

Benches on the Avenue 2006



Zabrocki Plaza, South Side
Sponsor: Bettenhausen Dodge

Beyond the Wardrobe

Artist: *Marty Rose*
This bench recalls images and characters conjured up from the story of “The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe” from which the movie “Chronicles of Narnia” is based. It has a wardrobe on each side for the viewer to enter and exit. Marty Rose is a full-time Respiratory therapist who also finds work as an artist most often painting murals and furniture. This is his third year participating in Benches on the Avenue. he dedicates his bench to his daughters Lauren, Morgan and Madelyn. Try to find their names hidden in the scenes.

Johnny Appleseed

Artist: *Laurie C. Buer*
Laurie Buer's bench is a collage painting of the apple, apple trees, “Johnny Appleseed” and animals. This artist works as a newspaper illustrator, advertising executive, mural painter, painting teacher and graphic designer. She resides in Northbrook.



17208 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Tinley Park-Park District



17270 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Ed & Joe's Restaurant and Pizzeria

Miss Spider “The Listening Walk”

Artist: *Val Fischer*
Val Fischer is a mural artist and also paints on canvas with acrylics. He has been a resident of Tinley Park for 28 years. The Miss Spider stories are a favorite of the artist's grandson, and the bright colors and insects are a natural match with the bench and planters.

Pig Tales

Artist: *Jennifer Lilly*
This artist has gathered together pigs from different children's stories on this bench. Toot and Puddle, Olivia, Piglet, Wilbur and pigs by Boynton and Inkpen are just some of the many pig stories represented here. Jennifer holds a bachelors degree in Illustration from Ray College of Design.



Oak Park Avenue & Hickory Street
Sponsor: Aero Rubber Company



Zabrocki Plaza, North Side
Sponsor: Mr. G's Furniture

It's Pajama Time

Artist: *Nick Schulien*

This 50-year Tinley Park resident is a retired art teacher. With two grown children, Nick Schulien finds it helpful to always have a book to get the grandchildren ready for bed. Making a game out of it gets them to look forward to going to sleep because “It's Pajama Time”!

The Little Engine That Could

Artist: *Staff of Arete 3, Ltd Architectural Firm*
Arete 3 Architectural firm decided to sponsor and design a bench for Tinley Park as a team building exercise. “The Little Engine That Could” was the perfect theme. A group of highly talented individuals working together can accomplish anything. “We Think We Can – We Thought We Could”



17216 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Arete 3 Architects



17314 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce

Charlotte and Friends

Artist: *Mrs. Eskra's 5th Grade Class at Sandidge School*
“Charlotte's Web” was voted by the 15 students in Mrs. Eskra's class as their favorite storybook. The bench depicts scenes from the popular story. You will get the feeling you are in the barn looking out across the barnyard and meeting Charlotte in the doorway. The back of the bench portrays Charlotte's daughter spinning new webs while Wilbur watches. Marty Rose assisted Mrs. Eskra and her students with this creative bench.

Curious George

Artist: *Brittany Johnson (Lincolnway East Art Club)*
The many adventures of Curious George are depicted on this colorful and creative bench. Brittany is a 14-year old student at Lincolnway East High School who is interested in pursuing art in the future.



17424 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Gatto's Restaurant



17313 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Pronger Smith Medical Care

The Hunny Tree

Artist: *Val Fischer*
Val Fischer has been a Tinley Park resident for 28 years. Among other things, he works as a mural artist and participates in the Tinley Park Autumn Fine Arts Festival. Val has enjoyed painting murals of Winnie the Pooh, a classic favorite of all ages, for his children, and more recently, for his grandson.

Seuss on the Loose

Artist: *Jennifer Lilly*
Jennifer Lilly was a resident of Tinley Park for 25 years before moving to Oak Forest where she lives with her husband and two children. She holds a bachelors degree in Illustration. Her love of Dr. Seuss began as a child and she now enjoys reading these stories to her children. A few of the most popular are gathered on this bench. Read Them, Read Them, Here They Are!



