

Newtown honors four businesses' community work

by Brian Saxon

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NEWTOWN - Local businesses took center stage last when four were honored by the Newtown Economic Development Commission for service to the community.

Newtown Savings Bank was presented with a Community Service Award in recognition of 144 years continuous service to the town.

Founded in 1855, the bank opened on West Street and moved to Main Street in 1909.

Certificates of Recognition were presented to Kendro Laboratory Products, Newtown Manufacturing Company Inc., and the Fireside Inn on South Main Street where last night's awards were announced.

Kendro, international manufacturer of medical and laboratory equipment, is Newtown's largest private employer with 400 workers on its payroll.

"It's a very important part of the town's economy," said Newtown's Director of Community Development Elizabeth Stocker.

Newtown Manufacturing, founded in 1946, is a family owned and operated company.

"We're proud to do business in Newtown," said family member and co-owner Evelyn Watts yesterday.

"I think our most important asset is our skilled and dedicated work force which has enabled us to stay in business this long."

With a staff of 25, the company provides screw machine products for aerospace markets, precision and medical instruments, life support systems and hydraulic and pneumatic machines.

EDC Chairman Winthrop Ballard said the Fireside Inn was recognized for services it provided to the community.

First Selectman Herbert Rosenthal paid tribute to the contribution local businesses make to the town, in humanitarian and financial terms.

Referring to their employees, he said: "We're a small business community compared to other area towns but we are well-served by a group of people who are civic and community-minded."

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