



Four Receive Honors at Chamber Banquet



L to R: Sam Morehead, Lifetime Leadership Award; Claude Rummer, Citizen of the Year; Margee and Steve Overhiser, owners of Fennville Main Street Market, Business of the Year Award

The Chamber held its annual banquet on January 26th at the Fenn Valley Winery. As in the past, awards for Lifetime Leadership, Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year were bestowed on some of our outstanding local citizens.

Sam Morehead received the Lifetime Leadership Award in recognition of his many years of leadership in the roles of High School Principal and Coach.

Through the years, Sam was principal of the Fennville Middle School and coached every single sport at one time or another. Over the course of five decades, Sam coached 26 Varsity teams. He was inducted into the Fennville Hall of Fame in the year 2000. Sam was also active in numerous community activities over the years.

Claude Rummer served as Fennville City's Mayor for the past six years. In this capacity Claude played a significant role in bringing about what some have called Fennville's renaissance.

As mayor, Claude chaired the city council meetings and was the liaison to the DDA. He also served on numerous committees.



Mark your calendar! The Easter Bunny will be in town for the annual Chamber Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 22nd, the day before Easter. Location: new elementary school 2:00 p.m.

During the spring and summer months, Claude could often be seen tending the green space next to the post office. This labor of love was one of many indications of Claude's willingness to devote himself to the welfare and betterment of our community. Claude was voted Citizen of the Year by the chamber membership.

Margee and Steve Overhiser are familiar faces to just about everyone in town. Steve is the quiet one, but Margee always has a few cheerful words to share with just about everyone who comes into the store.

Main Street Market was the membership's choice for Business of the Year. For the past three years MSM was the sole sponsor of the Chamber's annual Easter Egg Hunt. They've also been actively supportive of Tuesdays in the Park, the Goose Festival and other chamber activities.

Our congratulations to all the winners of this year's chamber recognition awards. It's the people who make a community great, and the four pictured above are outstanding examples of what makes our community one of the greatest. Ω

Meet your New Mayor,

Dan Rastall



Our new Mayor Dan Rastall is a true-blue Midwesterner. Born in Chicago and raised in NW Indiana, he and his family moved to Fennville in 2002. Dan and wife Lenore have five children; a daughter Cynthia, 17; son Tino, 15; daughter Christina, 13 and sons Tyger and Jaguar, both 6.

He became involved in local government shortly after moving to Fennville serving first on the Planning Commission then eventually holding down a position on the City Council at the same time. After being elected Mayor in November, he resigned from his Planning Commission post to be able to devote the necessary time to his more demanding mayoral duties.

Dan is the youngest mayor that Fennville has had in more than 25 years. That's as far back as we were able to search the records.

Dan works as the production manager in the specialties department at Shoreline Container, a full-service packaging company. "If it's got something to do with packaging, we have it or we can make it" says Dan. He started at Shoreline as a hi-lo driver back in 1995. Over the years he advanced through several jobs and levels of management to his present position as production manager. "It's a job I love" he says. (see **Mayor** page 2)



There's no such thing as free lunch.

We've all heard that one. When someone offers to buy you lunch, you're almost certain to find out there are strings attached with an ultimate cost to you. The cost is not necessarily in dollars, but often is in some kind of commitment you might otherwise balk at making.

There *are* many things that are free though, which may have given rise to the expression "the best things in life are free." After reading this article, I hope you'll agree that in this particular case, the best coaching and advice relating to running your business is indeed free.

Since your reading this newsletter, chances are you're a member of the Fennville Chamber of Commerce. Chances are further that you're a small business owner. The challenges facing a small business are many. Topics such as advertising and marketing, issues relating to finance, handling employees and countless other issues are continuing challenges that small businesses must face. The small business owner must wear many hats and become expert in a wide variety of skills. Where can small business owners go to acquire or sharpen these diverse skills?

Enter, SCORE.

SCORE is an acronym for Service Corps of Retired Executives. They bill themselves as Counselors to America's Small Business. They're a nonprofit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of small business nationwide. SCORE is a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The organization is made up of over ten thousand volunteers of retired and active business professionals. They're executives and corporate leaders who are willing to share their wisdom and lessons learned from their own front line experience. More than 600 distinct business skills may be found in this diverse and learned group covering virtually every aspect of starting and running a successful business. They provide their services, free of charge, from 369 locations nationwide. You can even contact a SCORE expert online to get the specific help you need.

