



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Annual Westmont Community Awards Dinner**

### ***Westmont Recognizes Excellence in the Community***

**Westmont, Illinois, May 9, 2019** – 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 29, 2019 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 Steve Wozny noted that “Over one-hundred and sixty 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, 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 2018 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: Uncle Bub’s Award Winning BBQ & Catering and Westmont Yard. The Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year award was presented to Uncle Bub’s Award Winning BBQ & Catering (132 S. Cass Avenue) in recognition of their high level of community interaction and support.

- ✓ The 2018 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 Joseph P. Moffa, by Westmont Chamber Past President Kevin Carey.
- ✓ 2018 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 and Larry Babyar, and Stella Qualizza. The Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year award was presented to Stella Qualizza by Westmont Mayor Ron Gunter.
- ✓ The 2018 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 John Jonak from Westmont Junior High School.
- ✓ The 2018 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 Maggie Bjur, Westmont Police Department, by Westmont Mayor Ron Gunter.
- ✓ The Rotary Club of Westmont Paul Harris Award was presented to Jim Addington in recognition of his exceptional level of community service and volunteer work. The presenters were Mayor Ron Gunter and Village Trustee Harold Barry.
- ✓ The 2018 Westmont Special Events Corporation "Jim Wright Making Memories Award" was presented to Gregg Pill by Village of Westmont Director of Communications Larry McIntyre and WSEC Entertainment Chair Dave Gullotto.
- ✓ The Knights of Columbus Grand Knight David Ortman and Knight Hank Anzelone presented the "Knight of the Year" Award to Joseph P. Moffa. The "Family of the Year" Award was presented to Tony and Sharon Polito. The Knights of Columbus "In Service to One, In Service to All" Award was presented to Al White.
- ✓ The Westmont Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau recognized the following Chamber board members for outstanding service, Al Carson, Dogz 'N Harmony and Dan Rattary, Seniors Helping Seniors - Home Care Services. Kevin Carey, Superintendent, Community Unit School District 201, was recognized for his outstanding service as President of the Westmont Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau Board of Directors.

- ✓ Mayor Ron Gunter recognized Pranav Viswaneth, a freshman at Westmont High School, for his essay submission in the Westmont is the Bestmont contest.
- ✓ The 2018 Westmont Community Improvement Award recognizes individual business property owners and businesses that have improved the appearance of their property. Community Improvement Awards for 2018 were presented to:
  - Chitra Saravanan, Eye Level of Westmont Learning Center, 216 E. Chicago Avenue
  - Matthew Verde and John Taylor, Neat Kitchen + Bar, 246 N. Cass Avenue
  - Danielle Kirin and Dan Polak, The Sweet & Savory, 15 S. Cass Avenue
  - Gema Calvo and Daniel DeLaRosa, Vibrant Credit Union, 23 W Quincy Street
  - Dominic Barraco family, Zazzo's Pizza & Catering, 200 W. Ogden Avenue

- ✓ The 2019 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 13 - April 3, 2019. There were 28 categories provided to consider. The winners were:

Best Asian Cuisine – China Chef Restaurant

Best Bakery – The Sweet & Savory Spot

Best Banquet Space – Zazzo's Pizza & Catering

Best BBQ – Uncle Bub's BBQ (*4<sup>th</sup> year in a row*)

Best Breakfast – Citrus Diner (*3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row*)

Best Burger – DJ's Sport Bar and Grill (*4<sup>th</sup> year in a row*)

Best Catering – Uncle Bub's BBQ & Catering

Best Coffee Shop – Brewed Awakening (*4<sup>th</sup> year in a row*)

Best Drinking Establishment – DJ's Sports Bar and Grill (3rd year in a row)

Best Family Friendly Restaurant – Citrus Diner

Best Fast Casual – Uncle Bub's BBQ & Catering

Best Fast Food – Chipotle (*4<sup>th</sup> year in a row*)

Best Fine Dining – J. Fleming's Absolutely Delicious

Best Full Service – Zazzo's Pizza & Catering

Best Holiday Brunch – J. Fleming's Absolutely Delicious

Best Ice Cream – Tasty Treat (*4<sup>th</sup> year in a row*)

Best Indian Cuisine Restaurant - Shree Restaurant

Best Italian Cuisine – Zazzo's Pizza & Catering

Best for Live Entertainment – Johnny's Blitz Bar & Grill

Best Lunch – Citrus Diner

Best Mexican Restaurant – Las Palmas Restaurant

Best for Outdoor Dining – J. Flemings Absolutely Delicious (*4<sup>th</sup> year in a row*)

Best Pizza – Zazzo's Pizza & Catering (2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)

Best Salad – Citrus Diner

Best Sandwich – DJ's Sports Bar and Grill (2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)

Best Seafood – Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen (*4<sup>th</sup> year in a row*)

Best Sushi – Sushi House (*4<sup>th</sup> year in a row*)

Best Video Gaming – DJ's Sports Bar & Grill (*4<sup>th</sup> 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!”

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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](http://www.westmontchamber.com).

*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Member Debby Piha, 2018 Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year Award recipient Mark Link, owner, Uncle Bub’s Award Winning BBQ, Westmont Chamber Education & Awards Committee Chair Joseph Moffa*



*Pictured from left to right, Brian Qualizza, 2018 Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year Award recipient Stella Qualizza, Mayor Ron Gunter*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Past President Kevin Carey, 2018 Roger Westman President's Award recipient Joseph Moffa, Westmont Chamber of Commerce President Steve Wozny, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Larry Forssberg*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Junior High School Assistant Principal Amy Quattrone, 2018 Educator-of-the-Year Award recipient John Jonak, Westmont Junior High School teacher Lisa Kosin*



*Pictured from left to right, Josh Boyajian, Westmont Fire Department, 2018 Westmont Public Servant Award recipient Maggie Bjur, Mayor Ron Gunter*



*Pictured from left to right, Village Trustee Harold Barry, Village Clerk Virginia Szymski, 2018 Rotary Club of Westmont Paul Harris Award recipient Jim Addington, Mayor Ron Gunter*



*Pictured from left to right, Knight Hank Anzelone, Knights of Columbus “In Service to One, In Service to All” Award recipient Al White, Grand Knight David Ortman*





*Pictured from left to right, Grand Knight David Ortman, Knight Hank Anzelone, Knights of Columbus "Knight of the Year" Award recipient Knight Joseph Moffa,*



*Pictured from left to right, Grand Knight David Ortman, Knights of Columbus "Family of the Year" Award recipients Tony and Sharon Polito, Knight Hank Anzelone*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Member Debby Piha, 2018 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Chitra Saravanan, owner, Eye Level of Westmont Learning Center, Education & Awards Committee Chair Joseph Moffa*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Member Debby Piha, 2018 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Matthew Verde ,co-owner, Neat Kitchen + Bar, Education & Awards Committee Chair Joseph Moffa*



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*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Member Debby Piha, 2018 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Christine Stram for Zazzo's Pizza & Catering, Education & Awards Committee Chair Joseph Moffa*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Steve Wozny, Westmont Chamber Past President Kevin Carey, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Larry Forssberg*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber President Steve Wozny, Westmont Chamber Past Board Member Al Carson, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Larry Forssberg*



*Pictured from left to right, Mayor Ron Gunter, Bestmont Contest Essay winner Pranav Viswaneth, Westmont Chamber President Steve Wozny*



Event photos can be retrieved at the Photo Gallery at

<https://villageofwestmont.smugmug.com/2019/2019-04-29-Community-Awards-Banquet/i-356N4JW>