

Benches on the Avenue 2011



1 Land of Lincoln
 Artist: Nick Schulien
 Sponsor: James B. Carroll & Associates
 Zabrocki Plaza-South Side
 This portrayal of a 9-1/2 foot tall Lincoln towering over the Gettysburg Address and various Illinois landmarks is truly a reminder of Lincoln's importance to U. S. history. Even though Illinois is known as the Land of Lincoln, his contribution to society has spread far and wide. The artist, Nick Schulien, is a retired art teacher and 50-year resident of Tinley Park who enjoys contributing to Benches on the Avenue.



8 The Original American Beauties
 Artist: Jenifer Lloyd
 Sponsor: Available
 17236 S. Oak Park Avenue
 After admiring the Benches on the Avenue for many years, 22-year old Jenifer Lloyd joins this elite group of artists for the first time. Capturing a cross-section of animals native to North America, this bench celebrates the natural beauty of this country before it was settled. Among the animals represented in this bench are the American Bison, wild turkey, and bald eagle.



15 Land of the Free
 Artist: Babeth Kopf
 Sponsor: Gatto's Restaurant & Bar
 17432 S. Oak Park Avenue
 A first time bench artist, Babeth Kopf has been drawing, painting and creating for most of her life. The unique lifestyle of our first settlers is colorfully represented in this striking bench. In the totem pole and teepee, the artist has skillfully captured the vibrant colors and textile arts used by Native Americans. Babeth is the art instructor at Garden Center Services where she helps adults with special needs to create art.



2 Land of Liberty
 Artist: Marty Rose & Don Zak
 Sponsor: Aero Rubber Company, Inc
 Zabrocki Plaza-North Side
 Lady Liberty, Old Glory and the chiseled faces of our memorialized presidents on Mount Rushmore adorn this bench. They symbolize a tradition of liberty on which this country was founded. The artists, Marty Rose and Don Zak explain, that "this bench reflects the accomplishments of God and man". Marty has participated every year since the program was conceived. His neighbor, Don Zak, has used his technical skills to enhance their efforts.



9 State Fairs Show Off States Pride
 Artist: Roger Gerencir
 Sponsor: Odyssey Fun World
 17244 S. Oak Park Avenue
 Roger Gerencir provides a colorful rendition of the state fair highlighting amusement park rides, games and classic treats. Complete with competitions for baked goods, jams, jellies and pig raising, the artist captures the excitement, education and entertainment aspect of state fairs. Roger is a retired art teacher and a graduate of Illinois State University and National Louis University. He is a six-time Benches on the Avenue participant.



16 America by Covered Wagon
 Artist: Garrett Gray & Phillip Gerk
 Sponsor: SEECO Consultants Inc.
 17500 S. Oak Park Avenue
 During the late 18th and 19th centuries, American settler families traveled across our great nation by covered wagon and in doing so experienced all of America's beauty and splendor in its purest form. The pioneers on the back of the bench were crafted to resemble the artists and their wives. Natural materials such as canvas were used to create a realistic effect. Garrett and Phillip are a son-in-law/father-in-law team. Garrett is an engineer who always has time for art. Phillip is a retired electrician and talented woodworker who once built a canoe from scratch and raced it down the river.



3 An Illinois Farm
 Artist: Erik Iversen
 Sponsor: Panduit Corporation
 17313 S. Oak Park Avenue
 Complete with red barn and a white picket fence, this bench captures the tranquil setting of an Illinois Farm. This classic image includes animals grazing in open green fields. This sight can still be seen throughout the state - a tribute to those farmers that feed the nation. Artist Erik Iversen showcases an ambitious design with several three-dimensional features of the bench, including a windmill, grain silo, and barn. Erik is a first year participant in Benches on the Avenue. He lives in Tinley Park with his wife and son.



