

STAR Awards Presented by the City of Champaign
Neighborhood Services Advisory Board

Service Together Achieves Results for Champaign Neighborhoods

Eligibility

Eligible candidates are individuals, groups or organizations who volunteer their time, talents, resources and energy in service to the City of Champaign and its neighborhoods. The service or deed that prompted the nomination must have been completed during the [preceding] calendar year. Nominees should be compassionate persons who, through volunteer efforts or other civic contributions, have demonstrated a willingness to lend a hand to a neighborhood or the community.

Nominations are made by individuals of the community who engage civically and take the time to honor someone they feel deserves recognition for their community service. Award selections for each category are made by members of the neighborhood Services Advisory Board who volunteer their time to help improve the quality of life in Champaign. Using established criteria, the Neighborhood Services Advisory Board evaluates all nominations forwarded to them from the Neighborhood Services Department.

ASHLAND PARK was recognized two years in a row at the STAR Awards Ceremony

2016 NEIGHBORHOOD LEADSHIP AWARD ~ April 26, 2016

This award recognizes excellence in leadership and is exclusive to leaders of neighborhood associations, Homeowners Associations, Lake Owner Association, Neighborhood Watch Groups and non-residential neighborhood organizations registered with the City of Champaign.

Criteria: 1. Leadership qualities; 2. Level of community involvement; 3. Level of involvement (school, community, etc.); 4. Is individual a leadership role model?

RECIPIENT: RANDY BISHOP ... has been a founding member and active board volunteer with the Ashland Park HOA since its inception. Over the last several years the HOA board has struggled to maintain its membership and Mr. Bishop had been the lone surviving board member. Although Mr. Bishop initially felt a lack of support from his neighbors he would not give up his idea of having a strong, vibrant and connected home-owner's association. Mr. Bishop contacted the City of Champaign's Neighborhood Services Department to seek technical support in reviving the HOA board. A strategy was developed to recruit a group of neighbors

who would act as a transitional board to stabilize the organization, and provide board stewardship until board elections could be arranged. During the summer and fall of 2015, Mr. Bishop worked tirelessly to identify and recruit neighbors to join him in reviving and reorganizing the Ashland Park HOA board of directors. Mr. Bishop was successful in recruiting 4 other members to join him in his efforts to revive the organization. In three short months the group has successfully re-filed the registration with the Illinois Secretary of State's office, revived a collection process for HOA dues to support common area maintenance, and organized an annual meeting in April to introduce the Ashland Park HO Board of Directors to the Ashland Park Neighbors. Through his perseverance and commitment, Mr. Bishop has exemplified excellence in leadership and made a positive impact on the Ashland Park Home Owners Association.

2017 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARD ~ April 27, 2017

This category is to award the neighborhood organization most consistent in getting together for meetings and activities. The group that actively strives to provide neighborhood support to residents in its area, demonstrates value for diversity, promotes inclusiveness and can show documentation of multiple activities and/or projects they have been involved in or sponsored to benefit the neighborhood or the community at-large.

Criteria: 1. Impact on community; 2. Level of community involvement; 3. Level of involvement (community, school, etc.); 4. Is this group a role model?

RECIPIENT: ASHLAND PARK HOA . *[Following is the nomination, voluntarily submitted to Neighborhood Services. Although the information is not quite accurate, 'a sincere thank you for your hard work and level of effort and commitment' is offered to those to whom it applies. The APHOA Board appreciates the Neighbors nomination and is flattered to receive the Award on behalf of the HOA.]*

The Nomination: The Ashland Park HOA went through some very trying times, dropping to only one remaining board member in 2015. In early 2016 the group reorganized, elected new officers and recruited new board members to get involved with the neighborhood organizing process. The new board has reinvigorated the organization and addressed many of the administrative and management issues that were overlooked due to a lack of capacity of previous HOA boards. Additionally, in order to increase the flow of information the HOA board has worked to incorporate the Nextdoor online platform into the neighborhood engagement efforts. Ashland Park HOA has supported the efforts of neighborhood organizers of a very robust Nextdoor network that engage residents. As they have increased communication throughout the neighborhood, the group has gained the capacity to address other issues of concern such as lighting public safety and neighborhood connection. The volunteer leaders of

the Ashland Park HOA should be recognized for stepping up to revive the organization and taking the necessary steps to put the organization and the neighborhood on firm footing. The HOA leaders have worked diligently to promote collective neighborhood responsibility. Whenever there is an issue of concern neighbors are willing to organize and coordinate in response to the issue. The Ashland Park HOA should be recognized as neighborhood of the Year for the rejuvenation efforts.