



Pastor Steve

Thank you for your dedication to the

Romulus community!

~ Your efforts are greatly appreciated ~



CITY OF ROMULUS
Parks & Recreation



Special Thanks

- ◆ Michigan Historical Museum
- ◆ Old Country Caterers
- ◆ MRPA Awards Committee

We appreciate your support of this great event.

We Create Community through People, Parks, and Programs!



Wednesday, January 7, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Michigan Historical Museum
Lansing, MI

MRPA Awards Committee

Brett Kaschinske, CPRP
Awards Committee Chair
Lansing Parks & Recreation

Carol Anderson
Troy Parks and Recreation

Sal DiCaro, CPRP
Macomb Township Parks and Recreation

Darrin Duistermars
Holland Township Parks and Recreation

Kae Eidson, CPRP
Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation

Terry Fields
West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation

Portia Fields-Anderson, CPRP
Pontiac, MI

Andy Lang
Farmington Hills Special Services

Tony Mulkey, CPRP
Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation

Carla Scruggs
Saline Parks and Recreation

Angela Verges, CPRP
Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation

Roy Vultaggio, CPRP
Oak Park Parks and Recreation

Linda Walter, CPRP
Clinton Township Parks and Recreation

Wendy Wilmers-Longpre
City of East Lansing



2009 Community Service Awards

On behalf of the City of Lansing Parks & Recreation Department and Mayor Virg Bernero, C2AE would like to thank:

Mr. Kellie Dean,
Mr. James Parrish, and
the Maguire Family

for generously donating land towards the extension of the Lansing River Trail, one of Lansing's most valuable recreational resources.



Virg Bernero, Mayor





Congratulates

BARNEY KNORP



2008 MRPA Volunteer Coach of the Year

The Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation is grateful for your continued enthusiasm, dedication and passion to make a difference in the lives of the many youth you have coached here in Livonia throughout the years. Your commitment demonstrates the true spirit of what being a coach is all about.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE & CONTINUE TO DO!



Congratulates

THE LIVONIA ARTS COMMISSION

2008 MRPA Community Service Award

The Livonia Parks and Recreation Department is grateful for your continued commitment to create, promote, develop, sponsor, sustain, facilitate and further the Arts within the City of Livonia. Your efforts are truly heartfelt and essential to the growth and awareness of the talent here in Livonia.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE & CONTINUE TO DO!

Welcome
to the
2009 Community Service Awards
Presented by
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Introductions

Kendall Klingelsmith and
Dennis Schornack
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

Entertainment

Marsha Mumm

Presentation of Awards

Brett Kaschinske, CPRP
MRPA Awards Committee Chair

Youth Sports

Troy Stowell
MRPA Athletic Committee Chair

Margaret Whitehead Senior of the Year

Sandy Dorey, CTRS
MRPA Senior Committee Chair

MRPA Community Service Awards

MRPA Awards Committee

Closing Remarks

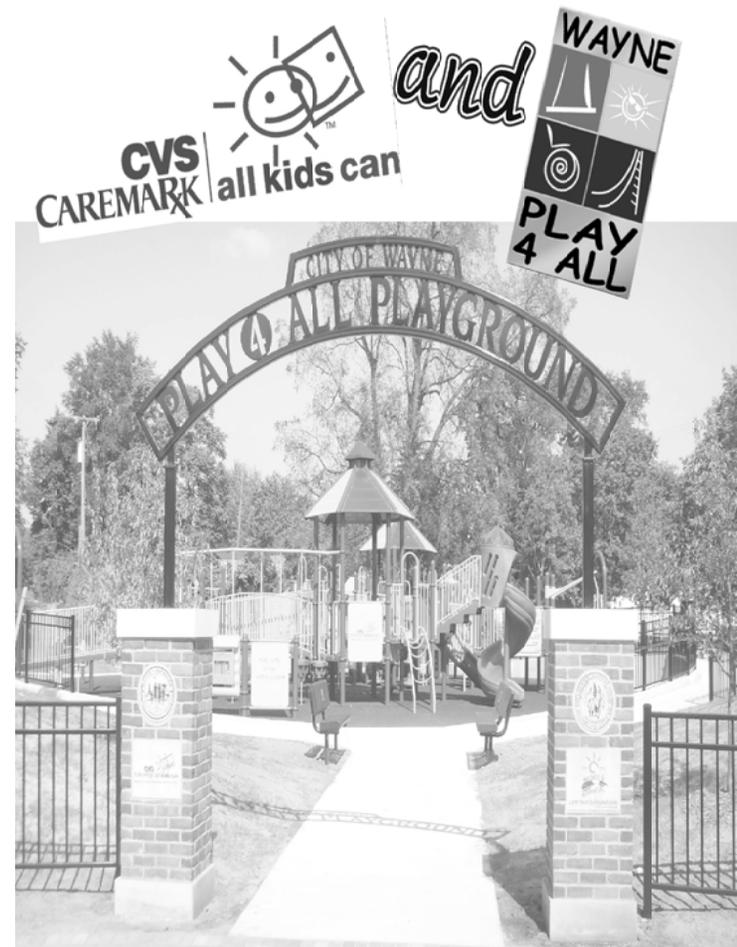
Kendall Klingelsmith and
Dennis Schornack
Michigan Recreation and Park Association

