pointe Woods baseball, Bill has also supported several ongoing recreation events. He donates food and drinks for events or provides them at cost for the city. Examples of events include the Annual Perch Derby, Winterfest, and City Picnic. He also donates items for the Senior Citizen Commission events such as the Christmas Party and the Annual Picnic.

Certainly, Bill's support of parks and recreation in Grosse Pointe Woods has not gone unnoticed. His generosity has contributed to programs serving all age groups within the city. For this reason, the Citizen's Recreation Commission is proud to name Bill Matouk as a Community Service Award recipient.

**Howell Area Parks and Recreation - Steve and Pat Manor**

Mr. and Mrs. Manor are true champions of our community through their tireless efforts in support of numerous projects to preserve and enhance historic and recreation treasures in the City of Howell. They actively supported the Howell Recreation Authority and its bid for independent funding and long-term stability in the interests of recreation for all residents in the Howell area.

They have been strong advocates of the Howell Teen Center, as well as offering their time and energy to support youth activities and opportunities throughout the community. Mr. Manor has been an energizing catalyst, and part-time volunteer contractor, driving the development and construction of the regionally recognized Parker Skate Park, by bringing together neighbors, downtown merchants, local philanthropists, and skate supporters with craftsmen, architects,

*Steve and Pat Manor, continued...*

and school officials. His work with youth in our community continues to provide a critical link between generational needs and abilities.

Both have contributed boundless energy at community events such as the Last Day Break Away for middle school students and the legend of Sleepy Howell in Downtown for Halloween. They have been rangers for parades, enthusiasm and organization for sporting events, and leaders for volunteer committee meetings.

Pat Manor has been an active supporter of many community programs including the Skate Park, the Opera House, the Howell Carnegie District Library, and events sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce and the Howell Parks and Recreation Department. She is a frequent supporter, not only cheering community initiatives but quietly working to insure their success. She provides the so often overlooked staffing at information booths, food service, money management, and welcoming residents to special events.

Steve Manor has dedicated his time and energy as a member of the Howell City Council and active member of additional municipal boards and commissions, as a founding member of the Youth Assets Committee, and as a charter member of Livingston 2001-Diversity, an organization founded to counter an unfortunate community image for racism through community conversations and tolerance initiatives.

Steve and Pat Manor are exemplary models of public service and have provided this community with leadership, vision, and commitment. They go beyond the discussion of ideas to acting and making the dreams reality. They illustrate volunteerism and civic involvement at its highest level and the Howell community is proud of their representation

### **Huntington Woods Parks and Recreation - Huntington Woods Public Safety Department**

The Recreation Department and Public Safety have always had a nice working relationship. In the past several years, this relationship has grown to include more and more services and programs for us to be able to jointly offer to our residents.

In Huntington Woods, we kick off baseball season in grand style, with a parade and lots of festivities. Included in the days event is the DPS Bike Patrol. The community appreciates the support and the children enjoy seeing the public safety officers at their baseball games.

For over 12 years, the DPS and the Recreation Department have worked closely to put on events for the Woodward Dream Cruise. The officers work long hours

*Huntington Woods Public Safety Department, continued...*

and keep on top of the traffic concerns that coincide with this event, along with keeping the community safe as millions of people flock to the cruise and with other significant public safety concerns. They are visible at the event and are there if needed.

Since the first July 4th parade, Public Safety has led the parade. Without them, the parade would not start off with a "bang" like it does! They decorate the fire truck and squad car and ride in the parade proudly. The families have a chance to see the safety vehicles up close and personal-which is always a great fun for kids! The department also provides the decorated bike participants supervision from the bike patrol.

Members of our Public Safety also attend our Senior Monday Lunch Brunch regularly. They present items of concern for our senior population and keep them on top of safety issues surrounding their lives. They have talked about fire prevention and safety and how to safeguard against crimes against seniors. The seniors are able to ask a lot of important questions and the Public Safety Officers are there to answer them and hear their concerns.

