

# Benches on the Avenue 2013

Benches on the Avenue presents:

## 'Fairy Tale Festival'



**1 Little Red Riding Hood**  
 Artist: Jennifer Lilly  
 Sponsor: Odyssey Fun Farm  
 Zabrocki Plaza, South Side

This fairy tale depicts the wolf trying to trick Red into believing he is her grandmother. The back shows Red's apprehension about entering the house. The scenes on the bench and boxes try to tell the complete tale. The materials used for "Little Red Riding Hood" were: plywood, Great Stuff, chicken wire, sculpy clay, fake fur, fleece, artificial flowers, outdoor fabric, canvas, a bed skirt and a bandana. This is Jennifer's eighth year participating as a bench artist. She truly enjoys the challenge of creating a unique design to go with each theme.



**2 Beware of the Sugar-Sweet Lair**  
 Artist: Marty Rose & Don Zak  
 Sponsor: Aero Rubber Company, Inc.  
 Zabrocki Plaza, North Side

This bench portrays Grimm's tale of siblings Hansel and Gretel, who are left to starve in the woods by their stepmother. They find a home made of baked sweets and tempting treats, but discover it's really the evil lair of a wicked witch. Constructed of plywood and painted with acrylics, this bench captures the feeling of the forest. Marty and Don are neighbors. Don is a retired engineer. Marty is a respiratory therapist, muralist and published writer of a novel titled, "End of Innocence."



**3 Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?**  
 Artist: Garrett Gray & Phillip Gerk  
 Sponsor: SEECO Consultants Inc.  
 17313 S. Oak Park Avenue

"Little pig, little pig, let me in!" This famous line is from the fairy tale "The Three Little Pigs." The Big Bad Wolf huffs, puffs and blows down the first pig's straw house, then the second pig's stick house. But, the wolf cannot destroy the third pig's brick house and meets his end when he enters through its chimney! This bench is comprised of wood, paint and ingenuity. Six family members' voices bring this story to life with scannable QR codes. Garrett and Phil are a son-in-law and father-in-law team of award winning-bench artists who make people smile with their popular artwork.



**4 The Princess and the Frog**  
 Artist: Valerie Palac  
 Sponsor: Ed & Joe's Pizza  
 17255 S. Oak Park Avenue

This colorful bench was inspired by the idea of a princess coming upon a magical frog in one of Claude Monet's water-colored paintings, "Water Lilies." It is painted in a style similar to Impressionism paintings by using acrylic paints. Water lilies, cattails and other Japanese garden-inspired objects beautify the bench. Valerie lives in Homer Glen and is a first-year bench artist.



**5 Down the Rabbit Hole**  
 Artist: Brittany Woods, Lexi Woods, Wade Anderson and Ryan Bedillion  
 Sponsor: Gatto's Restaurant and Bar  
 17225 S. Oak Park Avenue

Everyone should have their own "Wonderland" – a place where your imagination can run wild; where the sky is the limit! This vibrant bench is filled with colorful paint to create a 3-D effect. Ryan is a senior at St. Xavier University and majors in art. Lexi and Brittany are sisters who work together and have enjoyed viewing the benches over the years. Brittany and Ryan are the main designers for this bench. They are all first-year bench artists.



**6 Climb to Safety**  
 Artist: Laura Garrity  
 Sponsor: Trustee Antonio Rubino, Orland Township  
 17217 S. Oak Park Avenue

The lone maiden, Rapunzel, is portrayed in her tower longing for her prince. To create the bench, the artist used a variety of materials from wood, fencing posts and spray foam to create faux rocks, to canvas to create the hair braids and ivy. This is Laura's fourth year as a bench artist, formerly completing three benches with her students in the Grissom Middle School Art Club. This year she has enjoyed the challenge of creating a bench solo while on a family leave.



**7 The Bremen Town Musicians**  
 Artist: Jacob, Kari, Lindsie, Jeremy & Alyssa Hoffman  
 Sponsor: Porte Brown LLC – CPA  
 17208 S. Oak Park Avenue

In "The Bremen Town Musicians," four unappreciated animals leave their homes and head to the town of Bremen hoping to become town musicians. On their way, they find a cottage in the woods with four robbers inside. They attempt to perform their "music" for the robbers, but scare them off with their noise instead. The robbers return later only to be scared off again, this time for good, and the animal friends decide to live happily ever after in the cottage. This Tinley Park family created this bench as a fun family project. This is Kari's second year as a bench artist.



