

The stars came out

Chamber honors Karvoskys, Hayes, Gobleck; Debbie Roche takes over chair at annual ball

Several Ridgefield business people and businesses were honored Saturday, Jan. 12, at the annual Chamber of Commerce Inaugural Ball.

Some 120 people attended "Dancing with the Stars" at the North Salem Golf Club where a new Board of Directors headed by longtime Ridgefield banker Debbie Roche was also installed.

"Ridgefield is a reflection of all of us ... our commitment, our support, our countless hours of volunteerism and our passion for this special place we all call home," said Ms. Roche.

Outgoing chairman Robert J. Carey Jr. of Syndicated Solutions, presented the awards.

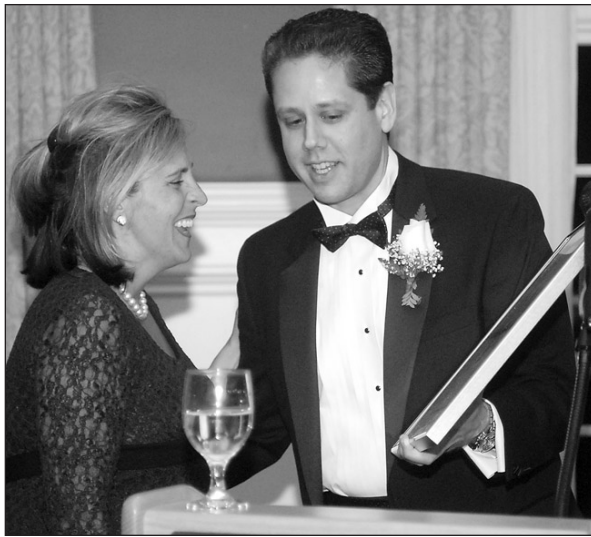
Chamber choice

Ed and Sue Karvosky, owners of Bissell's Pharmacy, and Debra Hayes of Colonial Cleaners were given the Chamber Choice award.

This award is presented to a business or individuals who have "has dedicated countless hours of time and energy for the betterment of the community, economic enhancement of the town, business growth, or through efforts to improve the quality of life in Ridgefield during the past year."

The Karvoskys overcame tremendous difficulties after their historic Main Street building burned to the ground in May 2005, Mr. Carey noted.

"Some people respond to challenges in life more readily



Scott Mullin

Mary Kate Gobleck receives Volunteer of the Year award from outgoing Chamber Chairman Bob Carey

than others and this evening's Chamber Choice business recipient certainly proved that overcoming adversity can be accomplished successfully even when rising from the ashes," he said. "There is never a time when one visits the new Bissell Pharmacy that Ed or Sue doesn't look up, smile, and say hello. Their customers matter. Service is their business."

Mr. Carey detailed the many contributions that Ms. Hayes and her husband, Peter, have made to the community, including donating dry-cleaning services to the annual Christmas luncheon fundraiser at the Tavern Museum,

the Theater Barn, the Princess Ball and the Ridgefield Symphony.

"This star is also an incorporator of Ridgefield Bank, has served as president of the Ridgefield Community center overseeing its 2001 major capital campaign, and is currently working on the capital campaign for The Ridgefield Playhouse," he said of Ms. Hayes. "Her volunteer efforts do not stop there as she is also involved with Have a Heart-Kids in Crisis, serves on the Spring Breakfast and Marketing & Development Committee for the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association, the advisory board of Founders Hall, the Ridgefield Family Fourth Committee, Dress for Success and The Bridge to Independence & Career Opportunities."

She has also been active in National Charity League, Meals on Wheels, the 2000 Millennium Celebration, and the Ridgefield Chamber's Fall Fantasy Auctions.

Volunteer of the year

Mary Kate Gobleck of Reliant Merchant Services was named Volunteer of the Year, an award that recognizes "one outstanding Chamber member who throughout the year has risen to the top of the volunteer list, by showing outstanding assistance, dedication, support, cooperation and leadership."

Ms. Gobleck headed the 2007 Chamber Golf outing committee, which generated "more money and ... a more diverse crowd than



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Debra Hayes receives a Chamber Choice award from Penny Hoffman, present of the chamber.



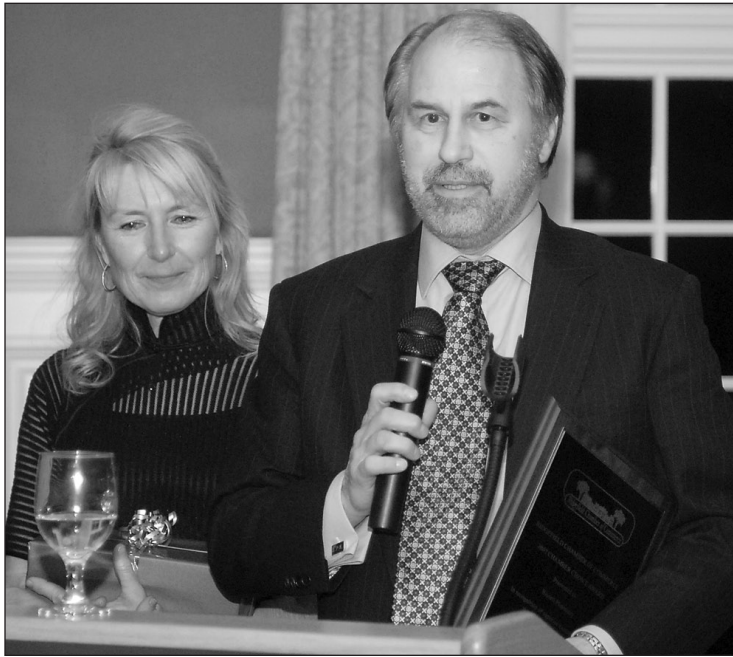
Kristen Jensen

Debbie Roche of Union Savings Bank was installed as the new chairman of the chamber board.

past years," Mr. Carey said.

Diamond Award

The Chairman's Diamond Award is presented to an individual business selected by the chairman of the board "to recognize a business's continued investment and commitment to the Ridgefield Chamber for more than 10 years," Mr. Carey said. The award went to Hersam-Acorn Newspapers, publisher of The Press and represented by Publisher Thomas B. Nash.



Scott Mullin

Sue and Ed Karvosky of Bissell's Pharmacy received the Chamber Choice award.