Our ever growing Teen Council has also benefited from the efforts of the Public Safety Department. Our Teen Council does a lot of community service projects, recently joining Public Safety in a program called "Sticker Shock". Together, the two groups went to different stores and put stickers on packaged beer and wine that reminded parents not to buy or serve alcohol to minors. The teens learned a lot from the officers concerning how often parents provide alcohol for their minor children-especially at prom and graduation season. It was a great lesson for the teens to continue to say NO to drugs and alcohol, and to learn the police are around to keep them safe, not to hassle them. There was also a nice relationship developed between the officers and the participation teens.

We are very proud of our relationship with Public Safety, but have never had the success and rewards quite as pronounced as during this summers Future Firefighters and Jr. Deputies Camp. In the past, the Parks and Recreation Department has offered our own version of Safety Town, but this year we kicked it up a notch and offered the best safety camp we have ever had. The recreation staff brought Public Safety on board. Officers were on hand daily, reaching the kids fire safety and prevention, stranger danger and 911 circumstances. One of the highlights was when the officers sat and ate lunch with them each day. The kids felt so special and really got a chance to get to know these officers and ask them all sorts of questions. The graduation ceremony was amazing. We had most of the members of the Public Safety Department in attendance. They gave out police badges, fire hats and diplomas! The kids were so excited. It was a wonderful camp experience and the memories built from this camp will last a lifetime.

*Huntington Woods Public Safety Department, continued...*

There are many wonderful rewards to living in a small city, among them, is the opportunity to get to know residents and staff as though they were family and friends. The Public Safety Department has embraced the feeling of community and extended their interest and concern and programs. For their continued devotion and assistance, we would like to recognize them for this year's MRPA Community Service Award.

**Independence Township Parks and Recreation -  
Vince Chrisman, Clarkston Community Band**

The Clarkston Community Band is a program offered through our Department and is an opportunity for adults in the Clarkston area to play music, meet new friends and have fun. Vince Chrisman was appointed Director of the Clarkston Community Band in 2004.

Vince is a very accomplished musician and is very valuable to the Clarkston Community Band. All of the work Vince does with the Band is completely volunteer, on top of working a full time job. Not only does Vince oversee weekly rehearsals (about three volunteer hours per week), but is dedicated to enhancing the organization as a whole.

One of his greatest accomplishments as Director has been the Band website. Vince designed and developed the site, [www.clarkstonband.org](http://www.clarkstonband.org). The website is very user friendly, is a great communication tool for band members and is a great "PR" for the band with sections such as upcoming performances, important links and sponsorship information. Again, this was all volunteer time.

Over the past two years, Vince has challenged the Band with more performances and competitions. He was able to get the Band accepted to the Association of Concert Bands, as well as, entered into the Red Cedar Festival for the 2nd year in a row. He has also grown the Band membership to nearly 45 members and has added themes to the Concerts. In addition he has re-energized the Sponsorship and Donation program for the Band, raising over \$3,500, just in this year. With these additional funds, the Band is able to offer four FREE concerts to the community, as well as, purchase many more pieces of music to perform.

"Vince is our cheerleader. He is the catalyst that gets people moving and keeps things interesting. He is new motivation for the Band", says Melanie Contino, a founding member of the band.

*Vince Chrisman, Clarkston Community Band, continued...*

The Clarkston Community Band is a wonderful enrichment to the Community and the Band would not be what it is today with out the brilliant direction of Vince Chrisman. He exemplifies a true community volunteer who is truly making a difference!

**City of Lansing Parks and Recreation -  
Neil McLean, Hal & Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation**

In the fall of 2003, former City of Lansing Mayor David Hollister was presented a challenge to match a grant of \$500,000 from the Hal & Jean Glassen Foundation to construct new Artic Fox and North American Otter exhibits replacing the old exhibits at the Potter Park Zoo. Neil McLean, President of the Glassen Foundation made the challenge to former Mayor Hollister and the mayor accepted the challenge with the caveat that the City of Lansing will raise the funds from the Lansing Park Millage over the next three years. Mr. McLean accepted the terms of the challenge and on August 18, 2006 the new exhibits opened. These new exhibits vastly improved the animal husbandry and environment, updating them to the current American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) standards. The highlight of these exhibits is the underwater viewing area for the River Otters. The high pace activities of these animals, enhances the viewing experience of the zoo visitors.