10 Independence Day
 Artist: Grissom Middle School Art Club
 Sponsor: Grissom Middle School
 17314 S. Oak Park Avenue
 Inspired by one of their favorite holidays, Grissom Middle School's Art Club designed this eye-popping bench. The artists - members of the 6th, 7th and 8th grades - illustrate the best traditions we celebrate every Fourth of July - fireworks, music and time together with family and friends! This is the Art Club's second year participating in the Benches on the Avenue.



17 Lady Liberty
 Artist: Mark Mullan
 Sponsor: NuMark Credit Union
 17514 S. Oak Park Avenue
 Returning for a second year, Mark Mullan pays tribute to the Statue of Liberty and all the wonderful things she represents for Americans - welcoming those who have been here for generations and new immigrants alike. This bench became a family act, with everyone getting involved to make this masterful piece. Mark resides in Tinley Park with his wife and children.



4 Bridging the Nation Together
 Artist: Melissa Ferriter, Sarah Paslawski, Emily Cooper, Megan Cleary, Rachel Romero, The Bridge Teen Center
 Sponsor: Pronger Smith Medical Care
 17255 S. Oak Park Avenue
 America's many covered bridges still dot the countryside and prove to be warriors of weather lasting up to 80 years. This bench is an excellent example of these American landmarks. The Bridge Teen Center provides free programs during after-school and unstructured hours to help students grow mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually, in a safe environment. Programming focuses on everyday life, community connections, educational support, mind/body and expressive arts.



11 Presidential Tradition
 Artist: Garrett Gray & Phillip Gerk
 Sponsor: SEECO Construction Services, Inc.
 17322 S. Oak Park Avenue
 America has a beautiful tradition of celebrated Presidents. The front of the bench highlights those Presidents memorialized on Mount Rushmore, while the back celebrates Illinois' very own - Presidents Barack Obama, Ronald Reagan, Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant. Garrett Gray is an engineer by day, an artist by night and devoted husband. Phillip Gerk is a retired Construction Electrician of 45 years and a loving husband, father of nine and grandfather of 20. This son-in-law/father-in-law team brings together exceptional talents in artistry and woodworking to create this bench.



18 Pie Eating Contest
 Artist: Garden Center Services Artists
 Sponsor: Sam's Club
 17501 S. Oak Park Avenue
 Get a real slice of America with this bench, which tells the story of a boy getting to the pie before the pie-eating contest begins, with an angry judge and shocked mom looking on. This bench is for anyone who ever dreamed big - especially when it comes to pie! Artists created this bench as a group through the art program at Garden Center Services, a non-profit agency that provides support for adults with development disabilities.



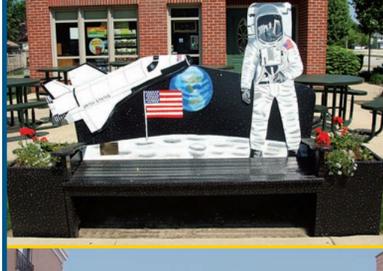
5 Welcoming Home Our Heroes
 Artist: Debra Scinto, Ron "Cowboy" Iacono & Lenny Scinto
 Sponsor: VFW Post 6863/AVMRA Chapter 7, Chicagoland Toys for Tots & Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run
 17225 S. Oak Park Avenue
 This bench honors and supports our troops and veterans that sacrifice or have sacrificed so much for our freedom and this country. Adorned with photographs of real life events the artists depict the patriotism shown by motorcyclists, families and the public welcoming these brave soldiers, veterans and fallen heroes. Deb Scinto has taken her three passions: her photography, volunteer work and her love of riding her motorcycle and created this bench with help from Ron "Cowboy" Iacono and her father, Len Scinto, to honor our troops.



12 Historic Route 66
 Artist: Roger Gerencir
 Sponsor: Apple Chevrolet, Inc.
 17332 S. Oak Park Avenue
 Depicting various sights along historic Route 66, Roger Gerencir illustrates the "Main Street of America" which originally ran from Chicago to Los Angeles. The artist highlights the Blues Brothers towering above various tourist attractions found along the route. The artist is a six-time participant in Benches on the Avenue and a retired high school art teacher who resides in Joliet.



