



FARMER CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2020

ANNUAL DINNER

Party

February 21st, 2020

2019 Chamber Board

- Christy Strutner
Heartland Bank

- Amy Johnson
Farmer City Library

- Paul Phillips
Gibson Area Hospital

- Josh Hawn
J&H Enterprises

- Steve Barrow
Steve's Antiques

- Sarah Reynolds
Rejuvenation Spa

- Teri Emmerson
K&S Furniture

- Michael Moore
ServPro

- Sallie White
Heartland Bank

Welcome To Farmer City, Illinois!



www.farmercitychamber.org



Events & Programs



Tour DeWitt
June 2019





5K Race & Fun Run

October 2019





Haunted Forest

October 2019







Outdoor Movies

Summer 2019





Trunk or Treat

October 2019



South Park Camping Project



Christmas Parade

November 2019



Stationary	Warm	Cold	High	Low
T-Storms	Rain	Showers	Snow	Flurries

Chicago, Ill.	44	44	44	44
Indianapolis, Ind.	44	44	44	44
St. Louis, Mo.	44	44	44	44
... (many more cities) ...				

PARADE: 'I love the people'

Continued from A-1

One, of course, is Santa, who brings up the rear of the parade. Another is Fraser. Wills took over his lead role of the parade 25 years ago, when the previous organizer couldn't make it. He was a senior at Illinois Wesleyan at the time, but after helping out at the parade in previous years, he felt ready to take on the challenge, if a little overwhelmed.



Holly Hart/The News-Gazette

Meanwhile, in Gibson City
 GIBSON CITY — Tonight's 25th annual Lighted Christmas Parade in Gibson City is expected to feature nearly 60 lighted floats, making it the biggest one ever. The parade, sponsored by the Gibson Area Chamber of Commerce, is set for 6:30 p.m., with the theme "Silver Bells."

Events begin at 4 p.m., including the debut of the city's new downtown sound system by Dan Kearfott, who will be emcee downtown events; live holiday music from The Fairchilds; and numerous craft vendors set up on downtown sidewalks and inside Avenue Salon. Also, a tree-lighting celebration will be at 5:30 p.m. and Santa will visit with children at Hood's Ace Hardware downtown following the parade.

Ford County Record

"I said, 'Well, I'll step up and do it. I'm familiar enough with it,'" he said. "The first few years, it was making sure everything got done. At this point, I've got it down to a science. ... The fact of being a 21-year-old at the time, dealing with adults and getting respect, that was the biggest challenge a the time." Fraser was originally asked to participate by Junior Kimler, who started the parade in 1973, in her first year at WCIA. Hailing from a small

farming community in Wisconsin, Farmer City immediately felt familiar. "It really brings back home memories," she said. "I've always felt that way about Farmer City, and that's why I've gone back for 43 years, because it reminds me of home. It touches my heart. "I love the people who have worked there over the years and I love the people who came and now have children who have children who come. It's just a tradition with me that I absolutely love."



Courtesy of Chad Wills

The parade comes at an unconventional time, before people traditionally put up lights on their house and trees in their living rooms. But for Farmer City natives, it's completely normal. "It's one of those events that everyone plans their holiday season around," Wills said, "at least in the Farmer City area." Fraser, for one, doesn't mind starting the Christmas season a little early. "For me, anyway, it put me in the holiday spirit," she said. "Everyone has plans for Thanksgiving and is think-

ing about all of that, and for me, going to that parade and seeing everybody, most of the floats have a Christmas theme, the bands play Christmas music, and by the time that parade is over, I'm ready for Christmas."

URBANA

Continued from A-1

Mitten said she anticipates the city will get more funding to replace trees. The city estimated it costs \$360 to replace each tree — \$110 for the tree and

\$250 for the labor to plant it. In addition to the tornado, the city has been working for more than a decade to remove trees killed by the emerald ash borer. That's been completed, Mitten said, but it now has 289 stumps to replace. The grant will help reduce its three-year backlog on planting to 18 months, she said.