**City of Lansing Parks and Recreation -  
Lansing Dewitt Sunrise Rotary Club**

Lansing Parks and Recreation's Aviation Camp first took place in August of 2001 as a collaborative effort between the Lansing Dewitt Sunrise Rotary Club, the Lansing Community College Aviation Training Department, the Michigan Department of Transportation Bureau of Aeronautics and the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department. Within two weeks of registration, the camp filled with 30 youth enrolled ranging from ages 9-17 with a waiting list of 22 more youth who we could not accommodate, we realized right away that we had a winner of a program.

We also realize that this program would not be possible without the ongoing volunteer support of the Lansing Dewitt Sunrise Rotary Club. They have been an active partner in the planning and development of the program and indispensable in providing volunteer instructors for educational, hands-on and flight sessions to the camp since it was first held in 2001.

*Lansing Dewitt Sunrise Rotary Club, continued...*

We're now into the planning stages of the seventh camp and growing each year, bFrom serving 30 youth in the first camp, we have grown to each year and were able to offer camp for 80 youth this past summer. ut only with the vital support of the rotary. Their dedication and passion to teach youth about the field of aviation has continued to make this innovative and novel program a huge success.

### **City of Livonia Parks and Recreation - Livonia Anniversary Committee**

The Livonia Anniversary Committee spans a period of 33 years in which they have fashioned and outstanding way to celebrate a community birthday with fireworks, civic organizations selling food, free family entertainment and carnival, bringing family, friends and neighbors together.

The Livonia Anniversary Committee has been a valuable asset to the City of Livonia and its residents. Formed in 1973, this all-volunteer committee organizes our celebration called Livonia SPREE.

They place great emphasis on Livonia being "Michigan's Finest City to Live, Learn, Work and Play". Their commitment is expressed through yearly donations totaling \$769,901 to numerous community organizations and events such as; First Step, Angela Hospice, High School All-Night Graduation Parties, Livonia Public Schools, and City of Livonia.

Approximately thirty percent of the donations have benefited the Department of Parks and Recreation by; upgrading the park site in which SPREE is held, programming opportunities, equipment purchases and the Community Recreation Center Marquis. They are instrumental in providing community non-profit civic organizations the opportunity to raise thousands of dollars by operating food stations during the festival.

The determination and love of volunteering is evident when you see the smiles, the camaraderie, the enthusiasm, and family spirit that is displayed during this six day festival.

The Livonia Anniversary Committee truly creates Community through People, Parks and Programs.

## **Michigan DNR, Parks and Recreation - James Bradley, Friends of the Porkies**

The Friends of the Porkies formed in 1998 to support and promote the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Affectionately known as "The Porkies", the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is a 60,000 acre wilderness located in Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties. Under the leadership of President James Bradley, the Friends of the Porkies recently initiated three significant programs that will enrich park visitors and attract travelers to the park and surrounding communities.

In 2005 The Friends established an annual music festival that fills area motels and campgrounds during late August, when attendance traditionally wanes. The Porcupine Mountains Music Festival is a three-day event that attracts tourists from throughout the United States and Canada. Guests are treated to an eclectic variety of music, from jazz and blues to folk and rock and roll. Musicians hail from the Midwest, and include some talented local bands. The festival's success is wholly dependent on the tremendous dedication of the Friends of the Porkies and their volunteers. The event was held again in 2006 and attendance is expected to grow in 2007.

In 2006, the Friends group established the Porcupine Mountains Folk School. The school's goal is to teach various crafts and old time building methods. The first two classes constructed a timber-frame super-structure that will become a cabin. Friends' volunteers disassembled the structure and reconstructed it in a wonderful location near the Little Union River in the eastern end of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. The Folk School is a growing program that will offer a spectrum of opportunities for guests staying a week or those simply passing through. Classes in woodworking, canoe building and perhaps even a writing course for budding authors will be offered. At times, the artisans may be observed as they work.