**8 Hansel and Gretel**  
 Artist: Jennifer Lilly  
 Sponsor: Crossmark Printing, Inc  
 17236 S. Oak Park Avenue

This bench shows the story of the children, Hansel and Gretel. After getting lost in the woods they come across an edible house with candies, cookies and cakes! They are captured by a witch who plans to eat them, but Gretel saves the day! This creative artist used plywood, Great Stuff, screen, chicken wire, taping, glitter, canvas, plumbing pipe, sheet metal, duct tape, wooden circles and balls; socks, felt, ribbon and gold coin chocolate candy papers to create the 3-D look. This is Jennifer's eighth year participating as a bench artist. She lives in a neighboring community and has worked in Tinley Park for 23 years.



**9 The Lorax**  
 Artist: Lizette Marcin Lehmans  
 Sponsor: Durkin Electric  
 17244 S. Oak Park Avenue

The Lorax is a fun tale about a young man who learns the value of nature the hard way, and when it's too late for him to right his wrongs, maybe someone who cares will help him do just that. The materials for this bench include different widths of wood for the Once-ler and the Lorax on the stump. Acrylics were used on pretty much every inch of it; primer took a good roll as a first layer, and varnish and sparkles here and there were like the cherry on top! Lizette is 16 years old and a first-time bench artist. After high school, she plans to attend college and pursue a career in art.



**10 The Princess and the Pea**  
 Artist: Amanda Cichoracki  
 Sponsor: Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Ctr.  
 17316 S. Oak Park Avenue

One rainy night in the kingdom, a bedraggled girl knocked at the castle gate seeking shelter. She insisted that she was a princess. The prince placed a pea beneath a towering stack of mattresses before sending the girl to bed. In the morning, the girl proved herself to be a princess by her sleepless night. The prince, who had been seeking a wife, finally found his princess. The bench is constructed with a mixture of woods and is upholstered with an old blanket and outdoor fabrics. Amanda earned the Art Institute of Chicago and earned her BFA in 2010. She is a first-year bench artist and currently teaches grammar school art and music.



**11 Where the Wild Things Are**  
 Artist: Illinois Institute of Art – Tinley Park Bench Team  
 Sponsor: Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17  
 17322 S. Oak Park Avenue

The Illinois Institute of Art has chosen the fairytale, "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak. They have included Max and his best friend from the island of "Wild Things" in the bench. Both Max's and the Monster's hair were created from gerbil and guinea pig bedding that was incorporated in paint to give the bench a 3-D appearance as well as stacking the Monster's facial features. This group, which consists of Bethany Nemecek, Tara Deliberto, Stacey Jurewicz, Greg Marino, Jill Decker and Kathleen Enright, encourages all Tinley Park residents to "Let the wild rumpus start!"



**12 Jack and the Beanstalk**  
 Artist: Nick Schullien  
 Sponsor: James B. Carroll & Associates  
 17332 S. Oak Park Avenue

The artist started this bench by using a tree to create the beanstalk. Most of the bench is made of plywood, and canvas was used to make the leaves for the plant. He used plastic hose to make vines, and artificial plants to add the final growing end of the plants. Straw was used for hair, and rope for an accent on the cow. He cantilevered the cloud, which supports the giant as Jack climbs down the stalk. Nick has been a Tinley Park resident for 60 years. He is a retired high school art teacher and has created numerous benches over the past nine years.



**13 Azlan Returns**

Artist: *Steve Mancione*  
 Sponsor: *Tribes Alehouse and Grill*  
**Oak Park Avenue & Hickory Street**

The design of this bench was inspired by the first book in the Chronicles of Narnia, titled "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis. The wardrobe serves as a literal element in the story as the opening from our world to Narnia, but is also designed to invite the viewer into the fantasy by framing the paintings on either side. The artist wanted to create the experience that the entire wardrobe and bench were the same piece of furniture and could in fact be the entryway to Narnia. Steve Mancione is a teaching artist who has lived in Tinley Park for 10 years. This is his first year as a bench artist. Steve's other artwork includes illustration, comics and painting.



**14 Wizard of Oz**

Artist: *Babeth Kopf*  
 Sponsor: *NuMark Credit Union*  
**17424 S. Oak Park Avenue**

Beth Kopf is a third-year bench creator. Her "Wizard of Oz" bench was, in her words, her best bench. She used materials such as AstroTurf, concrete and gems to create the witches castle and poppy field leading to the Emerald City. Her bench was inspired by her daughter Jenna's love for the "Wizard of Oz." Beth is the art director of the Garden Gallery in Tinley Park.



