

## **Development Panel Honors Newtown Business**

By Steve Bigham

The Economic Development Commission honored a handful of local businesses October 21 at its second annual "Salute to Business" Night at the Fireside Inn. About 50 or so attended the event, which recognized local businesses that contribute to the economic growth of the community.

EDC Chairman Win Ballard and Community Development Director Elizabeth Stocker hosted the award ceremony.

"The purpose of the event is to salute our businesses and recognize them as an integral part of our community," Mrs Stocker said.

Also on hand was First Selectmen Herb Rosenthal, who reiterated the importance of a strong business presence in town.

The Newtown Savings Bank received the community service award and was recognized for its 144 years of distinguished service to the town of Newtown. Kevin J. Carroll, executive vice president of operations, accepted the award on behalf of the bank, which recently re-opened its renovated facility on Main Street.

Also honored was the Fireside Inn for the important function it has in the community as a conference center and gathering place for civic and recreational events. Owner Donald Pulieri accepted the award. The Inn is considered a unique facility due to its ability to bring various activities into Newtown. From weddings and political events to Little League banquets and country line dancing, the Fireside Inn is the place people in the region turn to for their functions.

Newtown Manufacturing Company, Inc was recognized for 53 years of manufacturing quality, precision screw machine products in Newtown and the important contribution it has made to the business community. Owners Bill and Evelyn Watts were on hand to accept the plaque. Newtown Manufacturing is a family-owned business with a long-standing history in Newtown.

Kendro Laboratory Products was also honored for its continuing leadership and innovation in centrifuge technology and for its contribution to the economic growth of Newtown. Kendro Laboratoy is the largest employer in Newtown with some 400 employees. Don Mortifolio, vice president of engineering and operations, accepted the award. Kendro moved in to the former DuPont building on Peck's Lane two years ago.

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