The timber-frame cabin will be used to house another Friends of the Porkies endeavor, the Daniel Urbanski Artist-In-Residence program. This unique program is named after the late photographer, former President of the Friends of the Porkies and frequent park visitor, Dan Urbanski. Juried artists will vie for the opportunity to inhabit the cabin. In solitude, the artist will produce a creation for and about the park. The artwork will become the property of the park and remain on display there.

These three programs would be major undertakings for a large organization. The Friends of the Porkies has only a couple dozen dedicated members, making the implementation of these programs a remarkable accomplishment.

*James Bradley, Friends of the Porkies, continued...*

The Friends of the Porkies members are a small group of wonderful people who are devoted to protecting the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park while providing the public a better opportunity to understand its' wonderful natural riches. These folks do not operate to attract glory; however their hard work and innovation deserve recognition. It is a great honor to recognize the Friends of the Porkies, with this Community Service Award, as a leading organization in the recreation field.

**Oakland County Parks and Recreation  
And Waterford Parks and Recreation -  
John Jacob, Drayton Plains Nature Center**

Thanks to the commitment and foresight of Waterford resident John Jacobs, the Drayton Plains Nature Center and its surrounding 137 acres have a new lease on life and will be around to share with future generations.

The Drayton Plains Natural Area includes an operating fish hatchery facilitated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as well as hardwood, forest and prairie ecosystems, the nature center building, caretaker's home, two log cabins and a pavilion.

When Jacob got involved in 1999, the nature center and grounds just down the street from his house were facing serious maintenance and budgetary issues. Jacob had a vision: Get the community involved to revive the nature center and preserve the land.

To that end, he has worked tirelessly with residents as well as Waterford Township, Waterford School District, Waterford Parks and Recreation, local scout troops, Oakland County Parks and Recreation and the Oakland Land Conservancy. With help from these local agencies, his Board of Trustees and man-hours donated by residents and scout groups, the Nature Center itself has been improved and trails were upgraded. In 2005, a Conservation Easement was granted, preserving the land in perpetuity. An \$800,000 grant also was secured by Waterford Township.

But that wasn't enough for John Jacob-his vision included full utilization of the Nature Center. John Jacob worked on expanding the Nature Center as an educational facility for Waterford Schools. It was so successful that now Oakland County Parks and Waterford Schools have joined together in a cooperative

**John Jacob, Drayton Plains Nature Center, continued...**

venture, conducting interpretive and educational programs year-round. Naturalists have enhanced the State of Michigan's Science Benchmarks with Local material and now the nature center is visited four times a week by students in grades 1-12 as part of their science curriculum.

Proving that one person can make a difference, John Jacob has preserved the Drayton Plains Nature Center as a viable educational and environmental resource for generations to come. But his vision doesn't stop there. John Jacob joins Oakland County Parks' Executive Director Dan Stencil in working towards a time when the naturalists will take their show on the road, providing expertise and programming for all residents of Oakland County.

**Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission-  
Oakland County Sheriff's Office**

A partnership between the Oakland County Parks and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office fosters peace of mind for an annual 1.6 million visitors.

Deputies patrol portions of the system's 6,000 acres providing security at two campgrounds, two waterparks and four day-use parks. They also work large special events like annual fireworks displays, a car show, mountain bike races and 4-H Fair.

"We're constantly finding in feedback from our visitors that the Oakland County Parks feel safe and secure," Dan Stencil, executive officer said. "The constant security presence helps foster an environment of safety."

Trading Jail time to perk up parks is an alternative to incarceration and helps beautify the Oakland County Parks and saves taxpayers dollars. In 1999, the parks system partnered with Oakland County's Community Corrections Division as one of the first agencies to get involved with the Weekend and Weekday Alternative for Misdemeanants (WWAM) Program. Misdemeanor offenders are sentenced by district court judges to perform community service at non-profit Organizations in lieu of traditional sentences. "We've used these individuals to direct traffic at special events, pick up litter, plant trees and fulfill the parks system's Adopt-a-Highway commitment," Stencil said. "Often, they bring to us their technical or trade skills such as carpentry."

