



Eye of the beholder

Chamber of Commerce awards businesses, home for beauty

By KRISTA CHAMBERS

FEATURED ADVERTISER

SWEET SUCCESS: Tom and Karen Van Dam, owners of Captain Sundae in Zeeland, have received a Community Image Award for the remodeling of the former Dairy Y.

Sentinel/J.R. Valderas

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For facilities and homes that cut a sharp image in Zeeland, the city's chamber of commerce notices, and rewards those that go above and beyond to beautify their grounds.

At the Zeeland Chamber of Commerce 2005 Membership Banquet Tuesday, seven Zeeland Community Image Awards were handed out to especially lovely businesses and one home.

"We're looking for businesses, or in some cases, homeowners, who are just good examples for us to emulate," said chamber Director Ann Query.

The awards were designated by a committee comprised of chamber of commerce board members and local business owners, she said.

Fifth-Third Bank at 523 W. Main Ave. took the commercial category image award because of an expansion of the facility that increased the size and function of the branch, allowing for greater services for customers and staff.

Captain Sundae of Zeeland at 537 W. Main Ave. was awarded the retail category award for an update to the building and added enhancements to the

property and parking areas. The owners, Karen and Tom Van Dam took ownership of the building, formerly the Dairy Y ice cream store, this year.

State Farm Insurance, owned by David Schuch at 129 E. Main Ave., received the retail and service category award for an expansion of office space and the addition of a second apartment on the second floor of the office's building.

In the environmental preservation category, the award went to the Upper Macatawa Conservation Area east of 84th Avenue and south of I-196 in Zeeland Township. Roughly 550 acres, owned by the Ottawa County Parks Commission and operated cooperatively, is being restored to provide a natural habitat for birds and animals, with hiking trails to be added next year.

ODL, Inc. received the award for the industrial image category. The locally-owned company's recently-constructed facility in Zeeland's industrial park used glass to bring in natural light and fit in with existing buildings in the park.

Ray and Deb Kirn received the historic renovation category award for restoration work on their home at 117 S. Church St. The award was granted because the Kirns used appropriate trim, ornamentation and coloring for the home in the historic renovation, Query said.

For the public facilities category, Zeeland Public Schools took the award for the construction of the Zeeland Stadium. The sports complex features new turf, a refurbished stadium, expanded soccer and ball fields, integrated with a wetlands environment on the south and west sides of the stadium. A connecting tunnel underneath Riley Street also received praise from the committee that designated the awards.

The Community Image Awards replaced the Zeeland Environmental Action Leadership awards that were given in the city for 20 years before the Zeeland Chamber of Commerce took the awards over three years ago, Query said.

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