**Youth Sports
Coach of the Year Award**

Congratulations
Barney Knorp

Nominated by
Livonia Parks and Recreation

Barney Knorp's enthusiasm, knowledge, dedication and passion to making a difference in a child's life is priceless for our community. He has coached for the Parks and Recreation T-Ball, Coach Pitch and girls' slow-pitch softball leagues for six years. Each of those years he has coached at two different levels. As Barney's children have grown, he has advanced to our co-sponsored leagues, the Livonia Junior Athletic League and the Livonia Storm, where he has coached Alexandra's softball team, Meghan's fast-pitch team, and Jimmy's baseball team. Aside from his love of baseball, Barney also coaches two soccer teams through the Livonia City Soccer Club. That means during the spring season, he is coaching at least four different teams. Barney also helps with fundraising and behind the scenes activities.



**Great projects are created
by great partners!
Thank you CVS!!!**

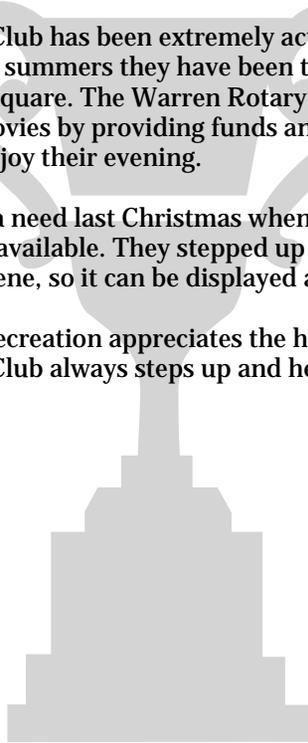
MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Warren Rotary Club
Nominated by
City of Warren

The Warren Rotary Club has been extremely active in the City of Warren. For the past two summers they have been the #1 sponsor for the city's Movies at the Square. The Warren Rotary Club has sponsored and worked these movies by providing funds and popcorn for people who have come to enjoy their evening.

They also answered a need last Christmas when the city's Nativity scene was no longer available. They stepped up and purchased a beautiful Nativity Scene, so it can be displayed at City Hall.

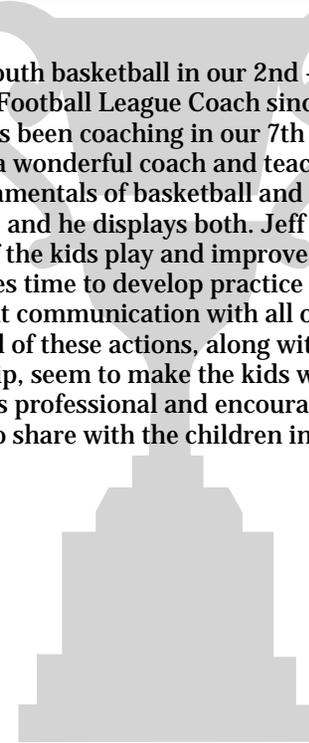
Warren Parks and Recreation appreciates the help they have given us. The Warren Rotary Club always steps up and helps where there is need.



Youth Sports Coach of the Year Award

Congratulations
Jeff Stone
Nominated by
Midland Community Center

Jeff has coached youth basketball in our 2nd - 6th grade leagues, been a Tiny Tykes Football League Coach since its inception, and for five years he has been coaching in our 7th - 12th grade basketball league. Jeff is a wonderful coach and teacher to these kids. Teaching the fundamentals of basketball and football takes a lot of work and patience, and he displays both. Jeff does a great job in ensuring that all of the kids play and improve during the course of the season. He takes time to develop practice schedules, detailed drills, and has great communication with all of the parents of kids that he coaches. All of these actions, along with teaching the kids good sportsmanship, seem to make the kids want to come back for more. Jeff is always professional and encouraging which are attributes that we look to share with the children in the program.



