

2009 Distinguished Citizen Award presented by Frederick County Boy Scouts of America FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

On June 10, the Frederick County Boys Scouts of America held their 14th annual George Delaplaine Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner at the Lynfield Event Complex. The event has been held every year since 1996 to honor an outstanding citizen of Frederick County. The list of past recipients reads like a who's who of Frederick County citizens. Proceeds from the event help support the Scouting program for both Appalachian Trail and Catocin Mountain Districts, the two Scouting districts which jointly serve all of Frederick County.

Selected for the honor this year was Frederick County native Marvin Ausherman. Ausherman is a 1969 graduate of Gov. Thomas Johnson High School. In 1974, he received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

His first career was in the residential home building business for 29 years, a business started by his father. During that time, he was a member and life director of the National Association of Home Builders, Washington. Since 2003, he has served as president of Ausherman Development Corp. in commercial and residential development while also devoting his energy and efforts to the family philanthropy endeavors, having created with his wife, Lisa, the Ausherman Family Foundation in 2006. Ausherman has been involved for years in many Frederick County organizations and projects for the betterment of the community. He has served on the County's Affordable Housing Council and on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation, YMCA, Federated Charities, Habitat for Humanity, Hope VI Steering Committee and others. He serves as chairman of the board of the BlueRidge Bank and is a member of the boards of the Frederick Memorial Hospital System and the Frederick Alliance for Youth. He is a member and Paul Harris Fellow of the Frederick Rotary Club and holds membership in the Frederick Church of the Brethren.

The evening began with a reception and then the U.S. and Maryland flags were presented by a color guard of two Eagle Scouts and two Cub Scouts. The after-dinner program was led by Joseph S. Welty, principal Miles & Stockbridge P.C. Welty introduced the dinner committee as well as all the individuals and organizations that had contributed to the financial success of the evening. As the representatives of each sponsor stood, one of the Scouts presented a plaque of appreciation.

Eagle Scout Cody Evans spoke on "What Scouting Means to Me." Evans was recognized as not only having earned his Eagle Scout award, but also for earning all 121 merit badges offered by the Boy Scouts of America. It is extremely rare for a Scout to accomplish this feat and it has not been done in recent memory, if ever, in Frederick County.

The culmination of the evening was the presentation of the George Delaplaine Distinguished Citizen Award to Ausherman by Catocin Mountain District Director Tim Richardson. Ausherman was presented with a Boy Scout campaign hat, a Boy Scout neckerchief and neckerchief slide and a small replica of a sculpture called "The Boy Scout," made by R. Tait McKenzie. A life-size version of this sculpture stands in front of the national BSA office in Irving, Texas.

In accepting the award, Ausherman delivered a heartfelt talk. He started by stating that what impresses him the most about the Scouting program is how it is run by volunteers. This comment received a round of applause from the audience. Ausherman then went on to his family members

in attendance, Pastor Paul Munday, his friend Jim MacGillivray, who couldn't attend because he was serving on the board at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and his team members from his for-profit and not-for-profit teams.

Ausherman continued his remarks by stating that "community service is near and dear to my heart." He stated that he was born at Frederick Memorial Hospital and is now on its board of directors. As a result "... the community has my full compassion," he said. His interests lie in the area of building. He has turned his attention to projects which will provide facilities for service organizations to function better. The mission of the Ausherman Family Foundation is to serve the underserved in Frederick County. Working with the Community Foundation, the Ausherman Family Foundation can provide emergency loans and grants to county nonprofits. The Ausherman Family Foundation is also working on two major construction projects. One of these is a youth center which will be built within walking distance of Hillcrest Elementary School. It is designed to accommodate up to 400 children per day. It will have a lounge area for reading and will also provide computer facilities. Located in one of Frederick's lowest economic areas, it will provide assistance to at-risk youth who otherwise would not have this resource. This project is in the start-up stage. The second project is a Performing Arts Center which is in the conceptual stage. It may be located in the Carroll Creek project near the C. Burr Artz Public Library. It will provide two performance venues: one with a capacity of 150 and the second with a 350-seat capacity. It will be designed for plays, musicals and community performances by both amateur and professional talent. For information on these projects or for information about the Ausherman Family Foundation, visit aushermanfamilyfoundation.org. Ausherman ended his remarks by asking the audience in these times of economic troubles to "... give a little more to the nonprofit of your choice."



Courtesy photo 2009 Distinguished Citizen Award honoree Marvin Ausherman.