

Civitas Award 2015 Steve Degnen

Our community has many volunteers...and we need them to keep I'On running smoothly. This year's award recognizes individuals who go above and beyond the call to assist. Not just one occasion, but several, over many years. Often times the work isn't obvious, however it's needed and constant and makes a significant contribution to our Community.

This individual is a husband, a father, a grandfather and a friend. Years ago when their children were small the family vacationed in beach communities in South Carolina. They loved the beauty of this area and when they retired they looked for a welcoming community with a heart...and found one in I'On.

They bought a lot in 2007, rented a house here while building and moved into their home in 2009.

One of the first activities he became involved in was the Conservation Corps and that lead to other interests. The number one interest was an idea of a community garden. Along with a few neighbors he spearheaded the reality of the community garden beginning with a "demo Garden" at Westlake in 2009. The community garden opened with enthusiasm in 2011. He currently manages the garden and continues to write the monthly newsletter.

He's been involved in many of the *I'On Trust activities*:

Halloween in the Hood: One year he was a ghoul in the Haunted House at Halloween in the Hood (he only did that one time, he almost died of heat exhaustion.)

Graphics: Implemented many of the graphics used for the Trust activities

Holiday Festival: Along with his wife he designed and managed the "ticket" system for the carriage rides.

HOA involvement includes:

The Print directory: The last two years helped with the content and layout of the directory.

The official I'On website: Two years ago he helped Martha Morgan with design and beta testing prior to launching the website.

IDC committee: He's currently a committee member on the IDC.

Another amazing thing: He encourages neighbors with their ideas - April Gordon & Gayle Woodward wanted to start a butterfly garden and he said Great Idea! And was able to make space available at the community garden! He's not only a doer...but encourages others as well.

And throughout all of this...

He still makes time for a book club, lunch with friends, golf with his wife and time for his adult children and grandchildren.

He's agreeable, has a sense of humor, is an incredible dancer and enjoys each and every day. Really...some body's gotta stop him!

Please help me in honoring this man of character --- Steve Degnen.