**Youth Sports
Coach of the Year Award**

Congratulations
Michael Auger
Nominated by
City of Oak Park

Michael has been a volunteer soccer coach for five seasons. Michael has shown the ability to work well with all of his players. He has consistently proven himself to be a very responsible and effective coach. Michael has taken the time to get to know all of his players, and has worked one-on-one with them in practice and has proven to be a very positive role model. Michael has selflessly given up his weekday evenings and Saturday mornings to host practices and attend games. The years that Michael has volunteered with us have been invaluable to the success of the league. Michael has gone above and beyond what is expected from a volunteer; he has become a friend to parents and particularly to the players. Oak Park is lucky to have Michael Auger in our city and our youth soccer program.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Hamilton Chevrolet
Nominated by
City of Warren

Mike Boguth and Hamilton Chevrolet have been community partners with the City of Warren for many years. We were always looking to hit them up for donations and I know many other civic groups are always looking for support from Hamilton Chevrolet. Warren Parks and Recreation truly values the friendship and partnership we have developed with Mike Boguth and Hamilton Chevrolet. Mike was the first Department Partner for Warren Parks and Recreation. A Department Partner is a sponsor for every Parks and Recreation Program for a full year and this is the third year of his partnership. Hamilton Chevrolet shares the belief in the importance of Parks and Recreation and we appreciate them. They are true friends of recreation and we look forward to working with them for years to come.

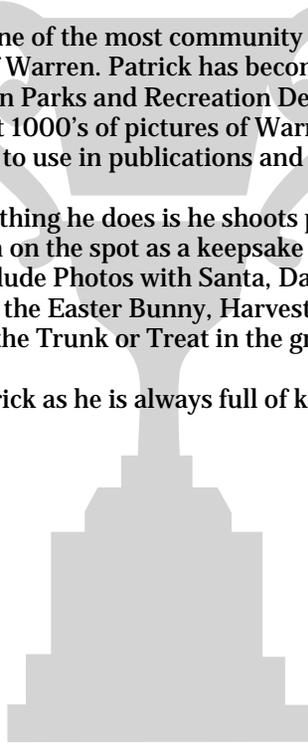
MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Patrick's Studios
Nominated by
City of Warren

Patrick is probably one of the most community minded individuals there is in the City of Warren. Patrick has become the official photographer for the Warren Parks and Recreation Department. In the past two years he has shot 1000's of pictures of Warren Parks and Recreation Programs for us to use in publications and promotions.

Probably the coolest thing he does is he shoots photos for residents to take home with them on the spot as a keepsake memory for the event. His photo shoots include Photos with Santa, Daddy Daughter Dance, Spring Carnival with the Easter Bunny, Harvest Hayday with the Great Pumpkin and the Trunk or Treat in the graveyard.

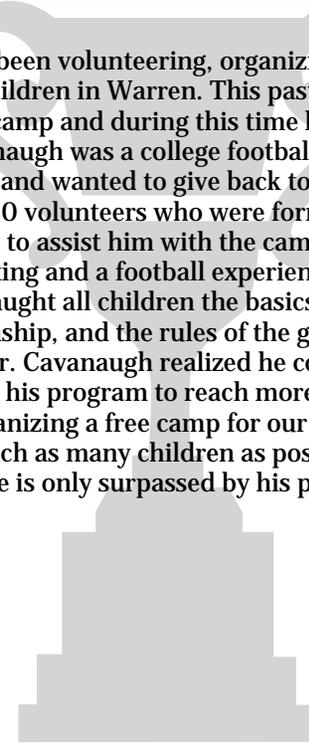
Everybody loves Patrick as he is always full of kind words and has a warm heart.



Youth Sports Coach of the Year Award

Congratulations
Pat Cavanaugh
Nominated by
City of Warren

Pat Cavanaugh has been volunteering, organizing, and running a free football camp for children in Warren. This past summer was the third year of his football camp and during this time he has served over 750 children. Mr. Cavanaugh was a college football player at Saginaw Valley State University and wanted to give back to his community. In doing so he recruited 10 volunteers who were former Division 1–3 college football players to assist him with the camp. Every child received a shirt for participating and a football experience that many would not receive. His camp taught all children the basics of football, including fair play, sportsmanship, and the rules of the game. After the first year of the camp, Mr. Cavanaugh realized he could serve more children, and expanded his program to reach more kids in the community. He is now organizing a free camp for our Little League football teams to try and reach as many children as possible. Mr. Cavanaugh's passion for the game is only surpassed by his passion for working with children.



