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GROWING, BUILDING

Chamber awards first-ever Champion award, dusts off Boomtown Eagle award
By Earl Corp



The Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce honored Wednesday (from left) Bill Sumners, the Boomtown Eagle Award, and Stacey and Bretton Walberg, of Walberg Family Pharmacies, the Community Champion of the Year.

The Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner was a big night with some surprises on Wednesday evening.

For the first time ever, the chamber presented a Community Champion of the Year Award, going to Walberg Family Pharmacies for its efforts to vaccinate residents amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Walbergs organized 45 vaccination clinics and administered more than 50,000 COVID-19 vaccinations. "It's very humbling to be able to take care of not only our community, but the surrounding communities as well," owner Bretton Walberg said. "It was a scenario we thought was the best way to take care of our community.

Also for the first time in a few years, the Chamber awarded the Boomtown Eagle Award.

"We don't do it annually; we do it when someone deserves it," chamber Executive Director Janice Schwanbeck said.

The recipient was Bill Sumners, for his efforts in making the Heritage Days Car Cruise a successful event that brings a lot of positive attention to Greenville.

He's been running the car show for 13 years, and it has grown to more than 1,000 classic cars this past year.

"This gives me the opportunity to do something nice for the town," Sumners said. "It's a nice little burg we have here."

Also Wednesday, the chamber unveiled its new logo and slogan.

"It's new, it's fresh, it's exciting," Schwanbeck said.

The logo was developed by an out-of-town advertisement agency.

"It's not that we don't have the talent; we wanted an outside perspective," Schwanbeck said.

The slogan, "Growing Business, Building Community," was submitted by Kayte Powers of Fry's TV & Appliance.

The chamber also honored Jeff Blair, Business Person of the Year; Mc- Granahan Plumbing Inc., Business of the Year; and the Greenville Area Public Library, Non-Profit Organization of the Year.

Michele Shearer introduced Blair, saying, "As a life-long resident, Jeff believes in the community."

"There is no other business I'd rather pass this torch to than McGranahan Plumbing," Stephanie Williams, who's business, Steph's Corner Pub & Grille, was the 2019 Business of the Year, said while introducing McGranahan Plumbing.

Holly Patterson introduced Jeanne Ball of the Greenville Area Public Library, saying, "When I came here 10 years ago, I knew the library was an asset I wanted my family to work with."