**15 The Little Mermaid**

Artist: *Maria Jacqueline Lehmans*  
 Sponsor: *Odyssey Fun World*  
**17432 S. Oak Park Avenue**

Everyone knows the beautiful tale of "The Little Mermaid"; a young mermaid who dreams of living in the land above to spend her days with the love of her life, Prince Eric. The 3D effect was made with different widths of wood. The rocks were made with spray foam, and the sand texture on the beach was added with spray texture. Acrylics were used for the majority of the paint job, and a polymer coating was used on the mermaid and the ocean to add that shine to it! And of course, sparkles – everyone loves those! Maria is a third-year bench artist who was born in Mexico City and who worked for several years as a graphic designer and illustrator.



**16 Thumbelina's Garden**

Artist: *Roger Gerencir*  
 Sponsor: *Ted's Greenhouse Inc.*  
**17500 S. Oak Park Avenue**

Thumbelina is waking up in the center of a large flower surrounded by many more flowers and plants, with the Frog Queen and her son looking on nearby. The Queen wants Thumbelina to be her son's bride. The frogs are covered with fleece cloth and are stuffed with plastic bags to create a more 3D effect. The seat of the bench is a pond and is carried over on the flower boxes on each side. Several colors of paint and sheets of exterior plywood were used for the figures and plants. Roger is an eighth-year bench artist and is a retired art teacher, having taught in the Valley View School District for 34 years.



**17 Goldilocks and the Three Bears**

Artist: *Nick Schulien*  
 Sponsor: *Bettenhausen Automotive*  
**17514 S. Oak Park Avenue**

The artist used fur-covered plywood to create the bears, and rope for the features on the face. Father Bear is wearing a Chicago Bears T-shirt, and an upset Baby Bear has a tear running down his cheek that is made of glue. Canvas was used to create the bed, which is a cushioned seat; and wooden knobs were used to create the bedstead. Nick has been a Tinley Park resident for 60 years. He is a retired high school art teacher and has created numerous benches over the past nine years.



**18 A Stroll in the Woods**

Artist: *Alisa Bombassi, Joanne Carmody, Debra Connelly, Jon Hawrysi, Wendy Starita, along with the Garden Gallery Artists*

Sponsor: *Robinson Eng. & Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins*  
**17459 S. Oak Park Avenue**

The magic of "Snow White" is captured in this bewitching and enchanting forest scene. Look closely – the 3D is subtle. Hidden within the scene is an actual stone chimney, a gravel path and various rocks nestled by the river. The colorful floral seat was designed and painted by the Garden Gallery artists. All first-time participants, the team includes artist Joanne Carmody and artists/Garden Gallery volunteers Alisa Bombassi, Debra Connelly, Jon Hawrysi, Wendy Starita, along with an amazing ensemble of adult artists with developmental disabilities.



**19 Let Down Your Hair**

Artist: *Molly Grupka*  
 Sponsor: *First Midwest Bank*  
**6779 W. 174th Place**

The artist recreated the fairy tale, "Rapunzel," by using mostly plywood to make the tower and hair. The front of the tower was made with Masonite shingles, and the top of the tower was adorned with wooden spheres. The whole bench was painted with acrylic paints, and golden shimmer paint was used to add an accent to Rapunzel's crown. Molly is a graphic design student at St. Xavier University and a first-year bench artist who enjoyed making this bench, as "Rapunzel" is her favorite fairy tale of all time.



**20 The Prince and the Dragon**

Artist: *Michele, Carlando, Carlyse & Karlando Owens*  
 Sponsor: *Ponger Smith Medical Care*  
**17401 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This bench includes images from the fairy tale, "The Prince and the Dragon." The dragon looms with his foot on the dragon's tail, about to pierce it with his sword. Each animal around the planters played a key role in the Prince defeating the dragon to set his brothers free. The dragon, prince and castle are 3-D layers. This is the first family bench for the Owens family, although Michele has participated as an individual for two previous years. This family has several years of combined artistic, theatrical and technical skills and enjoyed bringing their skills together on this project.

**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 we have on display. A special thanks to Emily Zabrocki for her assistance in selecting the bronze sculptures and for writing the descriptive narratives.



