

March 2016

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Window on Washington

DAVE WEAVER - 2016 WASHINGTONIAN

The Washingtonian Award was established in 1961, to recognize one or more local residents for their service to the Washington community. The winner of this annual award is traditionally someone with a history of unselfish service and commitment to the community.

Those two key elements - "unselfish service and commitment to the community" were a running theme in the numerous nomination forms submitted for our winner this year.

"Willing to help in whatever way *they* can" and "Would go the extra mile for anyone" are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to what nominators had to say about the 2016 recipient. The list continues with statements such as: "Always has a positive outlook that is contagious" - "helped us when our basement flooded" - "checked on me after I'd had surgery just to see if we needed anything" - "stayed with an injured person until the ambulance arrived on scene" - "has a great sense of humor" - "lives life with a smile" - "Always available to lend a helping hand when needed" - "will bend over backward to help people" - "has served the community with integrity" - "is a friend to those in need" - "will hold your hand after the loss of a loved one" - "will help someone get on their feet after a bad life choice" - "hears of someone's need and just makes it happen, in an unassuming way" - "is a wonderful unselfish citizen" - "a devoted person for both friends and strangers" - "does things for people without credit"...and the list could go on! To sum it up, he's an "awesome man" - "a super nice guy" - "a Great guy" - "You couldn't ask for a more giving public servant & person!"

"Not only has this recipient committed his life to public service and won the confidence of the voters over a period of 45 plus years, he has also given generously of his time and talents to the community during his personal "time off" from the job. Whenever a situation with a friend or stranger comes about where he can lend his expertise, he is there. He mows yards of those who can't, makes (continued: pg 2)



WASHINGTON DAVE WEAVER

repairs on homes for those who can't, and is always ready and willing to help where needed. A personal example from one nominator is when our winner helped out the Washington Masonic Lodge, where he is an honorary member. He helped correct a neighbor's mistake of having removed 10 feet of grass from the property. Without cost to the lodge, he brought in his personal machinery and re-graded, tilled, and reseeded it.

Another example was when a small building at WCHS was removed, leaving an unpaved area in the parking lot. This man came and instructed the students on how to repair the pavement and worked with them to do it.

He has helped countless number of people move heavy objects such as pianos, printing presses, or entire households. He volunteers his time and equipment for churches, schools, and other organization such as the Washington Historical Society to help where needed. He has also hauled and leveled many a load of dirt for various sporting venues. His round the clock work during the tornado brought accolades from all whom he helped.

Many nominators expressed that he has always "gone above & beyond", whether it was tornado cleanup or assisting disabled residents to resolve the issue they were having with access to their mailbox or street."

Our 2016 winner is a graduate of WCHS and father of two sons and several grandchildren, is an attending member of Evangelical United Methodist Church in Washington, and has lived and served the Washington community his entire life. He was a member of the Washington Fire Department for 12 years and served as Fire Chief for two years.

Beginning at the age of 21, he was plowing snow, which led to his 51 years with Washington Township - 45 of those as the "best Tazewell County road commissioner that ever was," to quote another nominator.

As road commissioner, he was a board member with the East Central Highway Commissioners Association; director of the Illinois Township Highway Commissioners Association; president, secretary & treasurer of the Tazewell Co. Highway Commissioners. With his careful planning and seeking for inter-governmental cooperation & grants, he's been instrumental in saving taxpayer dollars and in keeping legislators informed as to how their actions would affect smaller communities, like Washington. He developed the Tazewell County Highway road commissioner group with educational programs to teach new techniques to keep the fire department upgraded.

This Washingtonian has been known to work long hours maintaining the roads of Washington Township – working long irregular hours to keep our roads clear 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, with no extra compensation for the overtime. He has been the one out checking road conditions early in the morning to report back to the schools whether roads were safe for travel.

His exemplary work ethic has gone above and beyond just getting a job done. He has done all of this and much more while suffering from health problems he prefers not to talk about, and which he has never let get in the way of his job or his volunteer efforts to make his life-long home of Washington an even better community."