Community garden feeds the needy. In 2004, WWAM participants planted a Community Service Garden at Springfield Oaks County Park. The parks system partnered with the Oakland County 4-H Fair Board, the 52nd District Court, the Clarkston Rotary and the Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener program to create the five-acre garden.

*Oakland County Sheriff's Office, continued...*

The garden provides fresh produce to local shelters and food banks. Offenders provide about 9,000 hours of labor annually by planting, watering, weeding and harvesting. "The dollar value of using the WWAM program is easily one million dollars over the existence of the program," Stencil said.

Police dogs call park home. The parks system "donated" two acres at Independence Oaks for a permanent canine training facility. The sheriff's office paid \$6,000 to fence the area, equip it with obstacle course items and other training aids. Now, each week 14 dog handlers convene at the park. The dogs practice detecting drugs, tracking suspects and searching for lost people. The unit includes two bomb-sniffing dogs and one arson dog. "The facility enhances our training because it reduces travel time. We are near I-75 which gives us immediate access to the highway. Plus, we're only 30 minutes away from four court districts if we're needed there," Sgt. Joe Lambourn, K-9 commander, said. Park visitor reaction to the canine unit at the park has been positive. "This location also gives us the chance to educate people about police canine work," he added.

Marine Division protects in water, and under ice. The Marine Division and Dive Team also train at Independence Oaks. "We train at the park for under-ice operations and with our hover craft which is used in thin ice situations," Sgt. Dan Toth said. The division includes 12 highly trained divers specializing in cold, black water conditions. Their territory of 450 lakes includes 68-acre Crooked Lake at Independence Oaks.

Aviation Division provides aerial coverage. "The Sheriff's helicopter provides a force multiplier of 12," Sgt. Dale Cason said. "In other words, it's like doing the job of 12 deputies. The helicopter can search a large area in a short period of time and coordinate ground units." State-of-the-art camera equipment can provide a detailed examination of a search area, used in cases such as lost/injured guests in a park. With its thermal imager and high-power spotlight, searches can be completed after dark.

Patrolling in bikes. In 2000 a mountain bike patrol was added to complement the use of patrol vehicles. "Bike Officers are an effective way to work crowds, check trails and get to hard-to-reach places quickly in an emergency," Stencil said. The bikes also allow for more one-on-one contact with patrons, according to Sgt. Ken Hurst of the Parks Division. "And, they carry their equipment with their private vehicle so they can respond any time of the day or night for emergencies," Hurst said. The officers also educate youth. Each summer they host Bike Rodeos at two campgrounds focusing on bike safety. The highlight is a cruise through the park with deputies.

**Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission -  
Tom A. Purves, A Purves Escavating**

Since 1966, A. Purves Excavating, Inc. has been under promising and over delivering service to Oakland County Parks and Recreation. Over the years, A. Purves Excavating, Inc. Has repeatedly donated time, labor and more.

Most recently the company supported Oakland County Parks historic Ellis Barn relocation and restoration project by scraping the mortar from and hauling the barn's original foundation field stones from Dixie Highway to the Springfield Oaks County Park relocation site. Tom A. Purves' donation of time, labor and moving materials totaled approximately \$15,000.

A. Purves Excavating, Inc. is a third generation family-owned and operated company located in Clarkson, Michigan. Founded by Charles Purves in 1957, the company was passed to his son Tom E. Purves and is now operated by Tom E. Purves' son Tom A. Purves.

Tom A. Purves follows the vested interest and responsibility to the community and Oakland County Parks that his father and grandfather began 40 years ago and continues his dedicated and outstanding service to Oakland County Parks.

**Okemos Community Education - Dave and Barb Pressick**

Dave and Barb Pressick have been heavily involved in the Okemos community for the past three plus years. They have been on the Okemos Athletic Klub (OAKS) board each of those years. Barb was nominated to become the Treasurer of the group and has been in their position for the past two and a half years. She is also the current President for the OAKS board. Barb has given much of her time when needed and has lead the OAKS chicken Barbeque fundraiser that brings in over 2000 people each June to enjoy food and games.