**Youth Sports
Staff Member of the Year Award**

Congratulations
Mike Navarre and Eric Bryan
“The Ball Crew”

Nominated by
Independence Township
Parks and Recreation

Mike Navarre and Eric Bryan are known to Independence Township Parks and Recreation as "The Ball Crew". Mike and Eric have had the unique responsibility of preparing all the baseball and softball fields for the past three years. From May through August, they prepare up to 18 fields at six different sites, which includes daily lining and dragging, mowing the grass, emptying garbage and any other maintenance details that arise. For the past three years, Mike and Eric have gone above and beyond their job responsibilities to make youth sports a top priority in this community. Their typical work week consists of well over 40 hours and sometimes 7 days of dedication to detail! "The Ball Crew" must prepare fields for 11 different age groups, all consisting of their own base and mound distances, so it is extremely important to execute with accuracy. Not only are they exceptionally consistent and accurate, Mike and Eric also possess a likeability that is contagious. They are a delight to work with and a vital asset to us and the Independence Township community.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Jim George
Nominated by
Clinton Township

Mr. Jim George heads a family that has contributed a lasting legacy to the Clinton Township community. Mr. George and his three sons, representing the Moravian Hills Company, have given Clinton Township families an incredible place to play—the George George Memorial Park, named for Jim’s father. The park sits on a portion of what used to be Moravian Hills Country Club Golf Course. The 38 acre parcel of land was donated to the township by the George family as the golf course gave way to development. But the fountains, a stone pavilion, state-of-the-art restrooms and a maintenance facility—completely stocked with the necessary tools and equipment—were provided by this generous family. Not only was beauty, tranquility, and service to family incorporated in the park; environmental stewardship was also prominent. The park was designed with a working rain garden to filter the runoff from surrounding development. The George family’s attention to detail and sincere intent to deliver an extraordinary public space to our community has made a huge impact on the families of Clinton Township now and ever after. We are grateful for the beauty and opportunity this park provides. Most of all, we are grateful to Mr. Jim George and his exceptional family for their generosity and community spirit.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
CVS Caremark

Nominated by
City of Wayne

CVS has been instrumental in the new Play 4 All Boundless Playground in the City of Wayne. In 2007, CVS chose the City of Wayne Play 4 All Playground as their partner in their CVS Caremark Program, and they made an immediate impact. Last December they held a fundraising rally that attracted more than 300 CVS employees from 24 stores. They committed to a \$40,000 grant through the CVS All Kids Can Foundation, then made an additional goal to raise funds for the project. CVS hosted several fundraisers that raised an additional \$54,000 toward the project. CVS did not stop with their financial support. Over 250 CVS employees came to help build the new Play 4 All Boundless Playground on June 12, 13, and 14, 2008. We thank the CVS staff throughout the State of Michigan who made the commitment to our project. The partnership with the City of Wayne and CVS has been one that we will never forget. It is our pleasure to nominate such an outstanding group of people who truly work together to make a difference in their community. They definitely depict the "TEAM" philosophy.

Youth Sports Staff Member of the Year Award

Congratulations
Kristin Eddy

Nominated by
Midland Community Center

Kristin is an Athletics Coordinator at the Midland Community Center. Here she is a vital part of our athletics team and works with children as well as adults through the many programs that she oversees. Especially when working with children, Kristin goes out of her way to help them and give them the best, most positive experience that they can have. Kids of all ages love Kristin! She coaches them, teaches them, and listens to them. Through her passion and positive attitude, she has grown the Tiny Tykes Football League tremendously since its inception and she has increased the number of teams in our 7th - 12th Grade Basketball Leagues. Youth in Midland consider the Community Center League as the best place to play, learn, and have lots of fun! Kristin also coaches and instructs youth in volleyball so that they can improve their game and learn more about the sport.

Youth Sports Staff Member of the Year Award

Congratulations
Keith Banes

Nominated by
Springfield Township

Keith Banes has been working with the Broncho Basketball program in Holly for over 10 years. He began by coaching his children in the program more than 12 years ago. Later, his passion for the sport and love for the program led him to a more dedicated position. For the past three years Keith has been the Bronco Basketball Commissioner. Keith has volunteered many hours of his time to ensure a quality youth basketball program is offered to the Holly community. Keith helps in organizing and oversees all games. Keith loves working with the kids whether they are developing their basketball skills as athletes, or learning everyday problem solving as referees. Keith has nothing to gain from this position but the pure satisfaction of knowing that he is helping his community. Keith is definitely a great asset to the Holly community, Broncho Basketball Program, and Springfield Township Parks and Recreation.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
**Trail Blazers for the Lansing River Trail—
Southern Extension**

