

MOVERS & SHAKERS AWARD...ESTABLISHED JANUARY 2008

The Movers & Shakers Award was established January 2008 from the suggestion of President Jerry Mullins to recognize a member of the community that has made a significant contribution to the development of Pinellas Park. Nominations will be taken annually January and February. The recipient will be chosen by written ballot at the February meeting.

Recipient will be given a plaque, recognized in the local newspaper and on the Historical Society's website, will ride in the Pinellas Park Christmas/Holiday Parade and be given a lifetime membership into the Society. A permanent plaque will be posted in the Museum of all recipients.



2009 Movers & Shakers Award Recipients



Mel & Gilda Dinsmore & Jerry Garner, Historical Society President

It is with great pleasure that the Pinellas Park Historical Society presents to Mel and Gilda Dinsmore the 2009 Movers & Shakers Award. Both Mel and Gilda have made tremendous contributions to the development and progress of Pinellas Park as well as helping to preserve its history. The Dinsmores came to Pinellas Park in 1946 when the population was just 650 and the area was rustic with little more than flower farms, cattle pastures and open land.

Mel served as mayor for 12 years beginning in 1959 setting the stage for the development of the city into what it is today because of good government and its location in the center of Pinellas County. Over the years Mel has been a mayor, a city commissioner, a newspaper reporter, a police officer and a chiropractor.

Gilda was a pioneer in bringing youth programs to Pinellas Park. In the early 60's, Gilda joined a small group of parents and community leaders to create a program for girls in Pinellas Park and served as a volunteer, teaching ceramics, sewing and charm school classes, a board member, board officer and Executive Director. In the 70's Gilda Dinsmore helped lay the foundation for what was to become Girls Incorporated of Pinellas County.

The Dinsmores also sponsored the Pinellas Park Teen Dance Club that is still talked about among the "Baby Boomers" of the community.

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Recipient will be given a plaque, recognized in the local newspaper and on the Historical Society's website, will ride in the Pinellas Park Christmas/Holiday Parade and be given a lifetime membership into the Society. A permanent plaque will be posted in the Museum of all recipients.



Photo by Ray Fisher

Ms. Jean Cromwell & Historical Society President, Jerry Garner

2008 Movers & Shakers Award Recipient Ms Jean Cromwell

Thursday, July 17, Jerry Garner, President of the Pinellas Park Historical Society, presented to Jean Cromwell the 2008 Movers & Shakers Award. Ms Cromwell (the following was part of the presentation address) "...is the first recipient of the City of Pinellas Park Historical Society's Movers and Shakers Award. Jean has been a part of Pinellas Park history since her Dad, Edward A. Cromwell, built a house here in October of 1946. Jean compiled the City's history from 1909 to 1942 in her book entitled People & Places in Pinellas Park*. Jean has filled file folder after file folder and file cabinet after file cabinet with documents of information about Pinellas Park. The information is impeccably filed and catalogued so it is easy to find specific information by name, subject and date. On August 13, 1993, by Resolution #93-43, City Council designated Jean as the "Official Historian of Pinellas Park." The resolution states that the City is "...deeply indebted to Jean Cromwell for collecting, preserving and filing of historical memories of the past and making them a part of the living present for all of us." Additionally, by City Proclamation, October 1, 1996 was proclaimed Jeanne Cromwell Day. Jean is retired from the Pinellas Park post office, is an Apple computer whiz and is one of the founders and original members of the Pinellas Park Historical Society..."