17236 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Crossmark Printing



17320 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Mason Subaru on 159th Street

Robin Hood Meets Maid Marion

Artist: *Cynthia Borman*
This bench is a visual representation of the relationship between the best-loved childhood classic characters, Robin Hood and Maid Marion. The stage is set when the two meet, as viewed on the front of the bench. The back demonstrates Robin's assistance to the Maid Marion by guiding her through the forest unharmed. Cynthia Borman has over 30 years of Fine Arts education, training and exhibition experience in oils and watercolor and resides in Homewood.

Arthur on the Avenue

Artist: *Lefje Lindokken*
“Arthur”, the unforgettable aardvark, and his friends are portrayed on this bench which represents a variety of books from the series by Marc Brown. The artist is an eighth-grader at Central Middle School in Tinley Park. This is her third year participating in the Benches on the Avenue art project.



17432 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Comcast Cable



17255 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: James B. Carroll & Associates

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Artist: *Jessie Senese*
Jessie Senese is a mixed media artist focusing on two and three dimensional paper sculpture, collage and folk arts. She uses her background in graphic art to embellish works based on found images, ephemera, and vintage graphics. This bench is based on the book “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle. It is painted pure white and embellished with collage items in the simplistic style of Eric Carle's work.

Magical Matriculation

Artist: *Laurie C. Buer*
This bench depicts “Hogwarts” as seen by the students as they first approach the school by boat. The flower boxes illustrate “Quiddich” and “Hedwig”, Harry's owl. The artist, Laurie Buer, graduated from college with a BFA and illustrated for newspapers before becoming an advertising executive. She has since changed her career to Graphic Design/Advertising Manager and also enjoys painting murals and teaching painting.



17244 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Tinley Park Public Library



17326 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Citizens Financial Bank

Where's Spot?

Artist: *Carolyn Warren*
Carolyn Warren is a graduate of Northern Illinois University with a B.A. in Interior Architecture. She is currently a stay-at-home mom of two little boys in Tinley Park. This functional and interactive bench encourages children (and adults) to find Spot. The bench features eight hinged doors with various images inside (one of which contains the image of Spot).

Alice in Wonderland

Artist: *Roger W. Gerencir*
Disney characters were used to illustrate various scenes from Alice in Wonderland on this imaginative bench. Visitors will surely recognize the Mad Hatter's tea party and the white rabbit on his way down the hole. Roger is a retired art teacher, having taught for thirty-four years in the Valley View School District 365U.



17500 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Law Office of Arthur Pierce



17217 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: First Midwest Bank Amphitheater

The Black Stallion

Artist: *Jessica Rauch with Gloria Dei Students*
This Tinley Park artist has been drawing since childhood and has participated in various student art shows. Jessica Rauch's “The Black Stallion” bench depicts the reflection of the rearing horse in the water. The back illustrates Black and Alec after the match race.

The Rainbow Fish Jubilee

Artist: *Easter Seals Therapeutic Day School*
This bench was created by the students of Easter Seals Therapeutic Day School under the direction of Jennifer Weinert. The Rainbow Fish is a mosaic design made from reflective colored CD's, marbles, colored bottle caps, can tabs, large buttons, and small tile and mirror pieces. Planter boxes are adorned with sea shells. Easter Seals provides comprehensive services for individuals with disabilities or other special needs to improve their quality of life and maximize independence.



17256 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Founders Bank



17332 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: Luby's Pub

Peter Pan

Artist: *Nick Schulien*
This retired art teacher has been a resident of Tinley park for over 50 years. The story of “Peter Pan” reminds us that as we grow older, we recall memories of our childhood. We realize there is no turning back time, and we don't have to because we can return with Peter and the Lost Boys. Peter never grew up, and while enjoying this bench, we can become part of his adventure.