19 The Sixties
 Artist: Jennifer Lilly
 Sponsor: Midas Tinley Park
 6779 W. 174th Place
 The late Sixties were a unique time in American history. The artist, Jennifer Lilly, expresses the art, music and themes from this time period through her vibrant images. Her artwork symbolizes the feeling of change in the cultural fabric of American life in the Sixties. A sixth year bench artist, Jennifer has worked alongside her father, Nick Schulien and enjoys the artistic challenge of Benches on the Avenue.



6 America the Beautiful - Reaching the Universe
 Artist: Maria Dobesh and children Lizette & Alex Marcin
 Sponsor: Robinson Engineering & Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins
 17217 S. Oak Park Avenue
 Maria Dobesh portrays proud American moments throughout the history of the space program. Her artistic talent truly demonstrates the significance of NASA by representing historic moments such as the first moon landing and modern advancements in the space shuttle. Maria and her family were born in Mexico. Maria worked as a graphic designer and illustrator. Lizette and Alex are currently taking art classes at their respective schools.



13 Where the Buffalo Roam
 Artist: Nick Schulien
 Sponsor: Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center
 Oak Park Avenue & Hickory Street
 The buffalo roamed the plains of the west by the millions. They are majestic animals which have been saved from extinction and now add to the wonders of the western plains of the United States again. The artist created a 3-D effect using canvas and fur-like cloth to produce the buffalo's coat along with lifelike eyes and realistic horns and hooves. Nick Schulien is a talented, six year Benches on the Avenue artist. He is a retired high school art teacher and a resident of Tinley Park for 60 years.



20 Life on the Mississippi
 Artist: Nick Schulien
 Sponsor: District 228-Eleanor Ferraro Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship
 17401 S. Oak Park Avenue
 Sail down the mighty Mississippi with this tribute to great American author, Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens). This bench portrays some of the most vivid and captivating scenes about life on the river that Twain depicted in his literature - including Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn and others. Nick Schulien, a retired art teacher and 60-year Tinley resident, joins the Benches on the Avenue for his sixth year as an artist - cheered on by his wife, two daughters and grandchildren!



7 Sea to Shining Sea
 Artist: Russell Block
 Sponsor: Crossmark Printing
 17208 S. Oak Park Avenue
 Take a few moments to relax at the seashore on this bench complete with Adirondack chair. The artist used 3D elements to represent the scenic east and west coasts of the United States. The palm and redwood trees create a stark contrast yet illustrate the natural, tranquil beauty of each coast. An amateur artist from Tinley Park, this is Russell Block's second time taking part in the Benches on the Avenue.



14 Uncle Sam
 Artist: Jennifer Lilly
 Sponsor: Bettenhausen Automotive
 17424 S. Oak Park Avenue
 Uncle Sam and Rosie the Riveter call every American to do their duty to make this country strong and prosperous. Jennifer Lilly, a Tinley Park native, captures two iconic American figures on each side of the bench. Both subjects of Jennifer's work underscore the power of art to shape American history. A sixth year bench artist, Jennifer has worked alongside her father, Nick Schulien and enjoys the artistic challenge of Benches on the Avenue.



21 Freedom
 Artist: Raye Ann Saunoris and children, Beau & Bladen Saunoris
 Sponsor: First Midwest Bank
 Oak Park Avenue & South Street
 A colorful and patriotic illustration of the American Bald Eagle, this bench portrays the strength and beauty of America as this majestic symbol of freedom soars through the sky. A professional local muralist, painter and interior designer, Raye Ann Saunoris is forever inspired by her children, Beau, 11, and Bladen, 9. Raye Ann has been contributing to Benches on the Avenue for four years.

Bronze Statues on the Avenue

These timeless statues and monuments on Oak Park Avenue add beauty and dignity to our town. Many of the statues typify what Tinley Park is all about – rich in family values, hometown warmth and pride in our neighborhoods. Our village welcomes all of you to take the walking tour

along Oak Park Avenue and see the wonderful bronze sculptures and artistic birdhouses we have on display. A special thanks to Emily Zabrocki for her assistance in selecting the bronze sculptures and for writing the descriptive narratives.



