

# Nine honored for service to club and to community

The Garden Club of Irvington (GCI) presented three Garden Club of America awards and six years-of-service awards on June 13, at the home of Heather and Brian Kenny in Irvington.

**Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award** to C.J. Reilly III, the director of education and head of grounds and operations for the Irvington Woods Park and O'Hara Nature Center. Hull Award honorees receive \$1,000 for inspiring children under the age of 16 to appreciate the natural world. Reilly worked for the Irvington Recreation and Parks Department part time from 2016 until he was hired full time in 2021. He has collaborated with middle and high school students on research and stewardship projects in the Irvington Woods, including Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and special education students in the Irvington School District's Vocational Independence Program.

**Club Civic Improvement Commendation** to the Irvington Recreation and Parks Department, accepted by Superintendent Joe Archino, "For outstanding efforts within the community to enhance, protect, and restore the local environment, and to educate residents about plants and gardening."

**Club Conservation Commendation** to the Greenburgh Nature Center, accepted by executive director Alix Dunn, "For outstanding service to conservation and significant contributions to top environmental education within the community." The GCI propagates plants in the GNC's greenhouse and holds an annual Mother's Day plant sale at the GNC. The GCI plant-

ed a pollinator garden bordering the GNC's Great Lawn and GCI member Cathy Ludden funded a native plant meadow and butterfly arbor at the GNC.

**25 Years of Service** to Heather Kenny "In recognition of her many years' commitment and service and her gracious hospitality when sharing her home for club events."

**30 Years of Service** to Joanna "Jo" Gurley "With appreciation to a talented grower and humble leader steadfast in supporting all club activities, particularly projects in the greenhouse and Lyndhurst Rose Garden."

**35 Years of Service** to Wilhelma "Bunny" Bauer "With appreciation to an expert horticulturist always eager to mentor others in the art of growing in the greenhouse and Lyndhurst Rose Garden."

**40 Years of Service** to Gerry Matthews Gilmartin "In recognition and with deep appreciation for her dedicated leadership, many years of service, and invaluable stewardship of club and community projects."

**40 Years of Service** to Josyane Colwell "With appreciation to a passionate horticulturist devoted to the Lyndhurst Rose Garden and to excellence through growing, showing, and judging within the GCA."

**45 Years of Service** to Barbara Casey "In recognition and appreciation for her dedicated service to the club and to GCA, and for her creativity in floral design and flower shows."