Benches on the Avenue 2011

Land of Lincoln
Artist: Becky Lopatka Sponsor: Neighbors, Chicagoland Southland
13377 S. Oak Park Avenue
This bench will depict the spirit of Lincoln and the Land of Lincoln. It will honor Abraham Lincoln and the challenges he faced as our 16th President. It will include a statue of Abraham Lincoln, items from his life, items from the Civil War time period and patriotic symbols. It will also depict the Lincoln Family and their contributions to the nation.

Land of Liberty
Artist: Mike Sotz Sponsor: Neighbors, Chicagoland Southland
13400 S. Oak Park Avenue
The Land of Liberty Bench will be a depiction of the American Revolution including the American flag, American coat of arms, and a sculpture of a soldier in revolutionary uniform. It will also feature symbols of the 13 original colonies.

State Fair Show Off States Pride
Artist: Roger Converse Sponsor: Land of Lincoln Development
17244 S. Oak Park Avenue
The State Fair Show Off States Pride Bench will depict the history and multicultural diversity of state fairs. It will include images of various state fairs and feature symbols related to state fairs such as corn, goats, livestock, and the Missouri State Fair emblem.

Independence Day
Artist: Grinnell Middle School Art Club Sponsor: Grinnell Middle School
17124 S. Oak Park Avenue
This Independence Day Bench will depict various elements of the Fourth of July, such as the Statue of Liberty, fireworks, and a red, white, and blue color scheme. It will celebrate the nation's independence and the spirit of freedom.

Presidential Tradition
Artist: Gretter & Greg Phillips Sponsor: District 228-Eleanor Ferraro Memorial
17323 S. Oak Park Avenue
This Presidential Tradition Bench will feature presidential statues and symbols such as the Lincoln Memorial, the White House, and the American flag. It will pay tribute to the role of the presidency in American history.

The Original American Beauties
Artist: Dolly Iveson Sponsor: Joliet Area Historical Society
17236 S. Oak Park Avenue
The Original American Beauties Bench will depict the historical figures and landmarks that have contributed to the American Beauties of our nation. It will include depictions of women who have made significant contributions to American society.

America by Covered Wagon
Artist: Gretter & Greg Phillips Sponsor: District 228-Eleanor Ferraro Memorial
17200 S. Oak Park Avenue
This America by Covered Wagon Bench will showcase the history of western expansion in the United States. It will feature depictions of covered wagons, pioneers, and notable figures such as Daniel Boone and Lewis and Clark.

Pie Eating Contest
Artist: Garden Center Services Artists Sponsor: Garden Center Services
17120 S. Oak Park Avenue
This Pie Eating Contest Bench will depict a pie-eating contest with various elements such as a slice of pie, a fork, and a playful scene. It will celebrate the tradition of enjoying pies at state fairs and other events.

The Sixties
Artist: Jennifer Lilly Sponsor: Joliet Civic Centre
6179 W. 147th Place
The Sixties Bench will focus on significant events and cultural aspects of the 1960s, such as the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and the Woodstock Festival. It will depict iconic images and symbols from that era.

Life on the Mississippi
Artist: Neil Schubert Sponsor: Joliet-South Elgin Friends Memorial Park-Artists
17401 S. Oak Park Avenue
This Life on the Mississippi Bench will depict scenes from the Mississippi River, such as riverboats, steamers, and the symbolism of the river as a symbol of American history and culture. It will also include features related to the surrounding region.

Freedom
Artist: Roger Ann Sisson and children Sponsor: Joliet Civic Centre
Sponsor: First Advent Congregational
17220 Oak Park Avenue
This Freedom Bench will celebrate the principles of freedom and justice. It will feature symbols and images of freedom such as a broken chain, a meeting of the minds, and the American flag.

About the Artists

American author, Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens). This bench will pay tribute to the spirit of the American West and the contributions of the pioneers who explored and settled the region.

Pronger Smith Medical Care Artist: Babeth Kopf Sponsor: Pronger Smith Medical Care
17332 S. Oak Park Avenue
This Pronger Smith Medical Care Bench will focus on the medical profession and its history. It will include symbols of healthcare, such as a stethoscope, medical equipment, and medical personnel.

