



MEDIA RELEASE

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Aurora Chamber Announces Business of the Year Awards

Aurora, IL (September 17, 2009) – The Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce announced Business of the Year recipients in six categories at its 89th annual celebration Thursday. According to Joseph Henning, chamber CEO, there were nearly two dozen nominees from Aurora, North Aurora, Oswego, Batavia, Naperville and Montgomery.

In announcing the Woman/Minority Owned recipient, State Senator Linda Holmes explained, “theVisionaryAgency is a network of marketing and creative entrepreneurs founded by Leah Burdick and Chris Beebe. With active involvement in the Greater Aurora Chamber, theVisionaryAgency has provided a number of programs and services to Chamber members with their vision in mind...and theVisionaryAgency has shown a commitment to support the Chamber’s members while offering valued services for the members’ businesses.”

Board Member Frank Larkin, last year’s retail award winner for Crown Trophy, presented the 2009 award to Prisco’s Fine Foods. In business for more than 80 years, Prisco’s is operated by the third generation of the Prisco family. The family business supports numerous community programs including the annual Pre-Thanksgiving Communitywide Food Drive benefiting the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry and managed in collaboration with several other Chamber businesses.

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Aurora Chamber Business Awards – Add one

Ron Hem, representing 2008 professional services recipient Alschuler, Simantz & Hem, presented the 2009 awards to Bill Winsininski of Imprint Enterprises. Imprint Enterprises is a 34-year-old, family-owned company based in Aurora.

“This past year, Imprint Enterprises started the Fox Valley Networking Professional Breakfast Series,” explained Hem. “The group is specifically designed to bring business leaders together to create a positive atmosphere for collaboration.”

Stewart Beach of Old Second National Bank and Chamber board treasurer, presented the 2009 Industrial/Manufacturing award to Geneva Construction Company. What began in 1926 as a subsidiary of the McCarthy Improvement Company has moved to concentrate on their heavy/highway division, Beach said. Geneva Construction is now a full-service asphalt paving contractor located in Aurora with an asphalt plant in North Aurora. In addition to being members of the Chamber and numerous trade associations, Geneva Construction regularly supported various youth activities for East and West Aurora schools, Aurora Central Catholic, Rosary and Marmion.

Dr. Christine Sobek, Waubensee Community College president and recipient of the 2008 Community Service Award, presented this year’s award to Sunnymere of Aurora.

“Sunnymere has had a place in the Aurora community for well over 70 years,” explained Sobek. “They have a reputation of providing quality service to seniors and offering them a charming and beautiful place to live out their later years. Sunnymere advocates for seniors.”

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Aurora Chamber Business Awards – Add two

Chair-elect Scott Voris of Kelmscott Communications presented the restaurant award to Pockets. Pockets has worked to grow its markets in the western suburbs through extensive community service and giveback projects. Some recent efforts include sponsorship of the VNA Fox Valley Walk to Remember, Pockets “Raise Some Dough” for Hesed House, and the Chicago Fire Department’s Walk for the Kids 2009. This fall, in an ongoing partnership with several West Aurora District 129 Schools, Pockets will donate a percentage of weekly teachers’ orders back to the participating schools.

In addition to the business awards, the 89th celebration included networking opportunities for members with a number of elected officials. In attendance were State Senator Holmes; Aurora Mayor Tomas J. Weisner; North Aurora Village President Dale Berman; Aurora Alderman Stephanie Kifowit; as well as Kane County Board members Bonnie Lee Kunkel and Jesse Vazquez.