



## Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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### **Winners Of 2003 Home Town Awards Announced Today**

SPRINGFIELD – Winners of the 22nd annual Governor's Home Town Awards were acknowledged today for the work of thousands of volunteers across Illinois who do so much to improve the communities in which they live.

"I want to thank the countless numbers of people from Alton to Zion who give of their time, talents and resources to improve the quality of life for those around them," said Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich. "A special congratulations goes to the winners of the Home Town Awards whose programs and efforts went far beyond expectations. They are representative of the kinds of communities which make this such a great state in which to live and raise a family."

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers the Governor's Home Town Awards program.

"The Home Town Award projects encompass the arts, economic development, tourism, public safety, and more," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin. "But together, these programs show how much of a difference community volunteers can make in improving the quality of life in Illinois at the grass roots level."

Fifty-nine awards were presented in eight categories based on community population. Volunteer judges reviewed and ranked applications based on local need, volunteer participation, project continuity and results. After an initial review that narrowed the applications to a maximum of eight in each population category, the judges visited those communities, then selected one project from each category to compete for the coveted Governor's Cup -- a traveling silver trophy presented to the community whose efforts were deemed most representative of the spirit of Illinois volunteerism.

The 2003 Governor's Cup winner is Country Club Hills Emergency Service and Disaster Agency (ESDA). Shortly after September 11, 2001, the Country Club Hills Police Department witnessed a fourfold increase in volunteers for the ESDA which serves as the extra 'eyes and ears' of the community, having been trained in the newest security measures.

Each of the award winning communities receives a road sign and plaque recognizing its efforts and the Governor's Cup winner receives a unique road sign that proclaims its status as the overall winner.

This year, 82 projects were reviewed. A list of the 2003 winners is attached.



Gov's Hometown Awards.pdf

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