Nominated by
Lansing Parks and Recreation

Walkers, bikers and rollerbladers now have 3 new miles of the Lansing River Trail to use thanks to land donations from three very generous corporate citizens: Kellie Dean, James Parish, and Joe Maguire. The new three mile southerly stretch of River Trail runs along the Sycamore Creek and connects Potter Park Zoo, the Sycamore Creek Driving Range, The First Tee of Mid-Michigan, Scott Woods Park, Hawk Island Park, and Maguire Park. Briefly, the three men donated the following: Kellie Dean is the President and Owner of Dean Transportation, which provides transportation services for children and adults with special needs. Dean Transportation also provides transportation services for the Lansing School District. He also owns Dean's Charters and Tours, which provides luxury motor coaches throughout the US and Canada. Kellie donated 5.46 acres of land along the Sycamore Creek for trail development. James Parish is part owner of the Lansing "Soccer Zone". James is the President of Parish Corporation, a general contracting firm in the Lansing area. James serves as the Vice President of the Lansing Arts Council and Advisory Board member of "Origami", an organization that works with victims of traumatic brain injuries. James donated 4.02 acres of land along the Sycamore Creek for trail development. Joe Maguire is the President of Wolverine Development Corporation. In 2002, Joe contacted the Parks and Recreation Department and offered a donation of 8.86 acres of land to be used as a park in honor of his parents Bruce J. and Mary Jo Maguire. Maguire Park will now serve as a trail head for the new southern extension of the Lansing River Trail. Joe and the Department will begin developing the trail head park in 2009, which hopes to feature improved landscaping, playground area, parking, bike racks and picnicking shelter.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Pontiac Creative Art Center
Nominated by
Portia Fields-Anderson

The Creative Art Center of Pontiac has been providing cultural art opportunities for North Oakland County for many years. Housed in a historical building that was the first library in Oakland County, this cultural icon makes all programs accessible to its community with classes in pottery, ceramics, cartooning and drawing, voice and instrument music classes, as well as hat making, dance and tumbling classes. Juried art exhibits from professional artists, school adjudicated shows and jazz performances. Summer sees the Confetti Camp serving underserved youth with classes in dance, art, and music, performances, lunch, field trips, special drumming classes and performances from professional artists. You can even get your hunting license by attending the annual hunter safety class. Partnering for many years with the recreation department, area churches, local playground programs, summer lunch and low income housing complexes has allowed these opportunities to reach far and wide reaching all segments of the community. Because of all of their great contributions, The Creative Art Center is truly deserving of this recognition.

Margaret Whitehead Senior Citizen of the Year Service Award

Congratulations
Ed Ostrovich
Nominated by
Jackson Recreation

Ed Ostrovich is a hard working volunteer who shares his skills, knowledge and wonderful attitude with our community. He is accountable, interested in other people, able to communicate, responsible, and involved. Ed was born with a heart to give! He demonstrates significant contributions to our senior programs and he should be distinguished for his service. Ed is involved with many of our programs. He runs our senior bingo program, which is very successful due to him. He oversees the finances, the refreshments (he picks up 120 donuts each bingo day), the bingo staff, the bookwork, and the reports. He also aids us in the cooking department. Ed is known for great spaghetti, hotdogs, potato pancakes, noodles, and the list goes on. Ed works on our senior Christmas program; he is willing to pick up donations from local contributors. He runs many miles up on his personal vehicle just for the love of his fellow seniors, and also helps us out at every "Walk Michigan" event we have in Jackson. He has blown up many helium balloons in the last 19 years. Ed is involved in people! He cares about them and it shows! His wife, Rosie, is also right there by his side and they make a wonderful team! I hope you meet Ed (and Rosie) because if anyone was deserving of this special award, this man sure is!