Dave Weaver "stands out because he has been involved in our community for many years & has done everything he could to help with anything."

Whenever you tell Dave, "Have a good day!" his response is, "You have a better one!"

So, it's our turn to say to you, Dave, "You have a better one!"

Congratulations to Dave Weaver 2016 Washingtonian



Dave was presented with his award at a small gathering on February 19th, because he was scheduled to have hip replacement surgery the day before the banquet. A video was shown at the banquet of his accepting the 2016 Washingtonian award from Mayor Gary Manier. Five generations of Dave's family were present for the early celebration .

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS & BUSINESS BEAUTIFICATION

This year, it gave us great pleasure to present this award to Create-A-Scene. This small local business was started in 2007 by Kristy Howell and Sue Hohulin as a fun side job following two of Sue's sons' weddings. This fun "side job" has flourished from holding 12 events during their first year to doing 12 or more events in one weekend at times. Kristy and Sue have built the reputation of being able to work within any bride's budget to carry out the wedding of her dreams.

Sue and Kristy are very creative and generous women. They have donated their time, talent and décor to organizations' fundraising efforts such as St. Jude to the local Daddy/Daughter dance to special occasions held by various groups. Visitors to Washington can enjoy the beautifully decorated Washington Square at Christmastime thanks to Kristy and Sue, as well.

They have loyal employees, who see how they go above and beyond for their customers as well as those who work "for" them. Create-A-Scene has grown from just the two of them in 2007 to as many as 15-20 dedicated, seasonal employees now. In its 7 years, Create-A-Scene has grown from storing inventory in the Howell and Hohulin home basements to purchasing a building on Ragan Court to serve as Create-A-Scene's new home.



Create-A-Scene is a very unique business that is more about feeling blessed to be a special part of someone's big day and making it magical behind the scenes or by creating a perfect scene for a corporate event. Our congratulations to Kristy and Sue and Create-A-Scene.



This year, the Business Beautification award was presented to Five Points Washington for the Washington Pride Plaza and Community Spirit Sculpture. Both are a beautiful expression of triumph over tragedy. The plaza features numerous personalized "Building Stronger" bricks and bluestones from area residents and businesses who want to recognize the strength of our citizens, and our community. To date, there are 85 smaller bricks, 20 larger bricks, and 35 bluestones incorporated into the plaza.

The Business Beautification Award is presented for outside improvements to a commercial property, located in the Washington area, which adds to the neighborhood's beauty and community pride. The work must have been completed in 2014 or 2015, and the winner must be a Chamber member.

The Community Spirit Sculpture was created by artist Charles Strain of Harrisburg, Missouri, using the language of abstraction. The sculpture was designed to symbolize how the community pulled together and demonstrated "community spirit" after the November 17, 2013, F4 tornado that changed our community forever. The bronze sculpture stands 12 feet tall on the south side of Five Points in the center of the Washington Pride Plaza.



The Washington Area Community Center board has plans for the plaza and sculpture to be part of the enhancement process which is to include a theater ticket office; a covered entrance; upgraded banquet rooms; and a "Washington Strong" photo gallery.

In honor of this unique representation of Washington's resilience, sacrifice, and dedication to recovery, we were pleased to present the 2016 Business Beautification award to Five Points Washington.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - DENNIS HERMANN

The Washington Chamber of Commerce is an organization that runs mostly on volunteer power...from the men and women who sit on the board of directors to committee chairs and members to the numerous volunteers from businesses and the community that assist with the manpower required to have successful events. And it is often that these volunteers do this work without receiving the due recognition they deserve.

With that in mind, a new award has been established to honor a person deserving of be called the Volunteer of the Year...someone who goes above and beyond by giving of their time and energy. Someone who does what they can to insure that the chamber's efforts to promote the local business community and to provide quality of life events for the citizens of Washington are profitable to everyone.

