



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2025

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Annual Westmont Community Awards Dinner

Westmont Recognizes Excellence in Community Service

Westmont, Illinois, April 14, 2025 – 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 14, 2025 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 Jessica Garrett noted that “Over one-hundred and eighty 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, People’s Resource Center, Rotary Club of Westmont, Westmont Lions Club, Westmont Park District, 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:

- ✓ Larry Forssberg, former President of the Westmont Chamber of Commerce, was recognized for his exceptional service to the business community in Westmont and in DuPage County. Illinois State Representative Marti Deuter presented Mr. Forssberg with an official proclamation from the Illinois House of Representatives, acknowledging his long-standing contributions and leadership. In addition, Mayor Ron Gunter honored Mr. Forssberg with a presentation on behalf of the Village of Westmont, further highlighting the profound impact he has made on the local community.

- ✓ Mayor Ron Gunter presented Special Recognition Awards to Village Manager Stephen May, and Frank Trout for their outstanding contributions to the Village.
- ✓ The 2024 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 Phillip's Flowers and Gifts in recognition of their high level of community interaction and support.
- ✓ The 2024 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 Mary Ferguson, Birches Assisted Living & Memory Care, by Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett and Kaili Harding, Chamber President.
- ✓ 2024 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: David Callahan, Kim Heller, and Joseph Moffa. The Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year award was presented to Joseph Moffa by Westmont Mayor Ron Gunter.
- ✓ The 2024 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 Kelly Briddick, J. T. Manning Elementary School, Annette Kleemann, Holy Trinity Catholic School.
- ✓ The 2024 Business Woman 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 Becky Rheintgen, Oakwood Electric & Generator by the Board Chair of the Westmont Chamber of Commerce, Jessica Garrett.
- ✓ The 2024 Westmont Public Servant Award recognizes a member of the village staff who demonstrates exemplary public service to the community. The nominees were Mike Bueser, Patrick Lenzi, and Natalie Michalek. The Westmont Public Service Award was awarded to Mike Bueser, Village of Westmont Public Works department.

- ✓ The Rotary Club of Westmont Irv & Ruth Kaplan Service Above Self Award was presented to Larry Forsberg in recognition of his 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 Donovan Conklin. The “Family of the Year” Award was presented to Joe and Nancy Sannasardo. The Knights of Columbus “In Service to One, In Service to All” Award was presented to Konrad Miskowicz-Retz.
- ✓ American Legion Post No. 338 awarded the 2024 Patriotism Award to Frank Trout. The presenter was Hugh Winston
- ✓ The Peoples Resource Center (PRC) presented its “Outstanding Neighbor” Award to Denise Kolar. The award was presented by PRC Vice President of Advancement Allison Rickard.
- ✓ The Westmont Lions Club presented the Lion of the Year Award to Bernadette Wozniak. The award was presented by Westmont Lions Club President Bob Plowman and Mayor Ron Gunter.
- ✓ The Westmont Park District Executive Director, Bob Fleck, presented the “Friends of the Park” Award to John Dispensa.
- ✓ The 2024 Westmont Community Improvement Award recognizes individual business property owners and businesses that have improved the appearance of their property. Community Improvement Awards for 2024 were presented to:
 - Encore Car Wash, 6154 S. Cass Avenue
 - Galaxy Sushi & Ramen Restaurant, 15 W. Quincy Street
 - Midwest Express Clinic, 6320 S. Cass Avenue
 - Net Game, 145 Plaza Drive
 - Shark’s Fish & Chicken, 7 W. Quincy Street
 - Sky Zone, 52 E. Ogden Avenue
 - Westmont Park District Park Place Facility, 75 E. Richmond Street
 - Whiskey Hill Kitchen & Brewery, 3 W. Quincy Street

- ✓ The 2025 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 20 - March 2. There were 28 categories provided to consider. The winners were:

Best Asian Dining – (tie) Katy's Dumplings, Golden Bowl

Best Bakery – Bacuri Bakery & Cafe

Best Banquet Space – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar

Best BBQ – Uncle Bub's BBQ (*10th year in a row*)

Best Breakfast – Citrus Diner (*9th year in a row*)

Best Burger – DJ's Sport Bar and Grill (*10th year in a row*)

Best Catering – The Deli at 700 "AKA 601" (*3rd year in a row*)

Best Coffee Shop – Brewed Awakening Coffee House

Best Drinking Establishment – The Fremont Bar & Grill

Best Family Friendly – The Deli at 700 "AKA 601"

Best Fast Casual – Citrus Diner

Best Fast Food – Margie's Beef & Gyros

Best Fine Dining – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar (*4th year in a row*)

Best Full-Service Restaurant & Bar – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Ice Cream – Dairy Queen (*4th year in a row*)

Best Indian Dining – Priyas Kitchen Westmont

Best Italian Dining – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Live Entertainment – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar

Best Lunch – The Deli at 700 "AKA 601" (*3rd year in a row*)

Best Mediterranean – Taste Greek Street Food (*6th year in a row*)

Best Mexican/Latin Dining – Tapatio Mexican Grill

Best for Outdoor Dining – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar (*2nd year in a row*)

Best Pizza – Zazzo’s Pizza & Catering (*8th year in a row*)

Best Salad – The Deli at 700 “AKA 601”

Best Sandwich – The Deli at 700 “AKA 601” (*3rd year in a row*)

Best Seafood – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar

Best Smoothie Bar – Smoothie King

Best Video Gaming Experience – Zazzo’s Pizza & Catering

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/2025/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.

Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett, 2024 Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year Award recipient Baxter Phillips, accepting for Phillip's Flowers and Gifts, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett, 2024 Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year Award recipient Joseph Moffa, Toni Gunter, Mayor Ron Gunter



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett, Westmont Chamber Past Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Westmont 2024 Roger Westman President's Award recipient Mary Ferguson, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Education & Awards Committee member Nadine Norris, 2024 Educator-of-the-Year Award recipient Annette Kleemann, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Education & Awards Committee member Nadine Norris, 2024 Educator-of-the-Year Award recipient Kelly Briddick, JT Manning Elementary School, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa



Pictured from left to right, American Legion Post 338 Commander Harry Lesner, American Legion Patriotism Award recipient Frank Trout, American Legion Post 338, Hugh Winston,



Pictured left to right, Westmont Rotary Club President Paul Glyman, Irv & Ruth Kaplan Service Above Self Award recipient Larry Forsberg



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Past Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Peoples Resource Center Outstanding Neighbor Award recipient Denise Kolar, PRC Vice President of Advancement Allison Rickard



Pictured from left to right, Grand Knight Ray Wachowski, Knights of Columbus "In Service to One, In Service to All" Award recipient Konrad Miskowicz-Retz



Pictured from left to right, Grand Knight Ray Wachowski, Knights of Columbus "Knight of the Year" Award recipient Knight Donovan Conklin



Pictured Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Ray Wachowski, “Family of the Year” Award recipients Nancy and Joe Sannasardo



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Park District Board Vice President Sue Zapinski, Westmont Park District “Friends of the Park” Award recipient, John Dispensa, Westmont Park District Executive Director, Bob Fleck



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett, Westmont Businesswoman of the Year Award recipient Becky Rheintgen, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa



Pictured from left to right, Mayor Ron Gunter, Special Recognition Award Recipient Larry Forsberg



Pictured from left to right, Mayor Ron Gunter, Special Recognition Award Recipient Village Manager Stephen May



Pictured from left to right, Mayor Ron Gunter, Special Recognition Award Recipient Frank Trout



Pictured from left to right, IL State Representative Marti Deuter, Larry Forsberg



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Village Manager Stephen May, Westmont Public Servant Award recipient Mike Bueser, Mayor Ron Gunter



Pictured left to right, Westmont Chamber Past Board Chair Becky Rheintgen, Westmont Lions Club President Bob Plowman, Lion of the Year Award recipient Bernadette Wozniak, Mayor Ron Gunter



Pictured from left to right, 2024 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Rob Salerno, owner of Whiskey Hill Kitchen and Brewery, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured from left to right, 2024 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Matt Hartnett, Operations Manager, Encore Car Wash, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured from left to right, 2024 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipients representing the Westmont Park District, Westmont Park District Commissioner Sue Zapinski, Westmont Park District Executive Director Bob Fleck, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, Westmont Park District Commissioner Bill Belmonte, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured, 2024 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Net Game owners Dorothy Foster, Jill Livingston, Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Restaurant Group Co-Chair Dominic Barraco, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2024 Best of Restaurant Winner Dairy Queen owner Nimisha Patel, Cheryl Brewer- Shaw Media, Westmont Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured, Westmont Restaurant Group Co-Chair Dominic Barraco, Mayor Ron Gunter, Cheryl Brewer- Shaw Media, 2024 Best of Restaurant Winner Citrus Diner owner Jim Romas and team, Westmont Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Restaurant Group Co-Chair Dominic Barraco, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2024 Best of Restaurant Winner Priyas Kitchen Westmont, Cheryl Brewer-Shaw Media, Westmont Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured, Westmont Restaurant Group Co-Chair Dominic Barraco, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2024 Best of Restaurant Winner Uncle Bub's BBQ and Catering, Cheryl Brewer- Shaw Media, Westmont Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured from left to right, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2024 Best of restaurant winner Zazzo's Pizza & Catering owner Dominic Barraco, Cheryl Brewer- Shaw Media, Westmont Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Restaurant Group Co-Chair Dominic Barraco, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2024 Best of Restaurant Winner DJ's Sports Bar & Grill owner Tracey Valerio Spotts, Cheryl Brewer- Shaw Media, Westmont Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured, Westmont Restaurant Group Co-Chair Dominic Barraco, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2024 Best of Restaurant Winner The Deli at 700 owners Hania Kahoush and Daoud Kahoush, Cheryl Brewer- Shaw Media, Westmont Board Chair Jessica Garrett



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Restaurant Group Co-Chair Dominic Barraco, Mayor Ron Gunter, 2024 Best of Restaurant Winner Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar owner Stephen Fleck, Pete Arellano, Cheryl Brewer- Shaw Media, Westmont Board Chair Jessica Garrett

