

Environment and Energy Commission

Village of Oak Park



Green Awards 2024



Green Awards – 2024 Winners

1. Arbor West Neighbors Green Team
2. Marc and Dorie Blesoff

▶ Arbor West Neighbors Green Team

Arbor West Neighbors (AWN) is a grassroots organization of neighbors in Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park connected to support and enrich aging through community building and advocacy. AWN is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 organization, with more than 120 members.

The mission of AWN is to empower adults to thrive by building a multi-ethnic, multicultural community where all older adults are valued, age with dignity, and enjoy opportunities for growth and engagement.



➤ **AWN – Thriving Green**

*This award is based on the effort and hard work AWN put into a splendid event entitled **GREEN LIVING: Learning from your Neighbors**, held at the library in September of 2024. They are constantly looking for new ways to work on green issues in the community as they help empower their adult base.*



▀ The Blesoff Family – Living Green

Marc and Dorie Blesoff, along with their daughter Jamine and granddaughter, live at 225 N. Taylor in the Ridgeland-Oak Park Historic District. This neighborhood is a celebrated example of the Prairie School of Architecture, a style developed in the early 20th century that emphasizes harmony with the natural landscape.

The Blesoff family, spanning three generations, has demonstrated a deep and lasting commitment to sustainability. They have installed geothermal heating and cooling systems, created two rain gardens, cultivated a thriving food garden, and completed kitchen, bathroom, and basement remodeling projects that feature energy-efficient appliances, fixtures, and sustainable, eco-friendly materials.

- The Blesoff Family – 225 N. Taylor Ave.

RAIN GARDENS



BEFORE



AFTER

The Blesoff Family – 225 N. Taylor Ave.

Through these thoughtful and proactive efforts, the Blesoff family exemplifies many of the goals set forth in the CROP plan. Their multi-generational household models a lifestyle that not only addresses climate change but also preserves the natural landscape for future generations. By embracing sustainable practices, the Blesoffs serve as an inspiring example for their neighborhood and the broader community, showing how intentional choices can create a positive and lasting impact.

FOOD GARDEN



BEFORE



AFTER