

## FFCPR VOLUNTEER WINNERS for 2016

### Volunteer of the Year:

**Lenae** has been a volunteer instructor with for the Carson City Swimming Pool for over a decade. She has a passion for aquatics I have not seen equaled by any other individual. Lenae saw a need for Carson City's swimming lessons program to be more inclusive, of higher quality, and available to more age groups. With these needs in mind she started volunteering as a swim instructor. She is responsible for our Grownups and Guppies class, which caters to small children, ages six months to three years, and their parents. She started this program because she saw a gap in early childhood aquatic education. Lenae also plays a vital role in our tot's level and learn to swim level lessons programs. She assists with everything from helping instructors deal with problem students to helping with attendance to being a resource for our instructors to be better instructors. Lenae's first career was as a school teacher at Seeliger Elementary School where she taught for thirty years. She taught the first through fifth grades, focusing mostly on third grade throughout her career. She is able to use the skills she acquired teaching children about the world to help them develop positive fundamental water safety skills. Lenae brings an element of positivity and enthusiasm to the aquatic environment that is infectious. You cannot help yourself but to smile when you see her help a young child experience the joys of water for the first or one hundredth time. The Carson City Aquatics Facility is a better experience for every single person who walks through the door be they an employee, lessons participant, or just someone in need of a smile. Lenae has made, and continues to make, the Carson City community a happier, healthier, safer place because of her passion and efforts. When asked why Lenae volunteers for the Swimming Pool, her response is "because I love everyone here." She is a rare individual who finds the good in everyone and will be your friend just because you came into her swimming family. The number of kids and adults who leave the facility with a smile on their face is immeasurable because of Lenae. We are proud to have Lenae be part of our Parks and Recreation Family and try to emulate her passion whenever possible.

### Volunteer of the Years:

**Donna Curtis.** Donna Curtis has been active in Community Service since moving to Carson City and she has been a member of the Carson City Parks & Recreation Commission since her appointment by the Board of Supervisors in March of 2003. While on the Commission, Donna served three terms as Chair. As a commissioner, Donna has been intimately involved in projects and issues from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, to the Fuji Park Dog Park, to supporting the construction of trails, and to the support and planning of the Multi-purpose Athletic Center (MAC).

Donna, as a founding member for Parks for Paws (P4P), was instrumental in the planning and funding Carson City's first and only dog park at Fuji Park. This park has been a very popular place for dog owners to bring their pets for exercise and socialization. A valuable side effect is the socialization opportunities for the dogs' human as well.

Donna has always been a strong advocate of the MAC from the very beginning when it was envisioned as an indoor recreation center. While the Facility went through many changes in designs and reduction in size, due to Donna's tenacity the MAC being built today will still feature an indoor suspended walking/jogging track above the gym. Donna early saw the need for this type of recreational facility that will provide a safe, and climate controlled environment for walkers and jogger of all ages. Donna has also participated with others in an effort to revamp the Foundation for the Betterment of Carson City Parks and Recreation. This Foundation has been discontinued and a new 501(c)(3) non-profit organization called the Foundation of Carson City Parks and Recreation has been created. Donna is the vice president (president elect) of the new Foundation.

In addition to her direct involvement with Carson City Parks & Recreation, Donna has also been very involved in Partnership Carson City. Donna served on the Executive Board for Partnership for five years and was very instrumental in developing the Mobile Recreation program that brought recreation activities to children who live in the Hot Springs Road neighborhood. Donna also volunteered in Partnership's Volunteer Prescription Drug Roundup program as well.

Donna is an active member of the Carson City Democratic Women's Club and has served as Chair for that organization. And finally, Donna has been an active member of the Friends of the Library for many years. Donna often refers to herself as a "professional volunteer" with all of the organizations and projects that she has and is involved in. She's been involved in more community organizations than you can "shake a stick at." Carson City is truly a better place because of Donna's community involvement efforts.

### **Business of the Year:**

*-Carson City Parks and Recreation believes that **Tahoe Fence** should be nominated for Business of the Year Award. Tahoe Fence and Carson City Parks and Recreation have worked together for many years now and we have always found their business to be dependable, efficient, helpful, and community oriented. They are constantly willing to assist or donate supplies in many of our larger events, especially for the annual Arlington Square Ice Rink. For the past seven seasons Tahoe Fence has donated the temporary fence for the Arlington Square Ice Rink and we look forward to working with them for yet another season. Tahoe Fence is family owned and operated has close ties to the community. Tahoe Fence has some of the best customer service that Carson City Recreation has had the pleasure of working with. Tahoe Fence employees are always punctual in any situation, day or night. Tahoe Fence is always looking out for the better interest of Carson City Parks and Recreation and of Northern Nevadans. We appreciate their level of dedication and continued support with the Carson City area, and look forward to many more years of partnership!!!*

### **Organization of the Year:**

Carson High School's Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (**NJROTC**) program was established in 1974. Sometimes struggling to maintain 100 cadets in the early years of the program, it has now evolved into being one of the largest units in Nevada and the west coast. This year's current enrollment is 275 cadets, which is an increase of 37 cadets from last

year. The program is cadet run under the watchful eye of the instructors. The cadets are very proud of their unit and love giving back to the community. The NJROTC has assisted the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department with two specific projects: 1) the annual Carson River Cleanup Event and 2) wrapping wire around cottonwood trees to protect them from beaver damage. The NJROTC has assisted with the Carson River Cleanup Event for the past nine years. In 2016, the NJROTC had 209 volunteers who helped remove illegal dump debris, remove fire pits and pickup household garbage along the Carson River. This group focused their efforts in Carson River Canyon and they removed 30 yards of debris from Carson City Open Space. Last year at the Ambrose Carson River Natural Area, the NJROTC cadets helped wrap chicken wire around 300 trees to protect them from beaver. Our department looks forward to continued efforts with the NJROTC.