Dave has been one of the head Tackle Football coaches for the past two years. He was also the league representative for Okemos for the Mid Michigan Football League (MMPFL). He attended more than 10 meetings a year and heavily involved in the scheduling and rule changes for this 32 community league.

Dave and Barb have lead OAKS in restructuring the Flag Football program back in 2003. In 2006 Dave headed up the football committee in an effort to improve the Tackle Football program in Okemos. Barb and Dave have been leaders in this community and when things need to be done, they are the first to step up to the plate and make a significant contribution.

We applaud the efforts of the Pressicks and are pleased to nominate them for this award!

### **Portland Parks and Recreation - Patrick Weller**

Patrick Weller has been an outstanding volunteer for the Portland Parks and Recreation Department over the last 25 years. Pat is very involved in the Track and Field programs for the Portland Recreation Department. He has given the youth of our community both recreational and competitive opportunities in the world of track and field. He served as the boys and girls track coach at Portland St. Patrick's School for 12 years and has offered a summer track program through the Recreation Department hosting weekly track meets over the summer. He has also been a volunteer and "starter" for our local Hershey Track and Field Meet for the past 20 years. In the early years prior to having a track in the Portland Community, Pat would line out a 4 lane 200 meter track in an open field with a paint liner, so the youth of Portland would have an opportunity to participate in the Hershey track and field program.

Furthermore, Patrick has served on the Portland Parks and Recreation Advisory Board since July of 1983, during his tenure he has been very involved in the Master Plan updates and our trail development. Pat currently holds the office of President of the Portland Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The City and the residents of Portland are fortunate to have such an outstanding volunteer in the Community..

### **Southfield Parks and Recreation - Southfield Youth Soccer League**

Southfield Youth Soccer League (SYSL) is a volunteer organization that has been in existence for four years. The organization's primary goal is to increase awareness and provide access to the sport of soccer to the youth population of Southfield.

Since assuming responsibility for the league, SYSL has seen registration numbers increase from 450 in 2003 to over 700 youth in the past year. They anticipate a continued 10% to 15% increase in 2007.

SYSL hosted Nike open Field Nights in May of 2006 and attracted over 100 players per night for the three week free 3/3 tournament format.

Over 150 SYSL players, parents and coaches, led by Southfield Mayor Brenda L. Lawrence, attended Southfield Night at the Detroit Ignition's, the newest addition to the Major Indoor Soccer League, inaugural game. Ten SYSL players also participated in a half-time exhibition at another Ignition home game.

The City of Southfield and the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department is proud to recognize the Southfield Youth Soccer League Board of Directors and

*Southfield Youth Soccer League, continued...*

all the Parents, players and coaches with the 2006 Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Community Service Award.

### **Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation - Utica Community School and Warren Consolidated School Districts**

Utica Community School and Warren Consolidated School Districts have partnered with the Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation Department in providing recreational opportunities for the residents of the city. With their cooperation, the Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation Department is able to offer basketball, softball, volleyball, soccer, dance and baton to our residents. We are also able to use their facilities to conduct special events such as the Hershey Track and field Meet and the Metro Youth Fitness Meet on a yearly basis.

The school districts also supply their facilities at no charge for the above programs, as well as our summer Playground Program. In fact, in 2006 when many communities were losing playground sites, the school districts combined to give the Sterling Heights Parks and Recreation Department more than in 2005. Through their generosity, we are able to offer recreational opportunities to over 19,000 children and adults each year.

It is a true delight to have such outstanding community partners as the Utica Community School and Warren Consolidated School Districts.

### **Strive Inc. - Southfield Foster Grandparents**

Southfield Foster Grandparents, Deborah Blackwell, Annie Bolling, Adele Cartey, Mary Hickman and Mary Hicks are an amazing Group of senior citizens. These senior citizens read in the Oakland Press that Pontiac was in need of volunteers to assist with a summer enrichment/playground program. They answered the call and volunteered for four days a week for the duration of the nine week program. They assisted with daily registration and name tags, crafts, daily lunch, equipment and supply distribution, special events, participant monitoring and chaperoned field trips. They wiped tears, blew noses, counseled and shared many hugs.

