



VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Business Awards Program was established to serve as an incentive and to recognize new and existing businesses. The awards are part of the Business Retention Program and aims to highlight the accomplishments businesses and commercial property owners have made to improve the quality of life in the Village of Algonquin through physical improvements to their property or contributions to the community.

Staff and the EDC have recognized several businesses as having made significant improvements to their establishments. However, some establishments have gone out of their way to make their business provide the key elements that make the Village of Algonquin what it is today.

Rehabilitation/Improvement Award

This award will be presented for improvements made to an existing structure that meets the following criteria:

- Rehabilitation of an existing building - Improvements which enhance the exterior of the building consistent with the zoning district in which it is located (i.e. Old Town District, Algonquin Road Corridor, Randall Road Corridor)
- Landscaping enhancements to the site.



Old Strandell Building, 2025 East Algonquin Road:

Over the past couple of years, building owner Mitch Weisz has been working to transform the building formerly housing Strandell's Equine & Pet store into a multi-tenant commercial building. The building, totaling over 21,000 square feet, was originally constructed as one ground-level storefront with a warehouse/office, and a second-floor unit. After Strandell's closed, Mitch Weisz purchased the property and rehabbed the facility, dividing the first floor into five separate commercial units, while preserving the second floor as one unit. In doing this, Mr. Weisz retained the stone façade along the building's first-floor exterior and the metal façade of the second floor, while creating large windows and double doors for each of the first-floor storefronts. Landscaping on the property was also maintained and a new monument sign was created. The building is already home to Extend Cheer and Dance on the second floor and State Farm Insurance in one of the first-floor tenant spaces, with additional tenants planned for the first floor. Mr. Weisz should be praised for utilizing

and improving an existing building and creating more retail opportunities in the Village. Such efforts serve to enhance the economic strength of the East Algonquin Road corridor.

Marotta Building, 150 South Main Street: In 2002, Michael Marotta constructed a new building at 150 South Main Street to replace a building that was constructed in the 1880s and had fallen into disrepair. The old building had developed serious foundation and structural problems that could not be easily fixed. However, Marotta worked to make the new building resemble the old building as much as possible. The new building included vinyl lap siding, wood trim, decorative cornices, a parapet, flower boxes, and decorative wall lights. Totalling over 800 square feet, the building includes a first-floor office and a second-floor residential unit. The building is a very nice addition to the Old Town District and demonstrates Marotta's willingness to retain the history and character of the downtown by constructing a building that resembles the former building very well and features a very high level of craftsmanship. He also exhibited a high level of cooperation in working with the Historic Commission and Village staff in perfecting his building. Marotta, ever concerned with the aesthetics and functionality of his building, replaced the vinyl siding with sturdier fiber-cement siding this past summer, as the old siding material started to bow. Marotta completed almost all of the work by himself during off-periods and vacations while working as a police officer. He should be commended for his tireless efforts, which help to enhance the Old Town District and benefit the entire community.



Community Service Award

This award will be presented to a business that makes significant contributions to the community in terms of volunteer services or monetary contributions.



Downtown Algonquin Partnership: Since its 2003 founding, the Downtown Algonquin Partnership has been of great benefit to the Village's Old Town District. The organization is comprised of over 20 small businesses in the downtown area that work together for the benefit of the downtown business community. The business partnership meets monthly to discuss various strategies to improve the downtown area and to promote the businesses there. The businesses are vital to the success

of the Village's downtown and the partnership works to promote the downtown area through joint advertising and a number of community events. The partnership is a grassroots effort that relies on the collective participation and resources of its members. The partnership is responsible for the downtown Farmers' Market, held every Thursday during the summer and fall months. The Farmers' Market was started this past year and has been very successful, drawing more daytime foot traffic and business to the downtown area. In addition, the partnership organizes the annual Old Time Country Harvest Festival, the community's cornerstone fall festival, which includes a farmers' market, craft fair,



fall-themed games & contests, and a cemetery walk. The partnership is also an active participant in the community's winter festival, Holidays on the Fox. Additionally, the partnership tries to give back to the community as much as possible through activities like the canned food drive that was held recently. All of this demonstrates a collective effort by many businesses working together for the benefit of not only the business community, but the Village as a whole.

Community Economic Impact Award

This award will be presented to a business that positively impacts the community with jobs or other economic stimuli.



Walmart, 1410 Randall Road: Since opening in 2003, Walmart has been a tremendous asset to the Village. From late 2008 through mid 2009, the store was expanded by 40,000 square feet in order to provide more services for the growing community. The store now totals nearly 200,000 square feet. With that expansion,

came an expansion in jobs, with 130 jobs created, in addition to the 200 already employed at the store. In such a tough economic climate, the growth in jobs was a boon for the community. The expansion of the store also provided customers with more products and services including a drive-thru pharmacy, a full-service grocery section, a Woodforest Bank branch, and services that are offered 24 hours, seven days a week. Walmart's expansion also brought forth several improvements, including additional landscaping, a complete overhaul of the façade which is in line with the high-quality architectural standards of the Randall Road corridor, an additional entrance into the store, an expanded parking lot, a new stoplight at County Line Road to improve traffic flow, an increased use of energy-efficient lighting, the installation of skylights to limit the need for daytime lighting, and rehabilitating the inside of the store and expanding aisles to make shopping easier. All of these additions enhance the store, draw more customers from outside the local area, and increase competition in the local marketplace and thus drive down costs for local residents. Through the expansion, it is anticipated that Walmart's additional products, services, and customers will generate additional amounts of sales tax revenue for the Village.

In addition to expanded services, quality aesthetics, increased sales tax revenue, and the creation of jobs, Walmart also continues to be an exemplary business through its community service. Walmart has made charitable contributions that exceed \$20,000 to date. Some of the organizations Walmart assists include the local food pantries, Habitat for Humanity, It's All About Kids, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, the ALS Foundation, the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation, Hearts of Gold, and so forth. Walmart also is active in many community activities including sponsoring the annual Founders' Days festival and sponsoring the Teacher of the Year Award, given annually to a local schoolteacher. The store has also been complimented by several residents for its cleanliness and friendly customer service. Walmart has also won the Store of the Year award for its region two years in a row.

Brunswick Zone XL, 1611 Randall Road: Since opening in the spring of 2008, Brunswick Zone has been a popular choice for entertainment in the Village. The 60,000 square foot facility features 38 lanes, nearly twice the amount of a typical bowling alley, along with a 2,000 square foot laser tag center, an 8,000 square foot restaurant & bar, a large arcade center, six billiard tables, and plenty of opportunities for private parties. Located in the Algonquin Galleria, Brunswick Zone has become the



entertainment hub of the Randall Road corridor and is a great asset to the Village. The Brunswick company continues to operate the east-side facility on East Algonquin Road, demonstrating the company's commitment to the Village. It is largely unprecedented for a community of Algonquin's size to have more than one major brand-name bowling facility. In addition to offering quality entertainment for residents, the center draws from a wide geographic region, drawing patrons from throughout McHenry and northern Kane Counties, further enhancing Algonquin as a place for destination shopping, dining, and entertainment. The center brings in an estimated \$40,000 in sales tax revenue for the Village and has created 150 jobs for local residents. Brunswick has also been a great neighbor, working with the Village to resolve a number of issues brought forth by residential neighbors and has been very cooperative in adjusting their lighting, creating sound buffers, and installing a fence, in the hopes of being a good neighbor to the residents that live near the facility.