



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2022

Contact: Larry Forssberg

Email: wcctb@westmontchamber.com

Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau
One South Cass Avenue, Suite 101
Westmont, IL 60559
Phone: 630-960-5553 - Fax: 630-960-5554
www.westmontchamber.com

Annual Westmont Community Awards Dinner

Westmont Recognizes Excellence in the Community

Westmont, Illinois, April 28, 2022 – The Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau (WCCTB) hosted the Annual Westmont Community Awards Dinner to recognize area individuals and businesses. The Awards Dinner was held on April 28, 2022 at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center.

The Westmont Chamber Community Awards Dinner is an annual tradition in Westmont designed to provide a special opportunity to pause and recognize the many wonderful volunteers, activities and businesses that work to make Westmont a great place to live, work and visit.

WCCTB President Alison Clemens noted that “Over one-hundred and fifty Westmont area residents, business owners, and civic leaders attended the Westmont Chamber Community Awards program to demonstrate support for our community. The Westmont Chamber along with the Village of Westmont, American Legion Post No. 338, Rotary Club of Westmont, Westmont Special Events Corporation and the Knights of Columbus are collectively proud to recognize the individuals and businesses that help contribute to the growth and success of Westmont, in a manner that keeps Westmont a great place to live, work and visit.”

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

- ✓ The 2021 Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year Award recognizes a Chamber business that has excelled in community service, business promotion, civic responsibility and contributions to the betterment of the Chamber and the Village of Westmont. The nominees for this award were: Alia Rose Salon, TW Group and Westmont Special Events Corporation NFP. The Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year award was presented to TW Group (850 North Cass Avenue) in recognition of their high level of community interaction and support.

- ✓ The 2021 Roger Westman President's Award recognizes an individual who has performed outstanding service to the Chamber and the Westmont Community. The Roger Westman President's award was presented to Jessica Garrett, owner of Dynamic Perception Dance Company, by Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens.
- ✓ 2021 Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year Award recognizes individuals that reside in Westmont and that have demonstrated exceptional community involvement and leadership. Mayor Gunter noted "we have three wonderful people nominated for the Westmont Citizen of the Year that have made such a positive impact to the success of Westmont." The nominees for this award were: Jennifer Babyar, Tracey Valerio Spotts and Wallace Van Buren. The Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year award was presented to Jenny Babyar by Westmont Mayor Ron Gunter.
- ✓ The 2021 Educator-of-the-Year Award recognizes a local educator for their outstanding efforts in their field and to the betterment of the Village of Westmont. The Educator-of-the-Year award was presented to Brian Sherry from Westmont Junior High School.
- ✓ The 2021 Westmont Public Servant Award recognizes a member of the municipal organizations who demonstrates exemplary public service to the community. The Westmont Public Service Award was presented to Rose Gross, Village of Westmont Public Works, by Westmont Mayor Ron Gunter and Village Manager Stephen May.
- ✓ The 2021 Mayor's Special Recognition Award was presented to Walter Van Buren by Westmont Mayor Ron Gunter and Village Manager Stephen May.
- ✓ A joint presentation between the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Westmont for the Making a Difference Community Service Award was presented to Mike Frigo by Mayor Ron Gunter, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, and Westmont Chamber Executive Director Larry Forssberg.
- ✓ The Rotary Club of Westmont Paul Harris Award was presented to Greg Pantke in recognition of his exceptional level of community service and volunteer work. The presenters were Elaine Carmichael and Linda Sobotka.
- ✓ The 2021 Westmont Special Events Corporation "Jim Wright Making Memories Award" was presented to Larry Boyle by WSEC Executive Director Kristina Kaniauskaite and WSEC volunteer Maggie South.

- ✓ The Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Brad Alexander and Knight Hank Anzelone presented the “Knight of the Year” Award to Ray Wachowski. The “Family of the Year” Award was presented to Greg and Linda Sobotka. The Knights of Columbus “In Service to One, In Service to All” Award was presented to Julie Stone.

