

## Shiny Finish

By ANNE LUNDE Journal & Topics Reporter | Posted: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 4:13 pm

When Joseph Bredemann Sr. was presented a lifetime achievement award by the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce on Saturday night, he spent most of his speech giving credit to his family and employees at the Bredemann's Family of Dealerships.

Jackie Mathews, who chaired the awards committee for the Night of Community Stars, spoke of Bredemann's strong work ethic, learned from his father and grandfather.

The family, in the car dealership business in Park Ridge for several generations, has Bredemann Chevrolet at Greenwood and Dempster, and additional dealerships in the nearby suburbs.

Bredemann himself is a founding member of the Park Ridge Rotary, a sponsor of the Taste of Park Ridge, and supports Advocate Lutheran General, Rainbow Hospice and other community support programs.

"He told me we didn't need to do this," Mathews added. "It is with great honor, we recognize him."

"I'm humbled by the honor," Bredemann responded. "I'm blessed to work along with my family – four sons and two sons-in-law – and 70 wonderful men and women.

"While I'm the owner, it's the people that work for you that make or break the business. Coming to work every day has been a joy.

"Thanks for the faith you have put in us and helped us to prosper. I haven't done it alone. My best friend is my wonderful wife, Sally."

The Community Star dinner is now held at the Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemont, having outgrown the Park Ridge Country Club.

Nine others were honored as Community Stars for 2013.

Mathews recognized Dick Barton as a person whom people call if they want to get a job done. He's worked on many marketing projects in the city, from starting electronics recycling to helping with the park district referendum for the Youth Campus.

"When we get a great community idea," Mathews added, "we call Dick for coffee. He puts the P.R. in Park Ridge."

Barton said he has worked in Park Ridge for a quarter century, and sees the results of things he was a part of.

"I encourage each of you to consider how to use your talents and time to make Park Ridge a better place to live," he added.

Ralph Cincinelli, a resident of almost 40 years, was nominated in recognition of his work with the Chief's Advisory Task Force to solve overcrowding and other issues in the Park Ridge Police headquarters.

"It was a great pleasure and honor to provide help to improve conditions," he responded. "I couldn't have done it without a lot of people." He thanked his wife and sons for their support.

Michael Deverman, a Maine South student and Eagle Scout, was honored by his initiatives working with homeless children, senior citizens with Alzheimer's, and volunteer work in Costa Rica and Joplin, MO. He is interested in environmental restoration and hopes to become a landscape gardener.

He thanked his parents for allowing him to participate, his principal and school advisors, and four local churches for providing him support in his projects.

Maine East student Adai Karuthalackal was recognized for his volunteer efforts, including fundraising for Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, tutoring fellow students, and helping to design a support program for young people struggling with depression.

"Education without implementation is useless," he responded. "To keep it bottled up is an injustice."

He thanked the staff and faculty at Maine East High School, especially Principal Michael Pressler, his counselor and members of the Lyceum program for their support.

There were many excellent candidates among the students nominated for this award, he added: "You are leaving Park Ridge in good hands."

Richard and Dorothy DuSold were honored by their long commitment to the community, often as a team, for close to 50 years. They serve as co-presidents of Friends of the Park Ridge Library, they provided production support for the ice shows at the Oakton rink, and found ways to bring the arts and gifted programs back into District 64 in leaner budget years.

"We tried to improve the image of the library, to make it more of a cultural center," Dorothy said.

The DuSolds are retiring this year after 18 years of providing the backstage support for the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra, and were flanked at their table by conductors Edgar and Victor Muenzer.

"This award," Dick DuSold warned, "is not going to slow us down one bit. We just keep on going like the Eveready (Energizer) Bunny,

“Being the stage manager for 16 years, I have only seen three presentations of the orchestra. Our job is to set the stage. The greatest place is behind the scenes. I wouldn’t trade that place for anything.”

Of Sonja Dziedzic, a member of the Park Ridge Cultural Council, Mathews said, “Ask a busy woman to do something and it will get done.” In Dziedzic’s case, she added, it would be done artistically.

Dziedzic served as a Girl Scout leader and worked as a curriculum specialist in School District 64.

She said she felt honored and humbled to be among the nominees of the evening.

Working with the Cultural Council the past seven years, she said, was energizing, a place where ideas collide and rebound and expand, and where many friendships form.

Sheri Roche is a retired special education teacher at District 64 and incoming president of the Park Ridge Community Fund. She was recognized for her efforts at the fund, especially with the Harry O’Brien community run and walk, which is in memory of the chamber’s long-time executive director.

She told the chamber she is merely a representative of the fund: “Everything we do is as a team of caring, devoted individuals. I represent all of them tonight.”

Peter Ryan has worn many hats, from Maine Township board to the Park Ridge Community Health Commission. He was especially honored as a Boy Scout leader in Troop 50 and chairman of Blackhawk District in the Northwest Suburban Council.

Other activities have included CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) and heading the Park Ridge Soccer program.

He spoke of his early experiences as a volunteer firefighter in a small rural community, and that since then he has tried to help out.

“It’s a ripple effect. I started volunteering because they needed me. I got the better end of the deal. I’m especially proud to be in Boy Scouts developing young leaders.”

Ryan accepted the award “for all those people who do random acts of kindness.”

Also honored during the evening, with a President’s award from outgoing chamber leader Joe Campagna, was Sheila Duda of Tea Lula, for her help during his term as president.