1 The Good Book sculpted by Mark Lundeen. This sculpture captures the bond between the old and young. Many of us remember a grandmother, favorite aunt, neighbor or friend reading to us as we sat enjoying not only the story, but the sense of sharing and love that brought us together.



2 First Star sculpted by Dennis Smith. Children, being shorter than we adults, see a totally different world. It is probably part of why they love high places that will elevate them above their short world. In First Star, a father, rooted as an observatory, scans the dusky sky of a summer day, searching for that first evening star, creating for his daughter a vision of a broad universe beyond anything her young mind can yet imagine.



3 Home Delivery sculpted by Blair Muhlestein. Home Delivery transports us to an earlier time, much like the buildings that we see from the Plaza. Here we see a young man, taking pride in his bike and his delivery of papers. Many of us remember the responsibilities of the papers delivered on time, as well as the drudgery of getting up early and facing those bad weather days!



4 Long May It Wave sculpted by Blair Muhlestein. Three children, recreating the battle weary flag-bearer and fife and drum players of the Revolutionary War as they play. This sculpture takes on added significance as we remember the events of September 11, 2001. We continue to take pride in our flag and what it symbolizes and remember to rejoice in our freedoms as Americans. We also are reminded that the freedoms we enjoy came about because of the sacrifices of many and that it takes continued vigilance to stamp out hatred, fostering understanding and respect for all the peoples of this world.



5 Tinley Park Firefighters sculpted by A. Joseph Kinkle. The Tinley Park Fire Department was organized in 1901. The design of this statue was selected to depict those early days, a firefighter called to duty with a look of determination and concern to handle the task at hand. The base was designed and engraved by Maurice Moore Memorials. This tribute contains the names of all firefighters who served Tinley Park during the first 100 years, 1901 to 2001.



6 Twist in Time sculpted by James Haire. Here we see a young boy, enjoying a fine summer day on a rope swing beneath the branch of a favorite tree. Another simple pleasure, reminding us that happiness doesn't need to involve owning the newest, most expensive gadgets, whatever our age. Most of us remember the joy of feeling the wind brush across our face as we swoop up and down, up and down, higher and higher on the swings of our youth.



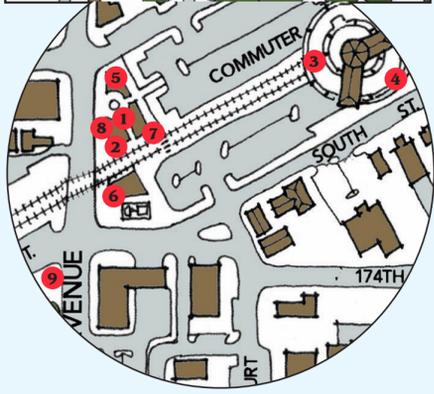
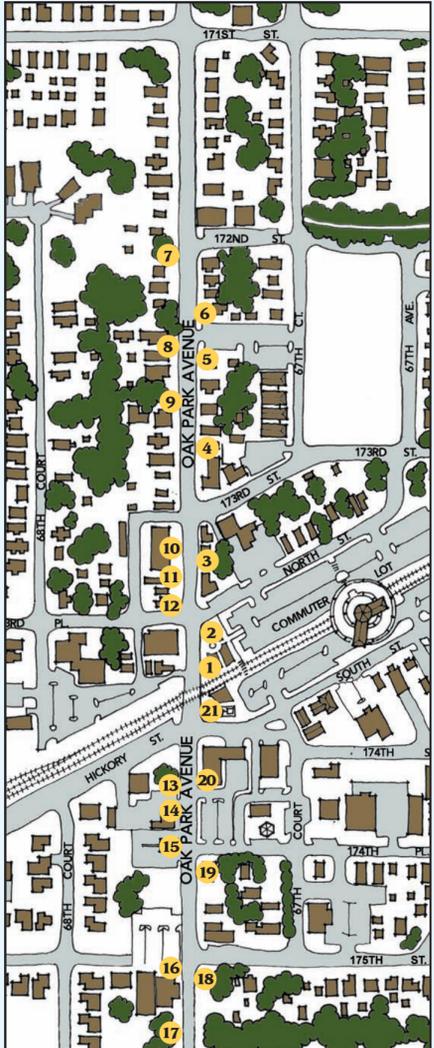
7 Heading Out sculpted by Dennis Smith. Heading Out is an image about beginnings. Think about the mind and vision of a child; the trial and error—the pure work that accompanies the task of learning to walk. Beyond the falls, the bumps and bruises of the effort, finally those first steps take form, and the child heads out into the wide and endless vision of a world filled with new things and endless places to explore.



