



The Village of Glenview

NEWS RELEASE

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2nd ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS PRESENTED

November 5, 2019 – For a second year, the Village of Glenview has recognized organizations in Glenview that are taking the lead with environmental stewardship, innovative best practices and community outreach. The awards were presented by the Village Board of Trustees November 5 for the Village’s Natural Resources Commission’s Environmental Sustainability Awards program. Nominations were sought from January 1 to September 1, 2019 from any organization – including businesses, schools, houses of worship and volunteer groups – that serve the Glenview community.

Nominees were considered in three categories: Innovation, Leadership and Education and Outreach, with the possibility of gold, silver and bronze placement. This year’s winners are:

Education and Outreach – Gold – Glenview Public Library

The steep decline in the monarch butterfly population has been the focus of preservation efforts by the Glenview Public Library. It planted milkweed and nectar plants in existing gardens to host monarch caterpillars. Programs were developed to build public awareness, which included presentations by a horticulturist and a representative of the Morton Arboretum’s Chicago Region Trees Initiative and butterfly-themed story times and children’s events in the Youth Department.

Education and Outreach – Silver – James Woodworth Prairie Preserve

The visitor center, restoration garden and mowed walking trails engage local residents and bolster preservation of the 5.4-acre grassland remnant in Glenview managed and owned by the University of Illinois at Chicago. UIC policy now encourages student exposure to the prairie’s history, biodiversity and important insect pollinators. The number of visitors has increased, and more educational talks are being given in surrounding suburbs and at academic conferences.

Education and Outreach – Bronze – Wild Birds Unlimited

The nearly 30-year-old store is an educational resource regarding bird feeding, and community outreach this year included presentations at the Glenview Public Library and

Glenview Farmers Market. Its philosophy is that bird feeding leads people to be aware of and care for the environment. To that end, it helps customers alter landscaping maintenance to include native plants and trees, which require less chemical and fertilizer, and recognize the healing and soothing effects of bird feeding.

Leadership – Gold – Effective Air

The almost 80-year-old heating and air conditioning firm operates as a green company. It uses a climate-neutral refrigerant, recycles as many materials as possible and works with warehouses to support building material re-use. Clients are educated about whole house water filtration, to reduce plastic bottle waste and remove impurities from drinking water, and duct sealing, to reduce energy usage, improve indoor air quality and lower utility costs.

Innovation – Gold – WesPath Benefits and Investments

The not-for-profit agency of the United Methodist Church built a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certificated headquarters in Glenview in 2010. It is a globally-recognized leader in sustainable investing, which means it adheres to its fiduciary duty while seeking investments believed to have a positive impact on the environment and society. In 2019, its sustainable operating practices included installing four electric vehicle charging stations; launching a waste management program that encourages composting; switching to a 100-percent green energy-certified electricity provider; reconstructing its lobby using environmentally-friendly materials; and annually maintaining native landscaping.

The Village of Glenview encourages adopting practices to help prevent pollution, reduce waste, conserve energy, reduce emissions to air and water, and boost recycling. Meeting these sustainable energy challenges starts at home, in the workplace and in our schools. The Village wants to highlight the success stories of organizations within the community so that, if replicated, others can be spurred to collaborate and share strategies, policies, procedures and best practices and awareness of environmentally sustainable practices can be increased.

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