For this inaugural award, the Volunteer of the Year award is being presented to someone who has led by example – by volunteering his time, his sponsorship, always ready to recruit others to help, or to provide needed services at events. He is always among the first to sign up for tickets when registrations are lagging, as well as to encourage attendance and involvement of others. He puts his money where his mouth is!

He has done A LOT of the behind the scenes work, and he has put in many extra hours helping to plan the Good Neighbor Day festival and the Taste of Washington for the last several years. He could be found working on the layout of the grounds for both events, or arranging and coordinating the power and electrical needs at these events, or being there even when it wasn't his 'shift'. He was "on the ground and on the front line" doing whatever was needed to make these events happen...successfully.

He has always been willing to take panicked phone calls from staff when someone was needed out at the grounds and one of us couldn't get there or when some other emergency would arise. And he does all of this with a warm smile and encouraging words while still doing his 'paying' job!

He was a major part of the entire Clydesdales week in 2014, from the kickoff at the Taste of Washington to the Parade of Heroes on Saturday. He came up with idea of the dunk tank at the Taste in 2013, and he just put it altogether and made it a fun part of the event. He has been one of the chamber's biggest cheerleaders – from keeping the staff sane to working through change – and always being positive (again with that smile and laugh of his!) He has been a member of the Board of Directors and also served as the chair for the Events committee since 2013.

Congratulations, Dennis, for your wonderful spirit of service, and for being the recipient our very first Volunteer of the Year award.



business after hours

tuesday, march 15, 2016

5:00 to 7:00pm

get your irish on!

FOOD
and
DRINKS

lots
of
FUN

come help tom
celebrate his

35th

anniversary
of ownership

lots of
DOOR
PRIZES

watch
TV
while filling up your
tank
at the newly
installed pumps

Chicagoland Speedway
tickets, Car Care buckets,
VISA Gift Cards, BP Gift
Cards, and MORE



bp

Brecklin's Servicenter
119 Walnut Street
NE corner of Washington Square



March 15: Brecklin's Servicenter
April 12: LeFleur Floral Designs & Events
May 10: Alexander-Murray Agency, Russell's
Cycling & Fitness Center & The Blend
June 14: Simply Organized & Staged
July 12: Backyard Living
August 9: Homestead Antiques
September 13: TASTE OF WASHINGTON
October 11: IVP Plastics
November 8: Jim Maloof Realty
December: No BAH held

Subject to change

SCHEDULE YOUR RIBBON CUTTING!

If you are a new chamber member (having joined within the last 6 months) and have not arranged to have your official welcome scheduled... please contact the Chamber office - 444-9921 - so we can set a date!
For more information, contact the Chamber staff.

If you have recently relocated or remodeled or will be having a special anniversary or something new with your business, you can also schedule a ribbon cutting to celebrate!
Just contact the Chamber office - 444-9921 - so we can set a date!

It's time for choice and for improved membership benefits.

CHANGE
IS
INEVITABLE.
GROWTH
IS
OPTIONAL.

After careful consideration by your Washington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Ambassadors and staff, your Chamber is changing the way members will invest. Like many chambers are doing, we will be moving to a tiered dues system, which will provide benefits based on the investment level a partner selects. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting to review how this change can increase your investment with the chamber, please contact us at 309.444.9921 or through e-mail at info@washingtontcoc.com. Our new membership package is available for you to view on www.washingtonilcoc.com/memberbenefits. A letter was mailed out to our full membership the week of November 2, 2015.

February Membership Renewals

2 Star Partners

OSF Medical Group
 Art at the Bodega
 Clifton Larson Allen
 Kroger
 IVP Plastics
 The Federal Companies
 Cornerstone of Washington
 Helping Hands Healthcare

1 Star Partners

Taco Bell
 Roger Hickman State Farm
 Joan's Trophy
 Starcrest Cleaners
 Neal Auto & Tires
 Ralph's Floor Fashions

