



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Annual Westmont Community Awards Dinner**

### ***Westmont Recognizes Excellence in Community Service***

**Westmont, Illinois, April 29, 2024** – The Westmont Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau (WCCTB) hosted the Annual Westmont Community Awards Dinner to recognize local individuals and businesses. The Awards Dinner was held on April 29, 2024 at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center in Westmont. 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 Becky Rheintgen 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, American Legion Post No. 338, Rotary Club of Westmont, Peoples Resource Center, Westmont Lions Club, 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 2023 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 Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year award was presented to Neat Kitchen + Bar in recognition of their high level of community interaction and support.

- ✓ The 2023 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 Steve Wozny, Old National Bank, by Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen and Larry Forssberg, Chamber President.
- ✓ 2023 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 five 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: Daniel Buczkowski, Robert Plowman, Amy Quattrone, Christa Stanulis and Lesley Wright. The Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year award was presented to Daniel Buczkowski by Westmont Mayor Ron Gunter.
- ✓ The 2023 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 Nancy Bartosz, J. T. Manning Elementary School, Dawn Dispensa, J. T. Manning Elementary School, Anna Jakubowski, Westmont High School.
- ✓ The 2023 Businesswoman of the Year recognizes a businesswoman that has made a positive difference in the community through her high level of involvement and contributions. The Businesswoman of the Year Award was presented to Tracey Valerio Spotts, DJ's Sports Bar & Grill by the Co-Chair of the Westmont Chamber Women in Business Council, Lori Wrzesinski.
- ✓ The 2023 Senior of the Year Award recognizes a Westmont Senior Citizen that has made great contributions to the community. The Senior of the Year Award was presented to Jeanne Pantke by the Co-Chairs of the Westmont Chamber Senior Resource Group, Mary Ferguson and Shelly Lindsey.
- ✓ The 2023 Westmont Public Servant Award recognizes a member of the village staff who demonstrates exemplary public service to the community. The nominees were Neil Berkowitz, Natasha Buh, Frank Kulas, and Rolando Padilla. The Westmont Public Service Award was awarded to Natasha Buh, Village of Westmont Finance Supervisor.
- ✓ The Rotary Club of Westmont Irv & Ruth Kaplan Service Above Self Award was presented to Lennie Bowen in recognition of her exceptional level of community service and volunteer work. The presenter was Paul Glyman, Westmont Rotary Club President and Mayor Ron Gunter.

- ✓ The Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Ray Wachowski presented the “Knight of the Year” Award to Joe Sannasardo. 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 Jean Pantke.
- ✓ American Legion Post No. 338 Commander Harry Lesner and Frank Trout presented its 2023 Americanism Award to Huw Winston
- ✓ The Peoples Resource Center (PRC) presented its “Outstanding Neighbor” Award to Juanita Lewan. The award was presented by PRC CEO Jeni Fabian.
- ✓ The Westmont Lions Club presented the Lion of the Year Award to Bob and Carla Plowman. The award was presented by Westmont Lions Club President Bob Fleck and Mayor Ron Gunter.
- ✓ The 2023 Westmont Community Improvement Award recognizes individual business property owners and businesses that have improved the appearance of their property. Community Improvement Awards for 2023 were presented to:
  - Neat Kitchen + Bar, 246 N. Cass Avenue
  - Companion Animal Rehab and Athletics, 100 S. Cass Avenue
  - Mrs. T’s Pizza, 2 W Naperville Road
  - Village of Westmont, West Quincy Street Project
- ✓ The 2024 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 February 22 - March 3. There were 28 categories provided to consider. The winners were:

Best American Dining – The Deli at 700 “AKA 601”

Best Asian Dining – Katy’s Dumplings

Best Bakery – Brewed Awakenings

Best BBQ – Uncle Bub’s BBQ (*9<sup>th</sup> year in a row*)

Best Breakfast – Citrus Diner (*8<sup>th</sup> year in a row*)

- Best Burger – DJ’s Sport Bar and Grill *(9<sup>th</sup> year in a row)*
- Best Casual Dining – The Deli at 700 “AKA 601”
- Best Catering – The Deli at 700 “AKA 601” *(2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)*
- Best Coffee – Citrus Diner
- Best Dinner – Uncle Bub’s BBQ & Catering
- Best Drinking Establishment – DJ’s Sports Bar and Grill *(8<sup>th</sup> year in a row)*
- Best Entertainment – The Deli at 700 “AKA 601”
- Best Fine Dining – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar *(3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row)*
- Best Full-Service Restaurant & Bar – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar
- Best Ice Cream – Dairy Queen *(3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row)*
- Best Indian Dining – Big Suchir Restaurant *(3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row)*
- Best International Dining – Taurasi Restaurant
- Best Italian Dining – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar
- Best Lunch – The Deli at 700 “AKA 601” *(2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)*
- Best Mediterranean – Taste Greek Street Food *(5<sup>th</sup> year in a row)*
- Best Mexican/Latin Dining – Las Palmas Restaurant *(6<sup>th</sup> year in a row)*
- Best for Outdoor Dining – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar
- Best Party Space - The Deli at 700 “AKA 601”
- Best Pizza – Zazzo’s Pizza & Catering *(7<sup>th</sup> year in a row)*
- Best Sandwich – The Deli at 700 “AKA 601” *(2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)*
- Best Seafood – Uncle Bub’s BBQ & Catering *(2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)*
- Best Sports Bar – DJ’s Sports Bar & Grill
- Best Sushi – Sushi House *(9<sup>th</sup> year in a row)*

