



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6633

public.affairs@mwr.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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MWRD Vice President McGowan receives Community Builders Award



Ald. Emma Mitts (37th) introduced Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Vice President Barbara McGowan (right), as recipient of the Wal-Mart sponsored Community-Builders Outstanding Public Service Award. Along with public service, the West Side Community-Builders Awards Luncheon recognized individuals in the faith-based community, corporate community, healthcare and others for their West Side contributions to community service, youth mentorship and education.

A leader for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) was recognized for her contributions and commitment to the West Side.

MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan was honored with the Wal-Mart Outstanding Public Service Award at The Voice Newspapers Community Builders Awards Luncheon on April 28.

“On behalf of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, I am honored to receive the Outstanding Public Service Award from the Voice Newspapers. It’s a wonderful feeling to know that my work and the work of the district is appreciated in the West Side community,” said Vice President McGowan. “It gives us a reminder to support our local businesses and support your local newspapers that keep us informed of our neighborhood activities. We salute The Austin Voice on 30 years and The Garfield-Lawndale Voice for its 10 years in publication.”



37th Ward Ald. Emma Mitts (left) presented Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Vice President Barbara McGowan with the West Side Community Builders Outstanding Public Service Award.

Vice President McGowan was one of 11 Community Builder Award recipients. Sponsored by The Voice Newspapers, the Community-Builders awards recognize individuals, agencies and companies that work to make Chicago’s West Side a greater place to “live, pray, work and play.”

Vice President McGowan has served on the MWRD Board of Commissioners since 1998. As chair of the Affirmative Action Committee, she has worked to ensure that minority and female contractors have fair representation on MWRD contracts, introducing effective changes to the MWRD’s MBE/WBE Affirmative Action Ordinance. Vice President McGowan also serves as chair of the MWRD Procurement Committee, and vice chair of the Pension, Human Resources and Civil Service Committee and the Public Information and Education Committee.

Celebrating 30 years in publishing, the Voice Newspapers are the largest circulation weekly community newspapers and largest African American (continued)

MWRD Vice President McGowan receives Community Builders Award *(continued)*

owned publications serving the West Side neighborhoods of Austin, East and West Garfield Park, North Lawndale, West Humboldt Park, West Haven, Near West Side and Galewood. Besides being award winning newspapers, the Voice Newspapers also employ more than 50 children and teens each year, instilling a work ethic, introducing them to employment responsibilities and providing mentoring. The luncheon raises money to hire these local youth each year.

The Community Builders luncheon, held at Saranecki Brothers Garden Manor Banquets, 4722 W. Armitage Ave., and sponsored by Wal-Mart, ComEd and Comcast, included welcome remarks from U.S. Rep. Danny Davis, Ald. Emma Mitts and state Rep. LaShawn K. Ford, along with speakers Isaac Jones, publisher of the Voice Newspapers, and Associate Editor Brad Cummings.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.