- ✓ American Legion Post No. 338 presented its first ever Americanism Award. Commander Frank Trout presented this award to Marcel Levesque

- ✓ The Westmont Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau recognized the following Chamber board members for outstanding service, Steve Bauer, Phillip’s Flowers and Gifts and Kevin Carey, Superintendent, Community Unit School District 201.

- ✓ The 2021 Westmont Community Improvement Award recognizes individual business property owners and businesses that have improved the appearance of their property. Community Improvement Awards for 2021 were presented to:
 - Lia Knudtson, Alia Rose Salon, 22 N. Cass Avenue

 - Ashley Payne, Artistic Pursuit, 226 N. Cass Avenue

 - Alison Clemens, Clemens Enterprises, Inc., 41 N. Cass Avenue

 - Estela Sanchez, Brianna Adrias, Curaleaf, 11 East Ogden Avenue

 - Raffaele Cirillo, Michelle Colucci, Taurasi Restaurant, 14 North Cass Avenue

- ✓ The 2022 Westmont Dining Reader’s Choice Awards is a program co-sponsored by the Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau and Shaw Media. The public was able to vote for their favorite restaurants, dining experiences and food during the time period of March 3 - 24. There were 30 categories provided to consider. The winners were:

Best Asian Cuisine – Katy’s Dumpling House

Best Bakery – The Sweet & Savory Spot (*4th year in a row*)

Best Banquet Space – Zazzo’s Pizza & Catering (*4th year in a row*)

Best BBQ – Uncle Bub’s BBQ (*7th year in a row*)

Best Breakfast – Citrus Diner *(6th year in a row)*

Best Brewery – Whiskey Hill *(3rd year in a row)*

Best Burger – DJ's Sport Bar and Grill *(7th year in a row)*

Best Catering – Citrus Diner

Best Coffee Shop – Brewed Awakening *(7th year in a row)*

Best Drinking Establishment – DJ's Sports Bar and Grill *(6th year in a row)*

Best Family Friendly Restaurant – Citrus Diner

Best Fast Casual – Uncle Bub's BBQ & Catering *(4th year in a row)*

Best Fast Food – Potbelly Sandwich Works

Best Fine Dining – Dolce's Restaurant

Best Full-Service Restaurant & Bar – Zazzo's Pizza & Catering *(4th year in a row)*

Best Holiday Brunch – Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center
(3rd year in a row)

Best Ice Cream – Dairy Queen

Best Indian Cuisine Restaurant – Big Suchir Restaurant

Best Italian Cuisine – Zazzo's Pizza & Catering *(4th year in a row)*

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

Best Lunch – Citrus Diner

Best Mediterranean – Taste Greek Street Food *(3rd year in a row)*

Best Mexican Restaurant – Las Palmas Restaurant *(4th year in a row)*

Best for Outdoor Dining – J. Fleming's Absolutely Delicious *(7th year in a row)*

Best Pizza – Zazzo's Pizza & Catering *(5th year in a row)*

Best Salad – Citrus Diner

Best Sandwich – Citrus Diner

Best Seafood – Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen (*7th year in a row*)

Best Sushi – Sushi House (*7th year in a row*)

Best Video Gaming – DJ's Sports Bar & Grill (*7th year in a row*)

Mayor Ron Gunter remarked “Congratulations to all the nominees for everything you do to make Westmont a wonderful place to live and work and for being the best community for volunteerism in the state!”

Event photos can be retrieved at the Photo Gallery at <https://westmontchamber.smugmug.com/2022/2022-Westmont-Community-Awards-Dinner/>

#

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

Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, 2021 Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year Award recipient Tom Walsh, owner, TW Group, Mary Walsh, Westmont Chamber Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Kevin Carey



Pictured from left to right, 2021 Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year Award recipient Jenny Babyar, Mayor Ron Gunter



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Larry Forsberg, 2021 Roger Westman President's Award recipient Jessica Garrett, Westmont Chamber of Commerce President Alison Clemens



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, 2021 Educator-of-the-Year Award recipient Brian Sherry, Westmont Junior High School, Westmont Chamber Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Kevin Carey,