Chamber Programs & Events

- Shop Small
- BRHS Scholarships
- 5K & Fun Run
- City Wide Yard Sales
- Haunted Forrest
- Outdoor Movies
- Trunk or Treat
- South Park Camping Project
- Heritage Days Dinner
- Tour DeWitt
- Christmas Parade
- Citizen of the Year

Student Awards 2020



Madi Houser

Madi is a senior at Blue Ridge High School, and she is a natural leader. Madi takes on a great deal of responsibility. As class president for four years, she has navigated organizing four years of Homecoming and taking the lead in planning her junior prom. She helps run assemblies, decorate the school for spirit days, and encourage peers to get involved.

As Madi's freshman and sophomore English teacher, I can attest to the fact that Madi has a knack for writing. She is able to express insights into her own life, into literature, and into how the larger world works. When teachers talk about the top tier of students in her graduating class, Madi's name always makes the list. So many of us would love to have a room full of students like Madi. Madi's graduating class has a lot of students who give less than their best. In fact, there is a lot of peer pressure to make school a non-priority. Madi resists this negative peer pressure, takes her schooling seriously, and serves as a leader by example for her classmates.

What makes Madi special is that she has accomplished her academic and leadership success despite some very challenging obstacles. Madi spent her early years battling renal failure. Eventually, she received a kidney transplant. These medical issues have caused Madi to miss school, and she is constantly have to monitor what she eats, what she drinks, and her level of activity. Madi makes many trips to Chicago to have her health checked. So many students would look at these obstacles as insurmountable. They would give up, make excuses, and hope that the world would take pity on them and give them a free pass. That's not Madi! She works as hard as any student at Blue Ridge. Instead of making excuses, she makes time to do the work, contribute to our school community, and excel in countless ways.

There are so many students worthy of this award. Madi is one among many great Blue Ridge students. However, I can't think of a single one who has overcome so much to achieve such greatness. I am honored to nominate her for this award.



Ty Meeker



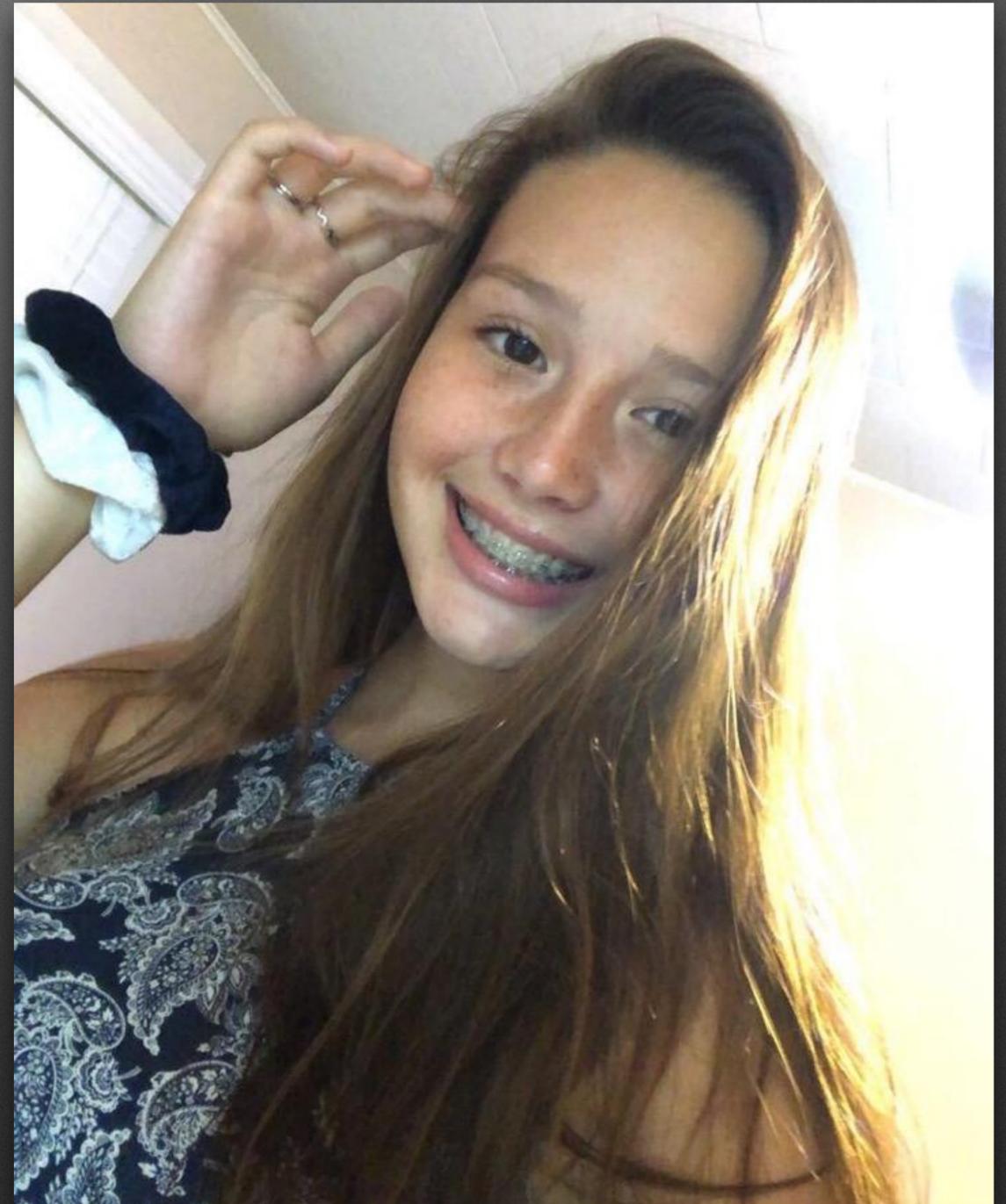
I would like to nominate 8th grade student, Ty Meeker, for the Chamber award.

