



2012 Public Health Awards

Fitzsimmons Award Winners: Each year, as part of Public Health Week, the Oak Park Department of Public Health Department and Board of Health solicit nominations for the annual Fitzsimmons Award, honoring those individuals or organizations who have worked to improve the health of the community. This year, three individuals and four organizations have been honored for their work in keeping Oak Park healthy. The Fitzsimmons Awards for exceptional contributions to the health of Oak Park were given to:

- *Southeast Oak Park Community Organization (SEOPCO)*, for their effort to bring together residents and a local firearms business owner, in a thoughtful and organized way, in order to engage in a fair and useful exchange of information.
- *Root Riot*, started by Amy Beltamacchi and Seamus Ford, which filled a community desire for growing fruits and vegetables a promoting a healthy lifestyle through gardening.
- *District 97 Green Teams*, a group of parents and volunteers who have undertaken several sustainability initiatives in the schools including zero-waste lunches and encouraging composting, recycling and the use of reusable products.
- *Green Community Connections*, a group of dedicated volunteers who have established an electronic gathering place for stimulating conversations, for exchange of useful resources, and where neighbors can help each other build a resilient, environmentally sustainable community.
- *Ray Heise, Village Attorney from 1984-2012*, for his efforts and advocacy on numerous public health issues during his tenure, including gun control, clean indoor air, fair and safe housing practices and the establishment of the Oak Park Farmers Market.
- *Elisabeth Lippitt and Jill Morehead, Pioneering Healthier Communities, Community Coach and YMCA Coach*, respectively, for their tireless work, their enthusiasm and their passion for the PHC goal of creating a community that supports physical activity and healthy eating.

Johnson Award Winners: The Oak Park Board of Health and Department of Public Health annually present the Johnson's Restaurant Award to Oak Park restaurants that excel in food service sanitation. Recognized for their high level of food sanitation in 2011 were:

Ridgeland Commons Concessions, Park District of Oak Park

Five Guys Burger and Fries, 1115 Lake Street

Kentucky Fried Chicken, 316 Madison Street

Java Oasis, 1113 North Boulevard
New Rebozo, 1116 Madison Street
Marion Street Grille, 189 Marion Street
Jerusalem Café, 1030 Lake Street
Best of Both Worlds, 108 Madison Street
Penny's Noodle Shop, 1130 Chicago Avenue
Rehm Park Concessions, Robinsons No. 1 Ribs
Caribou Coffee #768

Named in memory of Oak Park's first lunch room which began operation at 124 Lake St. in the early 1890's, the Johnson's Restaurant Award is part of the Health Department's ongoing incentive program to encourage restaurants to consistently meet or exceed mandated responsibilities in providing safe food.

To be eligible for the award, restaurants must have an average score of 85 or more (of 100 possible) points on routine Health Department sanitary inspections over a two-year period. The inspections cover all phases of food handling from receipt of supplies to service as well as facilities, equipment and housekeeping. In addition, the restaurants must have had a minimum of 3 routine inspections over the two year period and be classified as an IDPH Category I or II facility as defined by the Illinois Department of Public Health Local Health Protection Grant Rules. 2012 is the 27th year that the Johnson's Restaurant Awards have been given.

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