



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual Westmont Community Awards Dinner

Westmont Recognizes Excellence in Community Service

Westmont, Illinois, April 27, 2026 – 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 27, 2026 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:

- ✓ The 2025 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 Brian and Nicky Steinberg, owners of Westmont Living Magazine, in recognition of their high level of community interaction and support.

- ✓ The 2025 Roger Westman Board Chair Award recognizes an individual who has performed outstanding service to the Chamber and the Westmont Community. The Roger Westman Board Chair Award was presented to Becky Rheintgen, Oakwood Electric & Generator, by Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett and Kaili Harding, Chamber President.
- ✓ 2025 Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year Award recognizes individuals that reside in Westmont and that have demonstrated exceptional community involvement and leadership. Mayor Nero noted “we have two 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: Joann Farley and David Gullotto. The Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year award was presented to Joann Farley by Westmont Mayor Steve Nero.
- ✓ The 2025 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 Becca Schmakel, South School and Sara Payne, Westmont Jr. High School.
- ✓ The 2025 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 Jessica Garrett, Dynamic Perception Dance Company by the Past Board Chair of the Westmont Chamber of Commerce, Becky Rheintgen.
- ✓ The 2025 Westmont Public Servant Award recognizes a member of the village staff who demonstrates exemplary public service to the community. The nominees for the award were Officer Robert Arndt, Village of Westmont Police department, Dan Barrett Fire department, Jesse Rapp, Public Works, and Fred Stephani Village Hall. The Westmont Public Service Award was awarded to Officer Robert Arndt, Village of Westmont Police department.
- ✓ The Rotary Club of Westmont Irv & Ruth Kaplan Service Above Self Award was presented to Dan Buczkowski in recognition of his exceptional level of community service and volunteer work. The presenter was Tracey Valerio Spotts, Westmont Rotary Club President and Mayor Steve Nero.
- ✓ The Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Rich Carroll presented the “Knight of the Year” Award to Dave Fagan. The “Family of the Year” Award was presented to Mike and Nancy Laurenitis. The Knights of Columbus “In Service to One, In Service to All” Award was presented to Jodie Wachowski.
- ✓ American Legion Post No. 338 awarded the 2025 Patriotism Award to Hank Anzelone. The presenter was Terry Naglewski.

- ✓ The Peoples Resource Center (PRC) presented its “Outstanding Neighbor” Award to Jill Peterson. The award was presented by PRC President Jennifer Fabian.
- ✓ The Westmont Lions Club presented the Lion of the Year Award to Cindy Riordan. The award was presented by Westmont Lions Club President Bob Plowman.
- ✓ The Westmont Park District Executive Director, Bob Fleck, presented the “Friends of the Park” Award to Illinois State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton.
- ✓ The 2025 Westmont Community Improvement Award recognizes individual business property owners and businesses that have improved the appearance of their property. Community Improvement Awards for 2025 were presented to:
 - 1111 Elm Soap & Candle Company, 17 N Cass Ave.
 - BAMtheatre, 520 N Cass Ave.
 - Bowie Barker, 822 E Ogden Ave
 - Clean Your Dirty Face, 836 E Ogden Ave
 - DivaDance, 6348 S Cass Ave
 - PostNet, 36 N. Cass Ave.
 - Saffron Restaurant, 329 W 63rd St.
 - Star Buds Westmont, 101 W. Ogden Ave
 - That Golf Place, 101 W. Ogden Ave

2026 was the tenth year for the Westmont Dining Reader’s Choice Awards program. There were six restaurants recognized for participating in all 10 years of the program. They were applauded for long withstanding excellence during a very challenging time for the restaurant industry. The restaurants recognized were Brewed Awakening, Citrus Diner, Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar, J. Fleming’s Absolutely Delicious, Neat Kitchen + Bar, Uncle Bub’s BBQ & Catering.

The 2026 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 – Katy’s Dumpling House

Best Bakery – Bacuri Bakery & Café *(2nd year in a row)*

Best Banquet Space – Zazzo’s Pizza & Catering

Best BBQ – Uncle Bub’s BBQ *(11th year in a row)*

Best Breakfast – Citrus Diner *(10th year in a row)*

Best Burger – DJ’s Sports Bar and Grill *(11th year in a row)*

Best Catering – The Deli at 700 *(4th year in a row)*

Best Coffee Shop – Citrus Diner

Best Drinking Establishment – DJ’s Sports Bar & Grill

Best Family Friendly – The Deli at 700 *(2nd year in a row)*

Best Fast Casual – The Deli at 700

Best Fast Food – The Deli at 700

Best Fine Dining – Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar *(5th year in a row)*