Margaret Whitehead Senior Citizen of the Year Leadership Award

Congratulations
James Brown

Nominated by
Berkley Parks and Recreation

Jim is a life long resident of Berkley and has been involved in multiple community organizations working to brighten our city. His experience with the Senior Center started in 1975, when he began playing weekly bridge. He took over the leadership role of the program in 1983, and has run with it ever since. Jim has increased the number of tables at Berkley's weekly game from the low teens to anywhere from 25 -30. He has a loyal group of volunteers that he has molded into a fine working machine. Seniors enjoy playing at Berkley's weekly game, as it is well managed and organized. Outside of the game, Jim instituted a giving program with his group where donations are given to St. Vincent de Paul's food bank and clothing center. Many people have benefited from Jim's generosity—he leads by example and principle. Jim is also involved as a leader of the Senior Center's newsletter group which meets monthly to collate, fold and mail out the monthly publication. Once completed, Jim delivers the newsletters to Berkley's Senior high-rise building and visits with the residents. He would make a magnificent recipient of the Margaret Whitehead Senior of the Year Award for Leadership.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Tim Travis

Nominated by
Portia Fields-Anderson

Tim Travis is a true supporter of not only the Pontiac Community, but of North Oakland County, in word, action and deed. He believes his business should benefit the community and he proves it by beautifying the grounds and boulevards around his business and other community spaces. He designed and implemented a children's garden and created a community vegetable garden for disadvantaged youth. Tim also works with children to create an interest in plants and to inspire them to take a proactive role in protecting our global ecology. He has served on several boards and partnered with Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club, United Way, Food Bank of Oakland County, Clinton River Clean-up, Downtown Beautification, the Pontiac Garden Club, and more, all of which enhance the Pontiac Community. An example of his avid support of the arts is the entrance garden to the Birmingham/Bloomfield Art Center that he designed and installed, and also the juried exhibitions of Michigan artists that are exhibited in its lobby. Tim is truly deserving of the MRPA Community Service award as he exemplifies the true meaning of this recognition.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Jim Tesnar and Susan Leigh
Nominated by
Independence Township

The Clarkston Community Garden was resurrected by these two volunteers this Spring. The Garden had been non-existent for two years, since the Township Board no longer allowed the Garden to be operated by court appointed volunteers. Between these two phenomenal volunteers, they logged hundreds of hours this summer. They marketed the garden to recruit volunteers and donations, which included a Community Day at the garden. The day was a huge success with over forty neighbors in attendance. They implemented a volunteer program to plant and harvest 2500 pounds of food which was all donated to a local food bank. They were instrumental in maintaining and improving the garden and the surrounding property. In addition to all of the outdoor work, they prepared presentations to the Township Board, as well as plans for the Garden for upcoming years. Susan Leigh has been gardening for over thirty years and recently finished her Master Gardener Certification. Originally from Canada, she now resides in Beverly Hills, but she says that Clarkston inspires her to be part of a community and she really enjoys her work at the Clarkston Community Garden. She feels the need to share her love of gardening (which originated from her family garden) with others in the community, while at the same time benefiting people who are less fortunate. Jim Tesner, a horticultural professional and former marketing manager of a local nursery, has brought years of experience of community gardening. With his knowledge and resources, the Clarkston garden helps hundreds of people by providing a space for a healthy, outdoor hobby that produces thousands of pounds of organic, fresh foods. The Clarkston Community Garden is a wonderful enrichment to the Community and the Garden would not be what it is today without the dedication of Jim and Susan. They exemplify true community volunteerism and are making a difference in the Clarkston community!

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Livonia Arts Commission
Nominated by
City of Livonia

The Livonia Arts Commission was established in 1973, and has made contributions in all cultural fields to benefit our residents. They accomplish their mission: "To preserve, promote, sponsor, and develop the Arts in Livonia. To continue community access to art experiences, opportunities and improving community awareness" by hosting numerous events. Their annual juried arts festival, Art from the Heart, has been in existence for over 30 years. The summer concert series, Music from the Heart, was established in 1998. Also in 1998, a Fine Arts Exhibition was established and in 2006, "Music from the Garage" was born. They monetarily sponsor the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, Noontime Concert Series at the Library, and several non-profit organizations. The Commission provides a Fine Arts Scholarship on an annual basis to young people, and encourages the talents of local artists through the monthly displays in the Library Gallery.



MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Pastor Steve Adams

Nominated by
Romulus Parks and Recreation

Pastor Steve Adams is a highly respected and distinguished individual in the Romulus community. He is always on the move, seeking avenues to improve the lives of other people. Pastor Steve's numerous efforts have greatly impacted the City of Romulus Parks & Recreation Department. He is involved in organizing many functions, including roller hockey tournaments, movies in the park, 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, and our Pumpkin Festival Parade of Lights. Because of Pastor Steve, the Romulus Wesleyan Church and the Parks & Recreation Department have developed a strong bond and work collaboratively to share resources to promote a sense of community. The Romulus Wesleyan Church is Pastor Steve's first church. As spoken by one of his many loyal members, he has "opened the church to become a community church." Pastor Steve serves on the Romulus Christian Ministerial Alliance, which works with all community churches to help bring the people together as one. They organize the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Walk, National Day of Prayer services throughout Romulus, a weekly Bible Study at our local senior towers, a community-wide Easter service and Thanksgiving baskets to the less fortunate. Pastor Steve is an active member of World Hope, the organization that provides disaster relief to people in need. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, he organized three relief trips to Louisiana, and two trips to Kansas after the deadly tornado. His most recent relief effort was to Texas. He is also instrumental to My Brother's Keeper, which provides food to the homeless in downtown Detroit. We are fortunate to have Pastor Steve in our community for these and countless other reasons. He understands the value of Parks & Recreation and the importance of working together to achieve common goals. Pastor Steve is highly deserving of this special recognition and we applaud him for his countless efforts.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Bay City Lions Club