The Sixties
Artist: Jennifer Lilly Sponsor: Joliet Civic Centre
6179 W. 147th Place
This Sixties Bench will depict scenes and symbols from the 1960s, such as the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and the Woodstock Festival. It will feature iconic images and symbols related to that era.

The Original American Beauties
Artist: Dolly Iveson Sponsor: Joliet Area Historical Society
17236 S. Oak Park Avenue
This Original American Beauties Bench will celebrate the contributions of women who have made significant contributions to American society. It will include depictions of influential women from various fields.

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

The Good Book sculpted by Mark Landman. This sculpture captures the bond between the old and young. Many of us remember a Shakespeare, favorite aunt, neighbor or friend telling us stories or reading to us at bedtime. Not only do the stories make us feel happy but the sound of reading — so soothing — brings us together.

First Star sculpted by Donna Smith. Children, being children, live in the moment. One does not need to be a rocket scientist to know that life is a totally different world. It is probably part of why they love high places that will thrust them above their short-sighted small world. In First Star, a father, seated on a mountaintop, gazes wistfully at the night sky of a summer day, searching for that first shooting star, creating a daughter's vision of a broad universe beyond everything her young mind can yet imagine.

Home Delivery sculpted by Matte Mahon. Home Delivery transports us to an earlier time, much like the buildings that you see from the Plane. Here we see a young man, taking pride in his bike and his delivery of papers. Many of us remember our first paper route as the thrill of getting up early and facing thosejad weather days!

Long May She Wave sculpted by Blaine Mekokinta. These statues commemorating the battle weary flag-bearer and fly from the plazas of the Revolutionary War as they play. These sculptures take 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 statue in our freedom as Americans. We also remember that the freedom we enjoy came with a price and we should be grateful for it.

Bronze Statues on the Avenue

Twist in Time sculpted by James Schoen. 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 in happiness there does exist a sense of the newest, most expensive gadgets, whatever our age. Most of us remember the joy of feeling the wind brush across our face as we swing beneath the branches of a favorite tree.

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 courage to handle the most difficult situations. Its name reflects the pride 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 handiworks we have on display. A special thanks to Emily Zabrowski for her assistance in selecting the bronze sculptures and for writing the descriptive narratives.

Tender Touch sculpted by George Landman. 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 the hand of a young girl with a crutch who is leaning against her. Alongside her is a steamer trunk. This woman stands between the generations and reminds us all that our youth.

Dorothy and Friends sculpted by Phyllis C. Beattie. This sculpture was originally commissioned to memorialize Dorothy V ogt, who was a community leader and volunteer in Tinley Park. This tribute contains the names of all firefighters who served Tinley Park during this 100 years, 1901 to 2001.

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

Edward Zabrowski Mayor
Patrick Rez Village Clerk
Teresa David Assistant
Gregory Simon Brian Washab Thomas Staniones Jr.
Patricia Lovel T.J. Grab

Village of Tinley Park Presents
Bencles on the Avenue

“America the Beautiful” May thru September, 2011

Photos by: Photos by Rick

The Village of Tinley Park

Our generous sponsors for their financial support of this project.

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- Crossmark Printing for the design and printing of this brochure.
- Smith Enterprise Applications for the online contest web design work.
- The carpenter, Gerard & Roberts Inc., who custom designed and built the benches for the artists to decorate.
- The Tinley Park Garden Club for maintaining the flowers throughout the season.
- Becky Nichols of Evon’ s Trophies & Awards for donating and installing the plaques to identify the artists and sponsors.
- Rick Butkus of Photos by Rick for donating the photography of the benches and vote for your favorite benches.
- The individual property owners who allowed the benches to be displayed downtown Tinley Park.
- The Tinley Park Garden Club for maintaining the flowers.
- Our generous sponsors for their financial support of this project.
- John Kasman of Aero Rubber Co. for donating warehouse materials, Best Family Project, Best Young Artist, for all the peoples of this world.
- Cub Scouts Pack #398 from Millennium Elementary School for all the peoples of this world.
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