

# Night of Roses recognizes home grown success

With an overwhelming response from the community for nominations, the Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry has selected the 2011 Niles Night of Roses — A Tribute to Home Grown Success award recipients. This event celebrates the achievements of thirteen individuals and businesses who are some of the reasons that Niles the “No. 1 Place in the U.S. to Raise Your Kids” as awarded by Businessweek. Join us to honor these deserving recipients on Saturday, April 9 at the Eighth Annual Niles Night of Roses — A Tribute to Home Grown Success dinner held at the White Eagle Banquets. Companies that continue to support this event as sponsors include: Resurrection Health Care, Shure Incorporated, Golf Mill Shopping Center, Stalwart Systems, and Smithreen Pest Management. Please contact Brenda at the Niles Chamber (847) 268-8180 for reservations or for more information. An invitation can be found in this edition of the Bugle Newspaper or on the chamber website [www.nileschamber.com](http://www.nileschamber.com).

This year the Bob Wordel Living Legend Award is presented to Henry and Dolores Meinke.

The Meinke family has owned and operated farmland at Touhy and Lehigh for four generations. Henry and Dolores Meinke have grown Meinke's Garden Center from a vegetable stand to a year round business that is a constant supporter of community events and causes.

**Business of the Year: Golf Mill Shopping Center**

Celebrating 50 years, Golf Mill Shopping Center has been a key fixture in Niles. The shopping

favorite but a tremendous supporter of community causes, including the Niles Teen Center, Feats of Fitness senior program, Maine Township Food Pantry and a major contributor to the Niles Chamber Dollars for Scholars program.

**Coach of the Year: Joseph Gale**  
For thirteen years, Coach Gale has been an outstanding teacher and coach at Notre Dame College Prep. He is committed to not only successful athletes, but developing the whole student through academic, athletic, and spiritual formation.

**Dynamic Parent Volunteer: Anita Wengerski**

Over the past 17 years, Anita Wengerski has given her time and her upbeat energy as a parent volunteer at Clarence E. Culver school. She has served on numerous committees, has been PTA Vice President the last several years and took charge of the publishing center so children have resources to write on their own.

**Fire Fighter Hot Spot: Matt Reider**

A firefighter and paramedic since 2000, Matt supports the preceptor program to assist, evaluate and encourage aspiring paramedics to learn the best skills for response, care and treatment in emergencies. He is active in the Fill-the-Boot fundraiser, burn camp, Make-a-Wish Foundation and Toys for Tots.

**Ken Scheel Chamber Member of the Year: Tony Madl**

Tony Madl has been a long time employee of Resurrection Health Care which operates many senior facilities in the Niles area. He is a strong supporter of the Niles Chamber of Commerce serving



submitted photo

**George Alpogianis accepted the award for Niles Citizen of the Year at the 2011 Niles Night of Roses.**

heading the Niles Chamber golf outing which hit all time high fundraising goals, served as President in 2006 and currently is an Ambassador.

**Niles Citizen of the Year: George Alpogianis**

Owner and operator of Kappy's Restaurant, George is a major supporter of many local organizations, clubs and causes. In the past few years, George co-founded cub scout pack 821 and boy scout troop 821 at his church, Holy Taxiahari and St. Haralambos. He currently serves as cub master and scout master.

**Niles Golden Senior: Tom**

their baseball games. He is always the first one to lend a hand, he aided a stranded neighbor when their car broke down and is the first to help with home improvement projects.

**Police Officer Special Agent: Thomas Fragassi**

Detective Tom Fragassi has had remarkable success investigating burglaries and financial crimes, especially targeted at seniors. His commendations come from his ability to aid victims who are scared and confused.

**Teacher of the Year: Michael Galeno**

Mr. Galeno is an outstanding young English teacher at Notre Dame College Prep who is dedicated to tutoring and supporting students with learning needs who require particular attention. He incorporates advanced learning strategies, moderates the Ultimate Frisbee club and

supports all students in academics and activities.

**Unsung Worker "Not Enough Hours in the Day": Linda Feldheim**

Retiring after 24 years as the social worker for District 71, Linda Feldheim has been a tremendous asset to students, teachers and families. She is a trusted confidant who builds self-esteem, promotes service, and stays in contact through each person's progress.

**Youth of the Year: Peter Sliwka**

Peter is a Notre Dame College Prep student who volunteers with the GLADD program at St. John Brebeuf. A compassionate youth, he has worked with the disabled for the past three years and recently has inspired his two younger brothers to

A 40 year resident of Niles, Tom is an active volunteer at the Niles Senior Center, the St. John Brebeuf parish and the Northwest Italian American Society. He exemplifies the ideal that seniors are a vital and important part of our community. He takes to heart that Niles is a "Place Where People Count," reaching out to everyone needing a hand.

**Niles Good Neighbor: Scott Anderson**

On Ozanam Ave, Scott is considered a local hero. To his elderly neighbors he shovels snow, takes care of their lawns and bushes, to kids he fixes their