

Newtown 'Salute' Honors Businesses

By Audrey Grasso

NEWTOWN - The Economic Development Commission hosted the third annual Salute to Business Thursday, October 26, at the Fireside Inn.

Economic Development Commission Chairman Win Ballard presented special awards to area businesses.

Three businesses were given plaques for their services to the town.

American Wire Corporation on Church Hill Road was cited "in recognition of a family business that has been in continuous operation for over 60 years and its contribution to the economic community of the Town of Newtown."

The business started as a lumber yard by John McCarthy and merged with a nearby wire company in the 1930s. Since then it has become a copper wire company.

It has provided employment to area residents for all those years. Currently the third generation of the family, Bill McCarthy, is president.

Connecticut Light and Power, which has a significant property holdings on Barnabas Road, was recognized "for its long standing utilitarian services to the citizens and businesses of the state and for its contribution to Newtown's economic growth."

The Hawleyville center has 100 employees and serves Newtown and five surrounding towns. Jack Dolan, who was on hand to accept the award, said because of the large increase in residential dwelling in town (221 new housing permits last year), Newtown even has its own technician from CL&P.

Ashlar of Newtown on Toddy Hill Road, which begun as Buckingham Gardens in 1972, was honored for "its outstanding living, health and educational services provided to the senior citizens of the town and for its contributions to the economic community of Newtown."

Now known as Ashlar of Newtown, a Masonic Care Corporation, the facility has a 156-bed skilled nursing facility; last year Lockwood Lodge, a 44-unit assisted living facility, opened. Eight more units will be added next year.

"We make a great effort to reach out to the community and actively participate in the community," said Tom Gutner.

Ashlar prepares meals for Newtown Meals on Wheels, offers monthly blood pressure screening, educational and cultural events, lunch and learn sessions, works with the schools and adds much to the town.

Community Development Director Elizabeth Stocker noted the large growth in population, along with economic growth that helps with the town's tax base.

She listed the most recent businesses that have opened and gave a preview of what will be coming. Along with the growing economic base are the number of jobs that have been made available to residents.

©Voices 2000