
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

To: All Media
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For Immediate Release

Illinois Parks and Recreation Association Honors Waukegan's Beverly Millard with Citizen of the Year Award

A longtime Waukegan Park District volunteer who played a pivotal role in maintaining the Waukegan Historical Society's Research Library, has been honored by the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA) with its Citizen of the Year Award for 2007. The award was presented at the Annual IPRA Conference Awards Luncheon held on January 26, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency, Chicago.

Beverly Millard of Waukegan, who has volunteered for over two decades and logged more than 15,000 service hours at the library can still be found in the library offering services to the community every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from nine in the morning until three in the afternoon. Her dedication as a research librarian and the Waukegan Historical Society volunteer has been present since 1989.

The IPRA Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes individuals who are citizen volunteers within a community and that have demonstrated exemplary service and contributions to their community without asking for honor or recognition.

The mission of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association is to provide opportunities that enhance the professional well being of its members and to be an advocate for the lifetime benefits of parks, recreation and conservation.

Beverly began working in the library when it was housed in the Haines House Museum. When it moved to a new location, she assisted with the move, organized the collection at Lilac Cottage and became the head librarian. Mrs. Millard catalogues each book, newsletter, scrapbook, photograph, postcard and map using the Dewey Decimal System. She takes care of the day-to-day chores dealing with correspondence and phone calls. Most of the time she uses the historical society's collection for research but will go to the Waukegan Public Library, other historical societies or the Lake County Courthouse to provide answers to questions that come from across the United States and as far away as Sweden. Genealogists and people interested in the history of their home come to the Raymond for help in researching their home or family. Recently, Waukegan-born author Ray Bradbury, telephoned Beverly to provide historical documentation for a story he is writing. She maintains the archives for the Waukegan Historical Society and indexes volumes of obituaries.

Mrs. Millard is an active member of the Oakwood Cemetery Walk committee and has been since its inception twelve years ago. Each year, she assists with room set up, greets the visitors, explains the cemetery walk, maintains the mailing list, hands out tickets and has even helped people onto the busses. People look forward to her smile and her knowledge of local history.

Waukegan Public School teachers find her to be a valuable resource on the use of local history in the classroom. She spends time training teachers and students on methods of library research. Mrs. Millard assists students not only from Waukegan High School for the annual Chicago Metro History Fair but works with students throughout Lake and Cook Counties. She comes in during evening hours and weekends to accommodate students' school and work schedules and even gives them her home phone number to help with the last minute questions for their projects. Beverly has been known to deliver information to students' homes and work places when their schedule prohibits them from coming to the library. In the summer of 2005 and 2006, she worked with a group of high school students in the development of a museum display for use during the annual cemetery walk.

Beverly is involved in her church and gives many hours to helping people. She shops for the homebound, bakes for families and takes those in need of transportation to physicians' appointments. Mrs. Millard also serves at a food pantry in one of the local churches. She has given countless hours to the community through the many activities she is involved in and is an extraordinary example to others of what volunteering is.

For more information on Beverly Millard, The Waukegan Park District or IPRA, please contact Claudia Petrusky, Superintendent of Cultural Arts at 847-360-4740.

About The Waukegan Park District

The Waukegan Park District, encompassing 46 neighborhood and community parks with 719 acres of land, serves the culturally-diverse community of Waukegan through its traditional and non-traditional parks-sports programming for the entire family as well as leisure programming for senior adults. Park District programming also encompasses professional music, dance, theatre and visual arts instruction through the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, cultural enrichment through the Waukegan Symphony and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Opera and Theatre Companies, and other quality educational, historical and craft programs through the Bowen Heritage Circle.