Tupperware - Barb Fleming
 Washington Community Bank
 Jim Maloof Realtor
 Faith Lutheran Church & Child Care
 Four Seasons Gutter Protection
 Heinold Homes
 Daily Laboratories
 Mason Funeral Home
 Peoria Siding & Window
 Pine Lakes Golf Club
 Kennel Lake Sportsmen's Club
 Martin Financial
 Mobile Weather Team
 Sentimental Journey
 Sunnyland Christian Church
 Morningside of Washington
 James Unland Companies*
 O'Dea's Cleaners
 Garber Heating & A/C
 Camp Good News

Grace Bible Church
 Evangelical United Methodist Church
 Alpha Media
 Washington Community High School
 Washington Grade School #52
 Merle Norman/That Perfect Look
 Alexander Financial
 Martin Automotive
 Ordaz Construction Supply
 Washington Christian Village
 Ice Cream Shack of Sunnyland
 Kimpling Ace Hardware
 Kimpling Plumbing & Heating*
 Nick Klein Trucking & Excavating
 Unity Point Health Clinic
 Country Financial® - Patrick Sams
 Foster's ProLawn & Snow Removal
 Cherry Tree Shopping Center - American
 Commercial Realty

as of 02--29-16



Washington Day Banquet Extras



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Past Washingtonians: Gary Uffring (2015), Tom & Judy Gross (2013), Brad Swearingen (2001), Raymond Torry (1980), Em Bachman (1989), Lada & Mayor Manier (2014), Kristy Howell (2009), Sherril West (2015), and Phillip Baer (1982).



Member Memos & Community News

2016 Board of Directors

Washington Park District . Is in need of some help! They are hosting the Bunny Breakfast on March 26th at Five Points and immediately following the Easter Egg Hunt in Washington Park. They are in need of sponsors for both events, with several options to choose from: Monetary, Gift Certificates (to be given away), Milk, Juice, Coffee & service, Food items such as donuts, bagels, Danish rolls, etc. Businesses donating will receive exposure at event. Please contact Brian Tibbs at the WPD by MARCH 14th with any questions or to confirm your donation. Call Brian at 309-444-9413 or email: bftibbs@washingtonparkdistrict.com.

The City of Washington . Has launched a City Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CityofWashingtonIL/) and Twitter account (www.twitter.com/WashingtonILGov). Be sure to check them out!

One Counseling & Wellness . Is excited to announce Mark Carr has joined ONE. Mark is an Executive Business Coach and independent contractor with One Counseling and Wellness. Mark has a wealth of experience and knowledge and we are happy to offer this service to our clients.

Washington Historical Society . Dement-Zinser and the Dr. Museum will be open for tours from 11 am - 2pm each Saturday in March starting March 5th. Take a step into Washington's history by making a visit to our two houses.

Tazewell County Partnership for Inclusive Employment . Picnic with speakers from Culvers, Taco Bell, Buffalo Wild Wings & Advanced Medical Transport. Wednesday, March 9th. Grace United Methodist Church, 601 N. 4th St, Pekin. 10:30am - 1:30pm Open House. Food provided by Jason's Deli.

Five Points Washington . Presents Conklin's Theater "Greater Tuna". Take a trip to Texas' third-smallest town in this tour-de-force of quick-change comedy with two actors playing 22 characters! By Joe Sears, Jaston Williams and Ed Howard. Starring Dan Challacombe and Pat Gaik! April 1, 2 at 7:00pm and April 3 at 2:00pm. All performances in the beautiful Caterpillar Performing Arts Theater at Five Points. Tickets \$25 for adults, \$8 for children and students through college. Tickets available online at www.fivepointswashington.org.

Member Memos is the place where a short announcement can be made to convey information about your business. Information needs to be submitted by the 20th of the month preceding publication. Chamber members are encouraged to submit notices of upcoming events, accomplishments, or data that would be of interest to the membership.

It is our goal to always provide the most current and accurate information; however, we are limited to the information that is provided to us. Details are subject to change from the time information is received and publication.