Nominated by
City of Bay City

Over the past eighteen years, the Bay City Lions Club has played an active role in the development of Bigelow Park, a nine acre facility located along the banks of the Saginaw River in the City of Bay City. Through their dedication, commitment and significant financial contributions, the park site has grown to be one of the most popular recreational facilities in the community. Their continuing efforts have resulted in the development of a 30' x 60' covered pavilion, a children's playground, sanitary and maintenance facilities, a drinking fountain, and site amenities. The Club is currently undertaking the construction of an accessible walkway to the playground and the purchase and installation of two bike racks. In addition, Club members regularly assist with annual park cleanups each spring, as well as occasional maintenance to clean and paint building structures. Bigelow Park attracts significant use during the warm season and has become a popular venue for small special events, family gatherings and general public use. The Bay City Lions Club has been a faithful and generous partner, as well as a driving force for the improvement of recreation opportunities in the Bay City community.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Florice Hughes

Nominated by
City of Oak Park

Florice Hughes joined the Oak Park Seniors in 1987 and we had the good sense to recruit her for various volunteer assignments. Like all senior programs, we could not provide the diversified programming that we strive to offer without the dedication and commitment of wonderful volunteers like Florice. To say that we couldn't make it without her is not an overstatement. She is literally the glue that binds us all together. Florice will tell you that she was motivated to join the center to meet people and travel. She's definitely a people person and one who loves a good laugh. You'll always hear the sound of her hearty laugh several times throughout the day. She brings to our program a true spirit of generosity and goodwill, and her fellow senior members and the staff are the lucky recipients. She is our chief Meal Plan Coordinator for programs and special events, whether small or large. She organizes the inventory supplies, orders food and/or prepares it, serves refreshments, creates decorations and sets up rooms according to her design plan. All this time she works with a team who under her leadership assist in the entire operation. Florice's leadership has been recognized by all and she is kindly referred to as "the boss." Florice is a boss who is esteemed and highly respected for all her wonderful work and personal integrity by everyone who is privileged to work with her and know her. Florice is an inspiration, because no matter how hard the tasks, or how many hours the work requires, she will be there smiling and working in true team spirit. She has made our Senior Center a brighter place by her ever present good humor and helpful nature.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Senior Home Assistance Repair Program

Nominated by
Troy Parks and Recreation

In December 2005, Dave Taylor of Big Beaver United Methodist Church in Troy listened to his minister tell about his visit to a shut-in, who asked if he could change a light bulb for her. Dave walked away that night feeling something needed to be done, and after much thought he came up with the dream of starting a program to help seniors, regardless of income, with home repairs. Labor would be provided free. The homeowners would only have to pay for supplies. The program started small with contacts made to his church and the City's low-income Home Chore recipients. Requests for help grew when an article was run in the Parks and Recreation senior newsletter, and there became a need for funding. Dave approached the Community Foundation of Troy and got overwhelming support. The program was officially kicked off city wide in January 2007 and was soon expanded to include persons with disabilities. There were 304 requests for service in 2007. In 2008, this number was surpassed by September. Volunteers continue to sign on, and SHARP now has over three dozen active members. Appreciation for the program has been heart warming. Comments from homeowners include:

"We are grateful for the quick and courteous response to our request for assistance after my father's stroke."

"You did an exceptional job. What an excellent program. Thank you so much."

"My heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers-God bless them."

The SHARP program helps seniors to remain independent for a longer period of time and is a wonderful asset to the community.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Whole Foods Market

Nominated by
West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation

Whole Foods Market's involvement in the community and with West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation has spanned many programs over the last 7 years. Sponsorship of programs include: West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation HalloweenFest, Henry Ford Rock and Road 5/10 K, and the West Bloomfield Half Marathon and 5K. Whole Foods is a generous supporter of the West Bloomfield Community Coalition for Youth, Greater West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, Chaldean Americans Reaching and Encouraging, and the Jewish Community Center— just a few of the organizations that benefit from the generosity of Whole Foods Market in West Bloomfield.



MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations
Friends of Henne Field

Nominated by
Saline Parks and Recreation

The Friends of Henne Field have been serving the Saline community for a year and a half. Henne Field has been a large part of the history and growth of the City of Saline and the Saline Area Schools for over 60 years. For many years it has been a meeting place during community events and a destination for kids seeking a fun place to play. Henne Field has served the community well, but is now in need of a makeover to bring it back to the prominence it once held in our lives. The Friends of Henne Field have raised over \$650,000 of a \$1.3 million project, and have begun construction of new improvements for the field. Improvements include a new 1/3 mile walking trail with fitness stations, a new entertainment area, and 2 new baseball fields. Henne Field of the future will be a community gathering place that embraces Saline's historic past.



MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations

Ping's Professional Sports Agency

Nominated by

Saline Parks and Recreation

Doc Ping, founder of Ping's Professional Sports Agency (PPSA) has been a great supporter of Saline Parks & Recreation and the Saline community for over 17 years. Each June, he and his committee host the Ping's Athletic Scholarship Fund Pro Football Celebrity/Charity Golf Outing. This golf outing provides outstanding student athletes who excel in the classroom and on the field with college scholarships, provides financial support for local charities as well as raises money for Saline Parks & Recreation's REC ON THE GO program, a free summertime program held at local neighborhood parks and playgrounds. Doc Ping's commitment to Parks & Recreation continues each year as he, his professional athletes, and his staff give back to the community through the annual Pro Football Fun Camp, special celebrity visits with day campers and other youth groups, their involvement with community fund raising events by donating auction items and volunteering time, offering Jujitsu classes for youth and families, and much more. Saline Parks & Recreation is proud to recognize PPSA for the MRPA Community Service Award.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations

Greek Islands Coney Restaurant

Nominated by

West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation

Greek Islands Restaurant has been and continues to be a great supporter of many local organizations. For the past seven years Greek Islands has provided the breakfast for the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Camp In / Camp Out. In 2008, they also provided the after race refreshments for the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Rock and Road 5/10K. Never one to say no, co-owner George Dimantis has been a backer of not only parks and recreation, but also for the West Bloomfield Senior Class All Night Party, the West Bloomfield Community Coalition, Pleasant Lake Elementary Family Day and many other community fundraisers. Always there with a friendly smile and welcoming words, George and his staff have shown by their actions what it truly means to be part of a community.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations

WSP-3 Friends of Wells State Park

Nominated by

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

In 2005, the WSP-3 Friends of "Wells State Park" recognized the critical need for new playground equipment in the park's modern campground. A core group of families, led by Barb Varney, approached the park supervisor with an idea to raise money for the new facilities. The group then began raising money, through various efforts, in the park for the next two camping seasons. Raffles, auctions, 50/50 drawings, and the sale of donated handmade items were just some of the means used to generate funds. During the non-camping months the WSP-3 group did not rest. They continued to raise money by applying for grants. The group was successful in getting grant money from four local foundations, surpassing their goal of \$36,500 by nearly \$10,000.

MRPA Community Service Awards

Congratulations

**Oakland County Sheriff's Office -
Benefit for the Handicapped**

Nominated by

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Friends of Dodge #4 State Park - Oakland County Sheriff's Office Benefit for the Handicapped has proven to be an innumerable benefit to the operation of Dodge #4 State Park. Although they have only been operating as the park's friends group for a little over a year, they have raised in excess of \$180,000 in cash and donations that will provide for a new universally accessible playground, provide minor upgrades to the park beach building, and most notably, the installation of a security gate, renovated volleyball court, and assistance in removing trees and litter. All of the aforementioned have been of great benefit to the park, but most notable is their contribution to their core mission. Every summer, for the past 18 years, this group has been responsible for the Annual Disabled Fishing Derby in which they provide food and entertainment for 1,500 disabled children and their parents. This event, for one day each year, makes a number of children's dreams come true—a day in which they can go for boat rides, fish, visit a petting zoo, be entertained by clowns, and enjoy all that the park has to offer in terms of its natural setting. It would be difficult to describe the impact this event has on those that attend, but the year-long effort that goes into staging the event, and simply seeing the smiles on the children's and parents' faces, is definitely worth it. We whole-heartedly nominate the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Benefit for the Handicapped - Friends Group for the MRPA Community Service Award.