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Volunteer of the Year Honored

Bamshad Mobasher who has served two and half years on the Community Relations Commission has been named Oak Park's Volunteer of the Year, an award presented each year to a resident whose involvement in the community goes above and beyond the call of duty. Mobasher, an Oak Park resident since 1998, is an associate professor of Computer Science at DePaul University's School of Computer Science, Telecommunications, and Information Systems.

Among the activities that helped earn Mobasher the award was his work on creating the Human Rights Awards, an annual program launched this year to honor individuals, non-profit organizations and businesses that have made outstanding voluntary contributions for the betterment of the community.

Mobasher was honored as Volunteer of the Year at the recent *Evening of Appreciation*, a special night set aside each year to recognize the many residents who volunteer to serve on one or more of the Village's 25-plus boards and commissions.

"It is difficult to single out an individual from among the many citizens who willingly give so much time, energy, creativity and knowledge to the community," said Village Clerk Sandra Sokol, whose office manages the volunteer recruitment process.

Thirty-eight commissioners whose terms expired in 2005 also were given certificates of appreciation for their hard work and dedication. The awards were presented by the Village Board and Citizen Involvement Commission (CIC) whose volunteers recruit, interview and recommend individuals for the Village's other citizen boards and commissions that advise the Village Board.

"The value of the contributions from all of our volunteers is greatly appreciated by the Village Board, which depends on citizens to help assess the impact government policies and programs can have on the community," Sokol added. "Oak Park has long been a model for other communities that value active citizen involvement and participation. This year's appreciation event demonstrated once again that citizen involvement is alive and well in our Village."

For more information about opportunities to serve on a Village board or commission call 358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

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