The program averaged a minimum of eighty youth per day and on some days the attendance exceeded 100.

This community effort of the friends of Murphy Park (previous CSA winners)

*Southfield Foster Grandparents, continued...*

proved to be a great success, but only because of the support, commitment and passion of this group. They have proven that it takes a village to run a playground camp.

We are proud and very glad that they became a part of our village. They are truly deserving of the Community Service Award recognition from Michigan Recreation and Park Association as they provided a much needed service to the youthful community in Pontiac.

**Trenton Parks and Recreation -  
Paddle by Your Refuge Committee**

In the true sense of partnership and collaboration, the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, City of Trenton Parks and Recreation and Wayne County Park System presented a September afternoon of events highlighting the natural beauty, wildlife and rich history of Elizabeth Park and the Detroit River.

Two years ago, a new event, Paddle by Your Refuge, was planned in conjunction with the Annual "Somewhere in Time", and event designed to recapture the essence and history of Historic Elizabeth Park as it was in the early 1900's.

In its second year, Paddle by Your Refuge provided the opportunity to paddle around Michigan's oldest county park to pristine Humbug Marsh and Island. Participants learned about kayaking and discovered the amazing natural resources and wildlife of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. In addition, the theme of "Somewhere in Time" was carried out as paddlers learned the history of the park. Over 250 kayakers participated of which over half were beginners. The entire event was organized by volunteers. In addition, the event proceeds benefited the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance. (A not for profit organization recently founded to support the efforts of the refuge) The volunteer "Paddle by Your Refuge" committee is very deserving of the MRPA Community Service Award. This state-wide recognition reaffirms their unparalleled contribution to preserving the rich history of the area for future generations to explore and enjoy.

### **Troy Parks and Recreation - Troy Golden Chorailiers**

The Troy Golden Chorailiers have contributed countless hours in an effort to brighten the days of people in our community. Each year this group does approximately 35 performances. They do several performances at the Troy Community Center and also visit many assisted living and nursing homes in the area.

This group has been in existence in Troy since 1975 and has a core group of 25+ members. The volunteer leaders and the accompanist do a great job of preparing the chorus for the numerous performances they do each year. They currently have approximately 150 songs that they are prepared to perform. Every community should be fortunate as we are to have so many seniors willing to share their talents.

### **Van Buren Township's Community Services Department - Van Buren Civic Fund**

On July 15, 2006 the Van Buren Civic Fund and the Van Buren Parks and Recreation department hosted a community play build in Van Buren Park. The Van Buren Civic Fund awarded the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department a \$15,000.00 grant to construct an ADA swing set and play structure at Van Buren Park. Funding the play structure meets the mission of the Civic Fund by providing play equipment that will be accessible to the physically challenged. The Van Buren Civic Fund also awarded Van Buren September Days Senior Center a \$27,000.00 grant to purchase a new van to transport seniors to and from the recreation center and medical appointments. By awarding these grants it has assisted in reducing Van Buren Township's burden in providing municipal service in the township.

## **Ypsilanti Township Recreation - Playground Adventures**

In 2000 Jan Hale approached the Recreation Department with a dream of developing a place where children of all abilities could play together, while learning to respect and accept diversity, and where they could experience and value others who are different from themselves. Jan's heartfelt presentation instantly sold the Township on the value of constructing a custom designed community-built playground designed for people of all abilities.

Over the next several years, and with the help of our Park Commission chair Sandy Andresen, the two of them went to work on not only designing a barrier-free playground but also raising close to \$280,000.00 towards the purchase and installation of this dynamic play structure. Both Jan and Sandy committed literally thousands of hours of their personal time gathering information, attending meetings, giving presentations, conducting fundraisers, writing grants and coordinating the community build. Through all of their efforts their dream became a reality.

On July 17, 2006 over 300 volunteers showed up to construct "Playground Adventures", an accessible play structure which covers approximately 10,000 square feet. This play area has become a focal point for the community and is by far the biggest and the most utilized playground the Township has to offer.



