

2014 Bennett Family Park Award Recipients

Bill Hartfiel Award for Outstanding Service to Bennett Family Park.

This person worked tirelessly to produce the item that for many years was the sole source of information about the teams, the schedules and the teams assigned to work in the concession stand. She solicited the advertisers and made sure they paid their advertising bill. She gathered the pictures from the previous year's season and made sure they found their way into the item that we called the Bennett Book. She spent countless hours formatting the layout and creating the copy as needed. She relentlessly chased down the various League Presidents for their submissions and kept us all on a schedule, while maintaining her impeccable grace and charm. She did this because she loved this park and the families that use it. From 1998 thru the final copy published last year, the 2013 season, each and every issue was professionally completed.

We are pleased and honored to present the 2014 Bill Hartfiel award to Anita Kordonowy.

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Stu Leisz Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Bennett Family Park.

Three years ago, this mother of Little League players, had heard about Opening Day here at Bennett. She was told how the buses used to pick the young kids up from the various schools and bring them here for the ceremony. These young athletes were part of the ceremony, with their piling off the buses and sharing their infectious enthusiasm for the season to start.

She decided that those days needed to be brought back. That enthusiasm for Opening Day needed to be re-ignited. So with ZERO budget, she got busy and convinced Vendors to show up and give stuff away. She created some games for all the Little League kids. The Big Hit is the Home Run Derby. She solicited a photographer to climb a tall ladder and take a picture of the entire League. She's not looking for any recognition for her efforts. She does this because she cares for our youth and our Bennett Family Park and baseball community.

We are pleased and honored to present the 2014 Stu Leisz award to Veronica Gillespie.

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Jim Peck Coaching Award

The description for the Jim Peck Coaching Award states it is given to a coach who has shown great leadership and coaching skills. It is named after Jim Peck who has given so many years to Bennett Park. This year's recipient is **Robbie Burkhart**. Robbie exemplifies these leadership and coaching skills. He has provided great leadership not only as president of East Tonka Little League, but also has been a key leader in the merger and creation of Minnetonka Baseball Association. Everyone that works with Robbie, knows they will be treated fairly and with utmost respect. On the field as a coach and off the field as a leader, Robbie demonstrates MBA's goal that each player in our league will be treated equally regardless of what the level or league the player resides. Thank You Robbie!

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Dave Bigham Award

The Dave Bigham (Bigsy) Award was created to recognize an individual who embodies the spirit of Bigsy, who was always thinking of others before himself. Bigsy was passionate about the game of baseball and loved his community. Early on, Bigsy was a huge advocate of having one Minnetonka baseball organization so we know he is smiling down on us as he sees all of us together this year. This merger was able to happen due the countless hours of many volunteers. This year's award goes to **Zarir Erani**. As with most of MBA's volunteers the majority of the work is done behind the scenes. Zarir had the task of merging our three organizations systems/websites into one. As with any integration there were issues and Zarir handled each one personally. Many of you probably have spoken with Zarir since he made it his mission to make sure each issue was resolved with a personal response. Zarir is a role model for all of us using his calm, professional nature working with MBA's constituents.

Thank You Zarir!