

New Names Cultivated For Rosy Night

Man Who Was Briefly Niles Trustee Heads List As 'Citizen Of The Year'

The winners of this year's Niles Chamber of Commerce Night of Roses were announced last week.

This year's theme is "Home Grown Success" celebrating the people who helped Niles to be named Businessweek's top place to raise kids.

This year's eighth annual awards banquet will be held at the White Eagle on Saturday, Apr. 9. Reservation forms can be found in this week's Niles Journal. The Journal & Topics Newspapers is the media sponsor of the event.

Winning Citizen of the Year, this year is George Alpogianis. The Niles resident, Morton Grove restaurateur and former Niles village trustee is credited with starting both Cub Scout Pack 821 and Boy Scout Troop 821 at his church Holy Taxiari and St. Haralambos where he serves as scoutmaster for both groups.

The Bob Wordel Living Legend Award goes to Henry and Dolores Meinke who operated a farm at Touhy and Lehigh avenues for four gen-

erations growing it from a vegetable stand to the year round Meinke's Garden Center that is a constant supporter of community events and causes.

Golf Mill was named Business of the Year. The shopping center is a key fixture in the village supporting the Maine Township food pantry, the Feet of Fitness senior program and Dollars for Scholars program. The Niles Teen Center is also located in the mall. Golf Mill works with the teen center on numerous programs including their annual mall "Lock In" night.

The Ken Scheel Chamber Member of the Year Award goes to Tony Madl of Resurrection Health Care. Madl has been active in the chamber serving on many committees and served as chamber president in 2006.

Peter Sliwka is this year's Youth of the Year. A Notre dame College Prep student Sliwka volunteered with the GLADD program at St. John Brebeuf, worked with the disabled for the last three years, and inspired his brothers to join him.

Niles Good Neighbor this year is Scott Anderson. To residents of Ozanam Avenue, Anderson is a local hero. He shovels the snow and tends to the lawns and bushes of his elderly neighbors, fixes bikes and toys of kids, plays in their baseball games, and is the first one to lend a hand in the neighborhood.

Notre Dame coach and teacher Joseph Gale was named Coach of the Year. The 13-year veteran coach is credited with not only developing successful athletes but also developing students academically and spiritually.

This year's Teacher of the Year is Michael Galeno. He is an English teacher at Notre Dame and works with the U-

itimate Frisbee Club.

Anita Wengerski has been a PTA member at Culver School for 17-years. She was named the Dynamic Parent Volunteer. Her "upbeat energy" has led her to serve on numerous committees as the organizations vice president and heading up the school's publishing center.

The Unsung Worker, Not Enough Hours in the Day award goes to former Culver School Dist. 71 social worker Linda Feldheim who was a trusted confidant to students and staff for 24 years at Culver.

Niles Firefighter Matt Reider will receive the Fire Fighter Hot Spot Award. A firefighter and paramedic since 2000, Reider trains and evaluates paramedics

in the department's preceptor program and is active in the department's charity efforts with Toys for Tots, Fill the Boot, burn camp, and Make-A-Wish Foundation.

This year's Police Officer Special Agent is Det. Thomas Fragassi who has had remarkable success investigating burglaries and financial crimes, especially those aimed at seniors. He is credited with having the special ability to aid crime victims who are scared and confused.

This year's Golden Senior is Tom Parala. Parala actively volunteers for the Niles Senior Center, St. John Brebeuf, and the Northwest Italian American Society.

