

THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER



November 2015, issue 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>PAC Highlights: VIPs</i>	1
<i>PAC Resources: Elevate</i>	1
<i>PAC Highlights Cont.</i>	2
<i>FOTP Archives: VIPs</i>	2
<i>Dates to Know</i>	2
<i>The FOTP Tree Says...</i>	2

Friends of the Parks



17 N State St
Suite 1450
Chicago, IL 60602-3315



(312) 857-2757



www. Fotp.org
Email: Info@fotp.org



www.facebook.com/
friendsoftheparks



www.twitter.com/
fotpchicago

VIP AWARDS: HONORING 2014 & 2015'S VOLUNTEERS

Since 1995, Friends of the Parks has been honoring the outstanding volunteers, community groups, and city and county employees who have made significant contributions to their parks and forest preserves. The "Volunteer-in-the-Parks" Appreciation Reception, endearingly known as the VIP Awards Reception, helps us acknowledge and celebrate these volunteers and stewards who help make our parks and open spaces great. Below is a list of our 2014 and 2015 VIP awardees, and a few PACs have been highlighted in this issue. See the full details on our blog (www.fotp.org/blog) and photos to come on our Facebook page.

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER AWARDEES

Barbara Britten, Burnside Park (2014)
Rita Barth, Cragin Park (2014)
Rosa Ferrira, Russell Square Park (2014)
Jody Boutell, Hamlin Park (2015)

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP AWARDEE

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (2015)

ADVOCACY AWARDEE

West Ridge Nature Preserve Advisory Council (2015)

STEWARDSHIP AWARDEES

Debra Sidock (2014)
Joe Capobianco (2015)

OUTSTANDING CPD EMPLOYEE AWARDEES

Jobi Allmon, Fosco Park (2014)
Jerome Pledger, Don Nash Community Center (2014)
Aaron Rodgers, Grand Crossing Park (2015)

OUTSTANDING PAC AWARDEES

Bradley/Pine Park Advisory Council (2014)
Palmisano Nature Preserve Advisory Council (2014)
Don Nash Park Advisory Council (2015)

SMOKY SAKURADA AWARDEES

Debbie Solomon (2014)
Eleanor Roemer (2015)



The Bradley/Pine Park Advisory Council advocates, supports, and fundraises for not just one park, but two. The Bradley/Pine PAC nominated both playgrounds for Chicago Plays! in 2014. They hosted two successful community work days, bringing together dozens of children and community members for the official ribbon cuttings. They have a walking club in the park that meets regularly and challenges residents to think healthy and be healthy. They also host various park events, including movies in the park.

PAC RESOURCES —ELEVATE ENERGY

Local non-profit *Elevate Energy* is helping homeowners in the area make smart choices about energy. They're offering to meet with PACs to discuss how to make basic improvements to the home and to discuss various pricing programs. Although this program is not a direct resource to our public parks, outreach specialists at Elevate Energy can be used by the PAC to engage residents in a meeting or they can even table your PAC events. To find out more, contact **Mike Harrington: 312.532.9846 & mike.harrington@elevateenergy.org**.

PAC HIGHLIGHTS: VIP 2014 & 2015 AWARDEES CONTINUED

The Palmisano PAC hosts monthly work days in the beautiful natural area that was once an old quarry. While being a young PAC, they've held three annual Air and Water Show events, bringing in hundreds of residents yearly as well as park partners and vendors for the event. They regularly partner with their neighbors at the McGuane PAC to host concerts and events, and they are always looking for new opportunities and creative ways to engage local residents in partaking in and loving their park just as much as they do.



For over a decade the Don Nash PAC has remained a committed presence in the Don Nash Community Center. Their faces may have changed, but their dedication to bringing about quality programming and assisting the community has been the same. During the past year alone, the group has continued their efforts to raise money and pay for community children and teens to attend the park's programs and to donate winter gear to elementary school children of the 5th ward. Moreover, the council sponsored a fundraiser KATCH THE KURE for the American Cancer Society, in honor of recently affected Nash Community Center participants and the recently transitioned Advisory Council



President, Korla R. Williams. They have purchased new chairs, a commercial air conditioner, a freezer, and a grill for the park, park staff, and park patrons. These are just a few highlights demonstrating how this PAC has impacted their park. The Nash Park Advisory Council is an outstanding collection of neighborhood residents who are clearly dedicated to their Community Center.

FOTP ARCHIVES: VOLUNTEER AWARDEES



In 1997, FOTP honored 9 individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions across Chicago. **Left:** Dr. James Landing (center) won the Environmental Awareness award for his efforts to educate the public about ecology at Calumet Park. Also pictured, Eleanor Roemer (right), the 2015 Smoky Sakurada Award winner and former FOTP Policy Director. **Right:** Former FOTP Board President, Jeff Green (left), honored Theresa Bendik (right) with the Park Advisory Council award for her work in Chicago's southwest-side parks.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 9th:
Washington & Jackson
Parks Public Workshop,
2-7pm

December 10: FOTP
Netsch Lecture, Robert
Karr on Project 120

February 4th: FOTP
Annual Luncheon

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS,



Chicagoans know the winter blues all too well. Before the first snow hits, you can think about how your PAC or park partner can engage residents in the outdoors during the wintertime. Here are some event ideas for this coming winter. As always, get approval from your Park Supervisor first!

- Sledding races or contests — The winner get's a gym membership at the park! (As a possible prize perhaps.)
- Snowman contest or a snowman day — Let's fill the park with snowpeople & have hot chocolate afterwards!
- Make pinecone bird feeders—Hunt for pinecones in your park and return to the craft table to make a bird feeder.
- Other ideas: Snowangel day, tree lighting and decorating, caroling and story telling, wreath decorating, winter walk-a-thon and so much more!

What's your great idea on how to get your community involved in your park and outside this winter?