Congratulations  
to our  
Community  
Service Award  
winners:

A. Purves Excavating, Inc.

John Jacob, Drayton Plains Nature Center

Oakland County Sheriff's Office

Thank you for enriching parks  
and recreation experiences  
for our guests.

**OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS**

The City of Howell & Howell Area Recreation Authority  
proudly congratulate

## Steve and Pat Manor

2006 MRPA Community Service Award

Your dedication and service to our community is greatly appreciated! You have provided the model for public service and community pride through your actions and your commitment.

Thank you,  
Mayor Geraldine K. Moen, Howell City Council,  
Howell Area Recreation Authority, and City staff.

## Thank You

**Art, Tonya, Austin, Colton, and Allie Wirgau!**

**On behalf of the children in our program  
and the community.**

**From Downriver Recreation Commission**



Wm. Barton, Mayor

**The City of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department  
Congratulates**

**The Hal and Jean Glassen Memorial  
Foundation, Nell McLean, President  
and  
The Lansing Dewitt Sunrise Rotary Club**

**Thank you for helping us  
Create Community through People, Parks and Programs**



Congratulations to

John Thomas  
(seated far left)

MRPA Margaret Whitehead  
Senior Award for Leadership

For 25 years of dedicated leadership  
in programs and projects for the  
Independence Township Senior Center.

With Sincere Gratitude,  
Mike Turk, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Margaret Bartos, Senior Center Coordinator  
Kelly Hyer, Recreation Supervisor  
Jeff Morris, Recreation Programmer  
Parks and Recreation Staff  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Senior Center Staff  
Senior Advisory Committee and Volunteers



Congratulations to Plainfield Charter Township  
for their MRPA award for Versailles Park!



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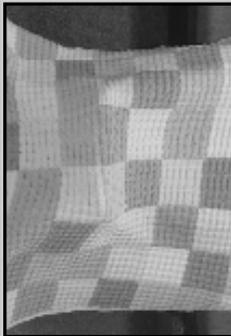
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"Michigan's Finest City to Live, Learn, Work and Play"



A resident of Berkeley, Yolanda participates  
in activities offered all over the area, and  
continues to achieve many successes that  
this award recognizes.  
Congratulations Yolanda!



Berkeley Parks and Recreation & the City of

Extend their gratitude to

*Yolanda D'Annunzio*

*For outstanding service and effort to the*



Yolanda D'Annunzio has been awarded the *MRPA Margaret Whitehead Senior of the Year Award for Service*. In recognition of her efforts, contributions and unyielding service, Yolanda has made her mark not only on the Parks and Recreation Department, but throughout the City of Berkeley.

A resident of Berkeley, Yolanda participates in activities offered all over the area, and continues to achieve many successes that this award recognizes.

Congratulations Yolanda!

## **Dear Community Service Award Recipient ~**

We at Michigan Recreation Park and Recreation Association (MRPA) would like to thank each of you for your commitment to Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services throughout

Michigan. We appreciate this opportunity to formally acknowledge those who have dedicated their resources for the enhancement of our communities, and we are grateful that you recognize the integral role your area parks, recreation, and leisure services department plays on the overall well being of our State.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

**From the staff at MRPA,  
thank you and congratulations!**

*Mike Maisner, CPRP, CAE*  
Executive Director

*Tom Fraas*  
Business Services Manager

*Nichole Tilma, CMP*  
Education Services Manager

*Denise Cook*  
Membership Services Manager

*Nola McNeil*  
Administrative Assistant

*Chris Miles*  
Administrative Assistant

***Creating Community Through People, Parks, and Programs!***



## Mission Statement

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

## Core Values

**Integrity:** We foster honesty, trust and respect in all that we do, and we are committed to the MRPA Creed of Ethics.

**Commitment:** We are committed to serving our members needs. We are flexible and innovative in delivering quality services and resources to make the Association and our members successful.

**Diversity:** We seek diversity in membership, governance, process, ideas, and relationships.

**Community:** We foster community and friendship, because it allows us to highlight our individual strengths. They grow best through active participation.

**Advocacy:** We are pro-active in our approach to advocacy on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Profession to build healthy and active individuals, families, and communities.



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