Best Full-Service Restaurant & Bar – Zazzo’s Pizza & Catering

Best Ice Cream – Tasty Treat

Best Indian Dining – Priyas Kitchen Westmont *(2nd year in a row)*

Best Italian Dining – Zazzo’s Pizza & Catering

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

Best Lunch – The Deli at 700 *(4th year in a row)*

Best Mediterranean – Taste Greek Street Food *(7th year in a row)*

Best Mexican/Latin Dining – Las Palmas Restaurant

Best for Outdoor Dining – Zazzo’s Pizza & Catering

Best Pizza – Zazzo’s Pizza & Catering *(9th year in a row)*

Best Salad – The Deli at 700 *(2nd year in a row)*

Best Sandwich – The Deli at 700 *(4th year in a row)*

Best Seafood – Uncle Bub’s BBQ & Catering

Best Smoothie Bar – Smoothie King *(2nd year in a row)*

Best Video Gaming Experience – Zazzo’s Pizza & Catering *(2nd year in a row)*

Mayor Steve Nero 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/2026/2026-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, 2025 Dick Busse Business-of-the-Year Award recipient Brian and Nicky Steinberg, Westmont Living Magazine



Pictured from left to right, Village Manager Jim Gunther, 2025 Westmont Citizen-of-the-Year Award recipient Joann Farley, Mayor Steve Nero



Pictured Westmont 2025 Roger Westman Board Chair Award recipient Becky Rheintgen, Oakwood Electric & Generator and 2025 Community Improvement Award Recipient Meghan Figel of DivaDance



Pictured from left to right, , Westmont Chamber of Commerce Education & Awards Committee Co-Chair Joseph Moffa, 2025 Educator-of-the-Year Award recipient Becca Schmakel, South School



Pictured from left to right, American Legion Patriotism Award recipient Hank Anzelone, American Legion Post 338 Commander Terry Naglewski



Pictured left to right, Westmont Rotary Club President Tracey Valerio Spotts with Bob Plowman accepting the Irv & Ruth Kaplan Service Above Self Award for recipient Dan Buczkowski



Pictured from left to right, Peoples Resource Center Outstanding Neighbor Award recipient Jill Peterson, PRC President Jennifer Fabian



Pictured Knights of Columbus "In Service to One, In Service to All" Award recipient Jodie Wachowski



Pictured Knights of Columbus “Knight of the Year” Award recipient Knight Dave Fagan



Pictured Knights of Columbus “Family of the Year” Award recipients Mike and Nancy Laurenitis



Pictured Westmont Park District Executive Director, Bob Fleck and Westmont Park District “Friends of the Park” Award recipient, Illinois State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton



Pictured Westmont Chamber Board Chair Jessica Garrett, Westmont Businesswoman of the Year Award recipient



Pictured from left to right, Westmont Village Manager Jim Gunther, Westmont Public Servant Award recipient Officer Robert Arndt, Mayor Steve Nero



Pictured 2025 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Jen Cafferty, owner of 1111 Elm Soap and Candle Company



Pictured 2025 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Melanie Lamoureux, Owner/Artistic Director, BAMtheatre



Pictured 2025 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Meghan Figel, owner, DivaDance



Pictured, 2025 Westmont Community Improvement Award recipient Joe Jovanovich, owner PostNet



Pictured 2025 Best of Restaurant Winner, Tasty Treat owner, Shadya Farraj



Pictured, 2025 Best of Restaurant Winner, Citrus Diner owner Jim Romas and team



Pictured 2025 Best of Restaurant Winner – Indian Cuisine, Priyas Kitchen Westmont owner Sridhar Vemuru



Pictured 2025 Best of Restaurant Winner Uncle Bub's BBQ and Catering, General Manager Jay Rushford and team



Pictured 2025 Best of restaurant winner Zazzo's Pizza & Catering Mary Kate Barraco



Pictured 2025 Best of Restaurant Winner DJ's Sports Bar & Grill owner Tracey Valerio Spotts



Pictured 2025 Best of Restaurant Winner The Deli at 700 owner Hania Kahoush



Pictured 2025 Best of Restaurant Winner Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar owner Stephen Fleck



Pictured Restaurant Owners participating in all 10 years of the Westmont Reader's Choice program, Jay Rushford, Uncle Bub's BBQ & Catering, Stephen Fleck, Dolce Restaurant & Wine Bar, Jim Romas, Citrus Diner, John Fleming, J. Fleming's Absolutely Delicious, John Taylor, Neat Kitchen + Bar