A Whole New World

Artist: *David DeVos*
This lively bench features the lamp, the towering genie and Aladdin and his princess on a magic carpet. The planters depict the city of Agrabah and the Cave of Wonders. This 12-year Tinley Park resident is a self-taught artist and is happily married with three children, a cat and a dog, Nana.



17514 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: American Taxi Dispatch, Inc.

Benches on the Avenue



Wonka Dreams
Artist: *Tinley Park High School Art Students*
The Tinley Park High School Art Students have recreated memories from the book “Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”, complete with the golden ticket, Oompa Loompas and the chocolate bar. The bench is a collaborative effort by students enrolled in commercial art, studio art and advanced placement studio art classes instructed by Milton Harmon.

17541 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: *Tinley Park Police Department DARE*

Take a walk through the Tinley Park Historical District to view the wonderful benches...



A Wild Imagination
Artist: *Marty Rose & Don Zak*
Don Zak and Marty Rose are neighbors. Don and his lovely wife, Dorothy moved to Tinley Park in 1989, Marty and Melissa Rose moved next door in 1990 as newlyweds. Marty and Don have combined talents on projects over the years. The bench depicts the imagination of a child alone at night in his bedroom as told by the author of the children’s book “Where the Wild Things Are”. It is composed mostly of cut plywood to add three dimensional imagery.

Oak Park Avenue & South Street
(Front of Train Engine)
Sponsor: *Corner Store*



Dr. Seuss
Artist: *Central Middle School's Art Club*
Four Dr. Seuss stories – “The Cat in the Hat”, “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish”, “The Lorax”, and “Green Eggs and Ham” are reflected in this colorful bench. The designs were drawn freehandedly by the 12 students in Central Middle School’s Art Club. The sixth, seventh and eighth graders met after school once per week over the course of two months to complete their design.

17501 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: *LaSalle Bank*



I'm A Seed
Artist: *Roger W. Gerencir*
This lively, three dimensional bench illustrates a child resting in the garden after planting seeds. She then watches the wonder of life as the seeds begin to grow into plants, flowers and pumpkins. The artist is a retired art teacher who resides in Joliet and enjoys cooking and travel, as well as art.

6779 W. 174th Place
Sponsor: *Dragon Palace*



Three Little Pigs
Artist: *Carolyn Warren*
Carolyn Warren is a stay-at-home mom of three little boys with a degree in Interior Architecture. Her imaginative design portrays two scared little pigs in houses made of straw and sticks, and a third smiling little pig in a house of bricks. The towering wolf stands behind the bench trying to blow down the pigs’ houses.

17401 Oak Park Avenue
Sponsor: *Liberty Creative Solutions, Inc.*



Cover Photo by: Photos by Rick

Vote for Your Favorite Bench!

Ballot Boxes to vote for the Most Creative, Best Theme and Best Use of Materials can be found at:

Ed N' Joe's Restaurant & Pizzeria
17332 South Oak Park Avenue
Tue-Thur 11am - 10pm
Fri-Sat 11am - Midnight
Sun Noon - 11pm

Log on to www.tinleypark.org to view a slide show of the benches and vote for your favorite.

A Very Special Thank You to...

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.

Our 25 sponsors for their financial support of this project.

- Each and every artist who generously shared his or her 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.
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- Crossmark Printing for donating the printing of this beautiful brochure.
- The Tinley Park Garden Club for maintaining the flowers throughout the summer.

Enjoy!

- Village of Tinley Park employees -- Nancy Byrne, coordinator of the project
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- Michael Rehsman and his assistants at Saunotts 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.
- Sven Thirion, Web Works, Intl, for creating the Benches on the Avenue web page for the Village of Tinley Park Web Site.
- The individual property owners who allowed the benches to be displayed on their property.
- Village of Tinley Park MainStreet Commissioners:
 - Mike Clark
 - Tom Kane
 - Rich Vuillaume
 - Jack Cochonour
 - Art Pierce
 - Rick Butkus
 - Becky Nichols