President

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Vice President

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Dennis Hermann • *Alexander Murray Agency*

Kim Hess • *Washington Park District*

Amy Morgan • *LeFleur Floral Designs & Events*

Eric Obalil • *Alexander Financial Services*

Nick Robertson • *Bernardi's Restaurant*

Susan Wise • *Plaza Lanes*

2016 Ambassadors

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Blake Mishler • *Black, Black & Brown*

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Melissa Wireman • *CEFCU*

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Faye Clark • *New Image Laser (@Illini Family Medical)*

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Kim Felker • *Washington Community Bank*

Ed Foster • *Foster's Pro Lawn & Snow Removal/
Foster's Moving & Delivery Service*

Emily Geerts • *PNC Bank*

Scott Hassetf • *Morningside of Washington*

Tracy Molendi • *Simply Organized & Stage*

Denise Shelton • *LeFleur Floral Designs & Events*

Brian Tibbs • *Washington Park District*

Wendy Wagner • *Art at the Bottega*

Tricia Yocum • *Coldwell Banker Honig-Bell*

2016 Staff

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Communication Manager

Candy Liggan • candy@washingtoncoc.com

Finance Manager

Gail Nettles • gail@washingtoncoc.com

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Window on Washington Newsletter Sponsor	\$500	Your company logo and/or advertisement (created by you) will be included in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monthly newsletter • The cover email that is sent with the link to the newsletter <i>(Sponsorship runs for 12 months from first inclusion)</i>
	\$300	Your company logo and/or advertisement (created by you) will be included in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monthly newsletter • The cover email that is sent with the link to the newsletter <i>(Sponsorship runs for 6 months from first inclusion)</i>

Thank You to our 3 Star Partners ~





Guidelines to be followed to submit item for weekly emails:

- **No later than the Monday before**
- **JPEG format**
- **Tell us which 2 weeks**

Please include ALL 3 elements when sending your email submission.

Starting March 1st!

Ask about our Individual Chamber Member e-blast for only \$100.00 coming soon!

Info@washingtoncoc.com or 309.444.9921

The Washington Chamber Connections weekly emails are changing in 2016!

We will be switching to two weekly emails: one strictly for Chamber members regarding Chamber information and offers; the other for Chamber members to inform the community and other members of their events and offers. There will also be a fee to have a flyer included in the e-blast.

Community E-mail - Chamber Member News

- E-mail will be sent each Wednesday
- Your information must be submitted to the chamber office by email **no later than the Monday** before you want it to be included.
- Costs:
 - **FREE** - 25 words or less describing your event. Will be put in exactly how it is sent, so please proof read. No pictures!
 - **\$15.00** - a .jpeg flyer you have designed with all event information. Must be only one page with a maximum size of 8.5 x11 inches. Document must be submitted in **JPEG** format. Any other format will incur an additional \$10 conversion fee that will be invoiced to you.
- Your document will be included for **TWO** weeks only— so you must **tell us** which two weeks you want it included.

Incomplete submissions are subject to exclusion.

Chamber Member E-mail - Chamber News Only

- E-mail will be sent each Tuesday
- Will include information exclusive to Chamber Members and their employees
- Information cannot be submitted



WASHINGTON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

114 Washington Square . Washington, IL 61571

Calendar of Events

March

15 Business After Hours*
@ Brecklin's Servicer, 5pm

2016

Apr 23 Take Pride in Washington Clean Up Day

May 30 Memorial Day Parade

Jun 1-5 * GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS *

Jul 16 Summer Small Business Saturday*

Jul 30 Washington Night at the Chiefs*

Sep 13 Taste of Washington*

Sep 24 Autumn Fest

tbd Homecoming Parade

tbd Moonlight Madness*

Nov 6 Veterans Day Celebration

tbd Crazy Bowling*

Nov 17 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast*

Nov 26 Small Business Saturday*

Dec 1 Candlelight Stroll

Dec 13 Historical Society's Christmas Home Tour

events & dates subject to change. *Chamber event

March 2016

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a unique story.
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The mission of the Washington Chamber of Commerce is to be an advocate for business, to promote business alliances, to provide valuable benefits and services to our members and to be a leader for economic development efforts in Washington, IL