8 Dorothy and Friends sculpted by Phyllis C. Beattie. This sculpture was originally commissioned to memorialize Dorothy Vogt, who was a community leader and volunteer in Arapahoe County, Colorado. It depicts Mrs. Vogt as a young girl, doing what she loved best, reading with her dog in the park. It reminds us of the days you could find us outside, enjoying nature, a good book, and our animal friends.



9 Tender Touch sculpted by George Lundeen. Tender Touch is a life size sculpture of a young woman dressed in period clothing from the turn of the century. In one arm she holds an infant swathed in a blanket and with her other arm she holds the hand of a young girl with a crutch who is leaning against her. Alongside her is a steamer trunk. This woman stands between Fulton House and the train station and brings to mind the early settlers who underwent difficult journeys and untold hardships to find for themselves and their families the promise of a better life.



The Village of Tinley Park

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Tinley Park Presents Benches on the Avenue

"America the Beautiful"
May thru September, 2011

Cover Photo by: Photos by Rick



Vote for Your Favorite Bench!
Log on to www.tinleypark.org to view photos of the benches and vote for your favorite in the following categories:
Most Creative, Best Portrayal of Theme, Best Use of Materials, Best Family Project, Best Young Artist, Best First Time Participant, Best Group Project
Winners will be announced at the Music in the Plaza Concert at the Oak Park Avenue train station on August 20, 2011.

- A Very Special Thank You to...**
- Village of Tinley Park employees -- Nancy Byrne, project manager, with assistance from the Marketing and Economic Development Departments, and the Public Works Department for their resourcefulness and timely support.
 - Village of Tinley Park MainStreet Commissioners: Mike Clark, Rick Butkus, Jack Cochran, Tom Kane, Becky Nichols, and Rich Guillaume
 - Michael Reishman and his assistants at Samorits Nursery for coordinating the flower selection for the planter boxes.
 - The carpenter, Gerard & Roberts Inc., who custom designed and built the benches for the artists to decorate.
 - Smith Enterprise Applications for the online contest web design work.
 - Crossmark Printing for the design and printing of this brochure.
 - The individual property owners who allowed the benches to be displayed along the "Avenue".

- Our generous sponsors for their financial support of this project.
- Each and every artist who generously shared his or her time, incredible talent and creativity with the residents of and visitors to the Village of Tinley Park.
- John Kasman of Aero Rubber Co. for donating warehouse space to house the benches.
- Bill Moran of Carlin-Moran Landscapers, Inc. for donating the watering of the beautiful flowers throughout the season.
- Rick Butkus of Photos by Rick for donating the photography of all of the benches.
- Cub Scouts Pack #398 from Millennium Elementary School and their parents for planting the flowers.
- Becky Nichols of Ewon's Trophies & Awards for donating and installing the plaques to identify the artists and sponsors.
- The Tinley Park Garden Club for maintaining the flowers throughout the summer.

Many thanks to the following contributors without whose help this project would not have happened:
This project was created and implemented by the Village of Tinley Park's MainStreet Commission in an effort to beautify our community and showcase downtown Tinley Park.