

My name is Barbara Fry, and it is my honor and distinct pleasure to announce the recipient of the I'On Civitas Award for 2011.

For those of you who don't know, the Civitas Award was created in 2004 to recognize individuals within the I'On Community who have provided outstanding community service to make I'On a better place to live. Civitas is the Latin word for Citizenship - especially as imparting a sense of shared responsibility, a common purpose, and sense of community.

While many volunteers are needed to keep I'On running the way it does, this award recognizes those few individuals who go above and beyond the call. Not just on one occasion, but usually several, sometimes over many years. Often times, their body of work isn't particularly glamorous or even that obvious, but it is constant and makes a significant contribution to the betterment of I'On. This award is not won. It is earned.

The recipient of the award is selected by a committee made up of a representative from the I'On HOA Board, the I'On Trust, BizNet as well as the recipients of the award for the past two years. There may come a year where no one is honored. There have been years where two recipients were chosen. So far, 11 I'On neighbors have been recognized with this honor.

So ... this year's recipient began their service to I'On as a participant in our Holiday Home Tours. For a few years, one of the major fund raisers the I'On Trust held to benefit a local charity was the I'On Home Tours. Early on, residents would dress up as period players at the different houses in the tour. Our recipient landed one of the key roles - Jacob I'On, and played him with gusto and zeal for both the 2005 ([Jacob I'On 1](#)) and 2006 ([Jacob I'On 2](#)) season. He's also served as house docent on subsequent tours.

While that may have started him on a high note, his remaining roles weren't quite so heady. He's parked cars for several I'On events, has helped hang our holiday wreaths ([Wreath Shot 3](#)) every year, and even got into community governance by being elected to the HOA Board in 2008, where he served on the Landscaping committee and Chaired the Infrastructure committee (which he still serves on today). He's probably more familiar with our neighborhoods walking paths, storm sewers, street lights, playgrounds, optimum turning radii for most of our alleys, power washing and painting schedule of common areas in our community than anyone else around. He also had something to do with those white "t's" you see on I'On streets for parking ... In 2009, he also became the first board Trustee to

fill the role of External Relations which was created to give I'On a liaison in working with other communities and local government.

But I do happen to know, that his most prized possession was the "1st Place" award he received in the pumpkin carving contest at Halloween in the Hood 2007. (Hat shot 4) His "Indian Rain Dance Totem Pumpkin" (with Sandy shot 5) blew the competition away (complete with running water!). And he's continued to lend his talents to the past 2 year's October event by working on the Halloween in the Hood planning committee, introducing the widely acclaimed "Haunted House" in 2010 and the "Waffle House Pumpkin Painting Contest" this year. A man of many talents.

And while you now know his time in I'On has been served well, he has also been a Volunteer Camp Counselor for Camp Happy Days --- that helps bring some joy into kids lives who are dealing with childhood cancer --- for 24 years.

John Powers exemplifies what it is to be a volunteer, in his neighborhood and in the greater community. His spirit and positive energy is contagious. Come on up John. Hats off to you sir ... well done!

(Jacob I'On shot 6)