Mayor Ron Gunter noted “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/2024/2024-Westmont-Community-Awards-Dinner/>

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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 Board Chair Becky Rheintgen and 2023 Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year Award recipient Matt Verde, owner Neat Kitchen + Bar*



*Pictured from left to right, 2023 Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year Award recipient Daniel Buczkowski, Mayor Ron Gunter*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Westmont 2023 Roger Westman President's Award recipient Steve Wozny, Westmont Chamber President Larry Forssberg*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, 2023 Educator-of-the-Year Award recipient Dawn Dispensa, J. T. Manning Elementary School, Nadine Norris, Community Unit School District #201, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, 2023 Educator-of-the-Year Award recipient Anna Jakubowski, J. T. Manning Elementary School, Jack Baldermann, Principal Westmont High School*



*Pictured from left to right, Co-Chair Westmont Chamber Senior Resource Group, Shelly Lindsey, Westmont Senior of the Year Jeanne Pantke, Co-Chair Westmont Chamber Senior Resource Group, Mary Ferguson, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Frank Trout, American Legion Post 338, American Legion Americanism Award recipient Huw Winston, American Legion Post 338 Commander Harry Lesner*





*Pictured left to right, Westmont Rotary Club President Paul Glyman, Irv & Ruth Kaplan Service Above Self Award recipient Lennie Bowen, Westmont Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Mayor Ron Gunter*



*Pictured from left to right, Peoples Resource Center CEO Jeni Fabian, Peoples Resource Center Outstanding Neighbor Award recipient Juanita Lewan, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen*



*Pictured from left to right, Knights of Columbus “In Service to One, In Service to All” Award recipient Jeanne Pantke, Grand Knight Ray Wachowski*



*Pictured from left to right, Knights of Columbus “Knight of the Year” Award recipient Knight Joe Sannasardo, Grand Knight Ray Wachowski*



*Pictured Knights of Columbus “Family of the Year” Award recipients the Greg and Linda Sobotka, Grand Knight Ray Wachowski*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Westmont Businesswoman of the Year Award recipient Tracey Valerio Spotts, Westmont Chamber Women in Business Council Co-Chair Lori Wrzesinski, Westmont Chamber President Larry Forssberg*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Village Manager Stephen May, Westmont Public Servant Award recipient Natasha Buh, Mayor Ron Gunter, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Lions Club President Bob Fleck, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Lion of the Year Award recipients Carla and Bob Plowman, Mayor Ron Gunter*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Director Drew Mitchell, 2023 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Matt Verde owner of Neat Kitchen + Bar, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Director Drew Mitchell, 2023 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Dr. Annie Ubatuba owner of Companion Animal Rehab and Athletics, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen*



*Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Director Drew Mitchell, 2023 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipients Mayor Ron Gunter, Village Board Trustee Linda Liddle, Village Board Trustee Marie Guzzo, Village Board Trustee Bruce Barker, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Becky Rheintgen*



*Pictured from left to right, Mayor Ron Gunter, Westmont Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, multiple 2024 Best of restaurant winner Citrus Diner owner Jim Romas, Diane Swaim, Shaw Media, Westmont Chamber Co-Chairs of the Westmont Restaurant Group Matt Verde and Jay Rushford*



*Pictured, Mayor Ron Gunter, Westmont Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Diane Swaim, Shaw Media, multiple 2024 Best of restaurant winner Uncle Bub's BBQ and Catering, Westmont Chamber Co-Chairs of the Westmont Restaurant Group Matt Verde and Jay Rushford*



*Pictured from left to right, Mayor Ron Gunter, Westmont Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Diane Swaim, Shaw Media, 2024 Best of restaurant winner Zazzo's Pizza & Catering representative Lisa Barraco, Co-Chairs of the Westmont Restaurant Group Matt Verde and Jay Rushford*



*Pictured, Mayor Ron Gunter, Westmont Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Diane Swaim, Shaw Media, multiple 2024 Best of restaurant winner DJ's Sports Bar & Grill owner Tracey Valerio Spotts, Co-Chairs of the Westmont Restaurant Group Matt Verde and Jay Rushford*



*Pictured, Mayor Ron Gunter, Westmont Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Diane Swaim, Shaw Media, multiple 2024 Best of restaurant winner The Deli at 700 owners Hania Kahoush and Daoud Kahoush, Co-Chairs of the Westmont Restaurant Group Matt Verde and Jay Rushford*