Pictured from left to right, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2021 Westmont Public Servant Award recipient Rose Gross, Village Manager Stephen May



Pictured from left to right, Village Manager Stephen May, 2021 Mayor's Special Recognition Award recipient Walter Van Buren, Mayor Ron Gunter



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Executive Director Larry Forssberg, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, Making a Difference Community Service Award recipient Mike Frigo, Mayor Ron Gunter



Pictured from left to right, Commander Frank Trout, 2021 American Legion Post No. 338 Americanism Award recipient Marcel Levesque



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Special Events Corporation (WSEC) Volunteer Maggie South, 2021 Westmont Special Events Corporation "Jim Wright Making Memories Award" Larry Boyle, WSEC Executive Director Kristina Kaniauskaite



Pictured from left to right, Linda Sobotka, 2021 Rotary Club of Westmont Paul Harris Award recipient Greg Pantke, Elaine Carmichael



Pictured from left to right, Knights of Columbus “In Service to One, In Service to All” Award recipient Julie Stone, Knight Hank Anzelone, Grand Knight Brad Alexander



Pictured from left to right, Knights of Columbus “Knight of the Year” Award recipient Knight Ray Wachowski, Grand Knight Brad Alexander, Knight Hank Anzelone,



Pictured from left to right, Knights of Columbus “Family of the Year” Award recipients Linda and Greg Sobotka, Grand Knight Brad Alexander, Knight Hank Anzelone



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, 2021 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Lia Knudtson, owner, Alia Rose Salon, Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Kevin Carey



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, 2021 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Ashley Payne, owner, Artistic Pursuit, Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Kevin Carey



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, 2021 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Alison Clemens, owner, Clemens Enterprises, Inc., Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Kevin Carey



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, 2021 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipients Estela Sanchez, Brianna Adrias, Curaleaf, Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Kevin Carey



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Larry Forssberg, Westmont Chamber Past President Kevin Carey, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, 2022 Best Bakery winner The Sweet & Savory Spot owner Danielle Kirin, Mayor Ron Gunter, Bill Korb, Shaw Media, Jay Rushford, Co-Chair Westmont Restaurant Group



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, multiple 2022 Best of restaurant winner Citrus Diner owner Jim Romas, Mayor Ron Gunter, Bill Korb, Shaw Media, Jay Rushford, Co-Chair Westmont Restaurant Group



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, Mayor Ron Gunter, multiple 2022 Best of restaurant winner Zazzo's Pizza and Catering representative Lisa Barraco, Bill Korbel, Shaw Media, Jay Rushford, Co-Chair Westmont Restaurant Group



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, Mayor Ron Gunter, multiple 2022 Best of restaurant winner Uncle Bub's BBQ & Catering representative Marie Baldwin, Bill Korbel, Shaw Media, Jay Rushford, Co-Chair Westmont Restaurant Group



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, Mayor Ron Gunter, multiple 2022 Best of restaurant winner DJ's Sports Bar & Grill owner Tracey Valerio Spotts, Bill Korbel, Shaw Media, Jay Rushford, Co-Chair Westmont Restaurant Group



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2022 Best Fine Dining winner Dolce's Restaurant owner Stephen Fleck, Carrie Fleck, Bill Korbel, Shaw Media, Jay Rushford, Co-Chair Westmont Restaurant Group



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2022 Best Holiday Brunch winner Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center representative Rebecca Hagerty, Bill Korbel, Shaw Media, Jay Rushford, Co-Chair Westmont Restaurant Group



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, , Mayor Ron Gunter, multiple 2022 Best of Restaurant winner J. Fleming's Absolutely Delicious owner John Fleming, Bill Korbel, Shaw Media, Jay Rushford, Co-Chair Westmont Restaurant Group



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Alison Clemens, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2022 Best Ice Cream winner Dairy Queen owner Nimisha Patel, Bill Korbel, Shaw Media, Jay Rushford, Co-Chair Westmont Restaurant Group