Ty is an 8th grade student who exemplifies maturity beyond his years. He is dedicated to his school work and has proven himself successful, even advancing to complete classes beyond his grade level.

If you spend any time with Ty, you will learn that he is able to balance a variety of extra curricular activities, including competitive skiing (for which he has placed nationally!) and school. He always greets teachers, staff, and classmates with respect and conversation. He participates in Student Council and contributes in brainstorming new ways to help our community. I admire Ty's hard work and see a bright future for him in the years to come. He would be an excellent candidate to be recognized at this event!

Kailtyn Bradford

As Kaitlyn's teacher, I have seen firsthand how she approaches her academics and extracurricular activities with an outstanding attitude. Through high school Kaitlyn was involved in Volleyball and Softball. She also received the Honor Roll award every year of high school, a Social Studies award at Honor's night last May and third in our county for the Voice of Democracy award. With all of these activities to keep her busy, she was also a lifeguard, babysitter, and volunteer at Feed My Starving Children! To me, this shows an extraordinary work ethic, leadership, and desire to achieve.



Faculty Awards 2020



Pam Jones

Community Service

Pam Jones is a wonderful person and is always very nice with the children. She is always there to pick people up, and always has a joke or way to make you laugh! Pam also makes sure when she see's us outside of school to say "hey." Even though she has been thru so much in her personal life, she still keeps that amazing upbeat spirit, and always has a smile on her face.



Shawna Kollross

Advancement of Extra-Curricular Activities



Shawna Kollross, 5th grade teacher, assumed the responsibility of Athletic Director for BRJHS this year. This position has posed a great many challenges. To start the year, we had no junior high gymnasium floor for several months due to a leak in August that ruined half of the brand new gym floor. In late January, we faced another issue with using the JH gym as radon levels tested high on the JH side of the building. This resulted in yet another leave from the JH gym. In these situations, a great deal of time goes into rescheduling events and working with other schools and referees to ensure sports activities can continue. Shawna has faced these challenges with grace and continues to make a positive impact in her 5th grade classroom. She is definitely deserving of this recognition and honor by the Farmer City Chamber.

Brian Sparks

Diversity & Inclusion

This amazing teacher is such a blessing to this school district and to our family. He will truly be missed when leaving this district and I pray that he will be recognized for the many many ways he has gone above and beyond. Mr. Sparks has gone as far as checking up on our child that moved far from home and was struggling. I see him as a mentor to kids of all backgrounds that are willing to be mentored. I understand he's a tough teacher in the classroom but very fair. Many times I have heard of his sayings on the chalkboard to inspire and challenge his students to think on their own. As a coach, again, he is tough but very fair. I remember when he rented a building downtown for kids to hang out after games and other events. That is a teacher that goes beyond the classroom. Looking for ways to include kids in positive, safe, and socially acceptable gatherings vs peer pressure from their classmates to engage in inappropriate activities. I also appreciate his transparency, honesty, and humble ways. He recently stepped down from being head baseball coach (much to our dismay). He communicated that he just didn't think he was being effective as he should have been. When a year passed and the board had not found a replacement, he stepped up to the plate (literally) and took that responsibility again. He sent a letter to parents stating that he would give it his all, for a game and all the players he truly is passionate about. It has been an honor as a parent to know that our kids have been given much from someone that asks for so little.