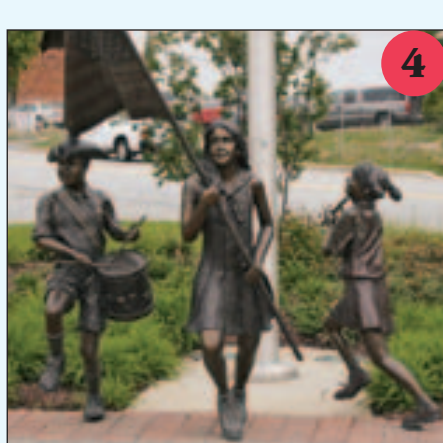
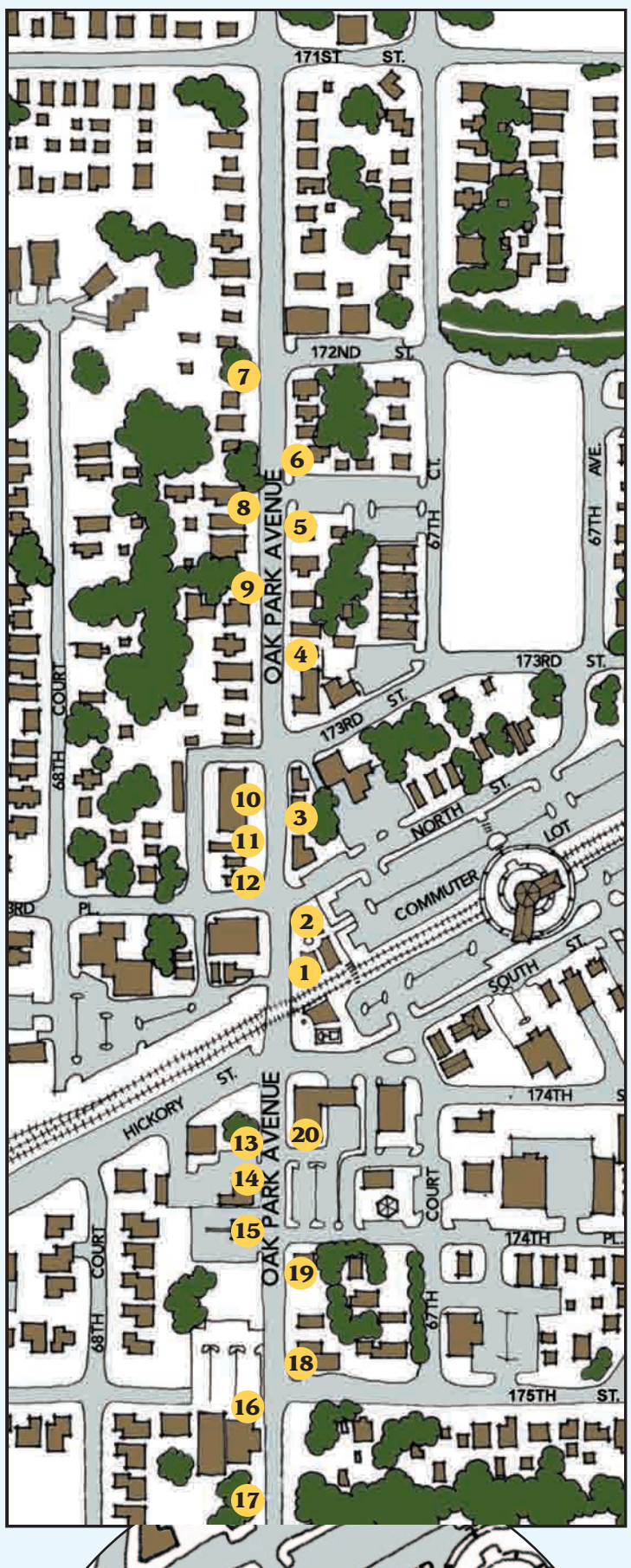
**1 The Good Book** sculpted by Mark Lundeen. This sculpture captures the bond between the old and young. Many of us remember a grandmother, favorite aunt, neighbor or friend reading to us as we sat enjoying not only the story, but the sense of sharing and love that brought us together.



**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 he observes the stars, 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.



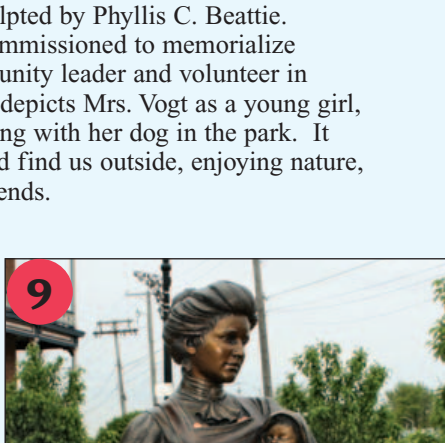
**6 Twist in Time** sculpted by James Haire. Here we see a young boy, enjoying a fine summer day on a rope swing beneath the branch of a favorite tree. Another simple pleasure, reminding us that happiness doesn't need to involve owning the newest, most expensive gadgets, whatever our age. Most of us 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 and 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 truck 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.