Great, you say. How do I contact a SCORE professional?

Glad you asked! Coincidentally and conveniently there's a SCORE office right next door in Holland. They're located at 272 East 8th Street and can be reached at 616-392-2389.

You can also learn more about SCORE by going to their website at www.score.org. We urge you to take advantage of this free resource. You may decide there *IS* such a thing as a free lunch, figuratively speaking. Ω

MAYOR (continued from Page 1)

Dan sees many challenges as our new mayor. "I see the greatest challenge of our city commission is getting the funding for city services we would like to maintain and for the projects we would like to accomplish." (*Ed Note: That's pretty much the same challenge most of us face I suppose -- too little money, too many needs.*)

What Dan most enjoys about his involvement with the city government is "doing my part to give back to the community. It's great to work with some really caring people on the City Commission, the DDA and the Planning Commission."

We all wish Dan the best of luck and offer our full support to him in his new position. Ω



Elice Menear displays the Certificate of Appreciation awarded to her for her 16 years of service as Treasurer of the Fennville Chamber of Commerce. Many of you know Elice as manager of Chemical Bank. No previous treasurer held the position as long as she has.

Elice took over as Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Chairperson last year. She stepped down from her position as chamber treasurer to make time for the increased demands of her new responsibilities with the DDA. We all owe Elice a big **THANK YOU** for the countless hours she's spent on behalf of our community. Her certificate is signed by Jim Lytle, Chamber President and Dan Rastall, Mayor of Fennville. Ω



**Mary Hill
Director,
Fennville Library**

Mary Hill, shown at left, is the newest member of our chamber board of directors. She came to Fennville just about a year ago to take over as Director of the Fennville District Library. Mary joined our board a few months ago and serves as corresponding secretary. She currently lives in Holland but plans to move to Fennville as soon as her house is sold

2008 TUESDAYS IN THE PARK SCHEDULE

It'll be here before you know it. Martha Wickett-Schrock has another winning lineup of top notch musical entertainment scheduled for this year's Tuesdays in the Park concerts. Here's the schedule:

June 10th	Freshwater	Celtic music and dance
June 24th	Delilah DeWylde and the Lost Boys	Honky Tonk Country
July 8th	To Be Announced	
July 22nd	Truth in Jazz	Big Band Jazz
August 5th	Davis	Old time American Jazz



Have your renewed your membership?
If you haven't already, please take a moment to do so now. If you've misplaced your application, go to our website and click on "Member Info" to download a new one.

What do you
 suppose goes
 here?
 ☺

Board of Directors

- Jim Lytle, President
- Bill Busscher, Vice President
- Mary Hill, Corresponding Secretary
- Sandi Busscher, Recording Secretary
- Martha Wickett-Schrock, Treasurer
- Tom Tucker, Member
- Larry Fuerst, Member
- Reid Ruggles, Member

BUSINESS TIP: Be consistent in your ad message and style. Envelopes, invoices, signs, banners, letterhead and business cards should all project a common theme. Each should show your unique business identity.

Message from the President



We received some very kind comments from many of you about our annual banquet. From what we've heard, you enjoyed the food, the entertainment and the camaraderie. That, of course, is music to our ears. We don't get paid for what we do, but the compensation can be incalculable. Your favorable response to our efforts counts heavily toward that compensation.

Few who have not been involved realize the time and effort it takes to plan and execute an event such as this. Our entertainment committee deserves special recognition for a job well done. Here's a snapshot of each with a brief, but incomplete, synopsis of their respective roles.



Sandi Busscher is the current chair of the entertainment committee. She's the one who calls the meetings, makes the assignments then picks up all the inevitable loose ends. "The devil is in the details" is a phrase Sandi has come to know well.



Martha Wickett-Schrock chaired the entertainment committee for the last four years and remains on the committee. She books all our entertainment as well as being actively involved in the planning and handling of events. From what we've heard, she picked a winner again this year with the *Interstate 94 Improv group*.



Theresa Wiley is a long time member of the entertainment committee. She takes care of the myriad of details that come not only with the banquet, but for the other events we host during the year. We'll miss Theresa as she steps down this year from her position on the board and on the entertainment committee. Theresa remains with us on the website committee



Colleen LaShell will also step down this year. Aside from her direct involvement in planning and detail handling, she recruited and organized the servers at our banquet for the past two years.