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Avon Chamber of Commerce

Next Chamber Meeting: Nov. 5th - Noon - The Park Theater

Citizen of the Year 2024 - Recap

What a truly splendid evening on October 5, 2024, when we gathered at the beautiful Avon Inn to honor this year's Citizen of the Year, our own Town Supervisor, David LeFeber. It was the largest attendance we can remember, for this very special annual event, with many of David's family, friends – and especially his mother and colleagues from the Livingston County Board of Supervisors meeting to honor him and to thank him for his years of public service.

A special guest was N.Y.S. Senator Pamela Helming, representing our District 54; she presented the State proclamation document. We were honored to read her full page tribute to the 9/11 heroes and survivors, as reprinted in the Genesee Valley Penny Saver "Hometown Stories" section.

Dave was introduced by the same person who submitted his nomination, Collin Hayes. Collin gave us a thorough understanding of Dave's values (and admitted that he is Dave's nephew) and dedication to the community and to the region. When Dave had a chance to speak on his own behalf, he talked about "the earth, the dirt, the soil – whatever name you give to the land" – it was "all he ever wanted to do, to be a farmer." Small wonder that agriculture continues to be the primary industry in Livingston County, with supporters and true laborers like him. One of his proud accomplishments was the town's completion of the Opera Block renovation and restoration.

The evening's celebration was ably hosted by Avon Chamber of Commerce Vice-President Steve Harrison and began with a beautiful blessing by Reverend Doctor Tom Taylor (A past Chamber President himself.) Tom also recalled Ted Coyne who so recently left us; Ted had been an original organizer of Avon Industries which later became our Avon Chamber of Commerce.

What a delight to see many former "Citizens" with us, including David Henehan in 2023, and Jennifer and Jim Krause, Geri Brewer, Mary Lou Marks, Susan Pusloskie, Ginny and Bob House, Ernie Wiard, Christine Quinlan, Reverend Tom Taylor, Bonnie Taylor-Davis, Kelly Cole and Maureen Kingston.

How delightful, too, to have last year's Chuck McFadden Student Service Awardee, Katherine Krasinski, with us, to introduce this year's awardee, Ella O'Brien. And how gratifying to hear these young women describe their accomplishments and their goals and their appreciation of this Avon community.

We learned about Senator Helming's ties to "the land" also, as she serves on the State Senate's Agriculture Committee, as well as the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, and multiple other assignments.

The evening's activities were supported by so many local businesses and individuals – and we thank them, indeed, for this support. And thanks to Avon Floral World for the beautiful season-appropriate blossoms for each table, and to Melissa Savino for the (always appropriate) cupcakes from The Cake Place for dessert. Thank you, Jenn and Jim Krause for hosting this event with a delicious dinner at the historic Avon Inn!