Ken Seneca

Educational Advancement



“great guy”

Ken Seneca

Educational Advancement



Ken Seneca

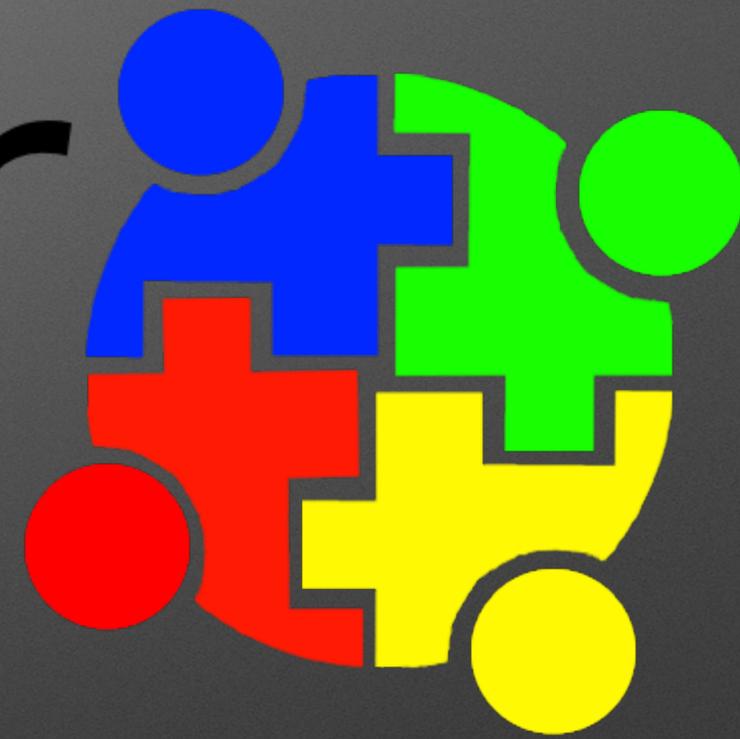
Educational Advancement

In this day and age of forcing everyone to be a college student, Ken provides a great service to those kids that would prefer a vocational career. Not only is Ken extremely knowledgeable about his craft, he provides a classroom environment that is safe and fun for his students. They really enjoy learning from him! Add to that the fact that he builds garages for community members and I think he is an outstanding teacher!



Citizen of the Year Award

Sponsored By



Gibson Area Hospital
& Health Services
GIBSON GETS IT

Previous Award Winners

2015

Curt Homann

2016

David Holtz & Lance Spieker

2017

Angie Testory

2018

Thomas Bolton

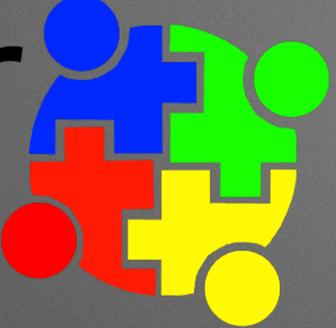
2019

Sandra Shaw



Gibson Area Hospital
& Health Services
GIBSON GETS IT

Citizen of the Year Award



Robert Scarbrough



2020

Amy Johnson



New 2020 Chamber Board

- Christy Strutner

Heartland Bank

- Amy Johnson

Farmer City Library

- Paul Phillips

Gibson Area Hospital

- Josh Hawn

J&H Enterprises

- Steve Barrow

Steve's Antiques

- Cherie Magenheimer-Bobb

Cornerstone Real Estate

- Teri Emmerson

K&S Furniture

- Michael Moore

ServPro

- Bryce Starkey

Edward Jones



The
Chamber

Farmer City Chamber Of Commerce

Thank You for your support!