

Downtown Businesses, People Recognized

By Mary Jo Filip, Main Street Program Director

It's a great day when the Main Street Advisory Board can recognize a special business or individual for helping create a dynamic downtown. At the annual Moonlight & Roses event held in Walnut Springs Park last Friday, Advisory Board chairman Bob Pickett opened the evening by recognizing Jack Linden, who along with his wife Patt, have organized volunteers and worked very hard to keep the "Rose" in the Rose Garden for the past ten years. He also gave a special thanks to Mike Heckmann with All Occasions Catering for his help sponsoring the event each year.

He also asked patrons of the free annual event to thank the restaurant and floral companies for their generous donations including Amy's & Cathy's Take-out, Bailey's, Blake's Café, Chavela's, Chiro Java, CICI's Pizza, Creekside Grille, Davila's BBQ, Dietz Flower Shop, Dixie Grille, El Ranchito, Kolbe Flower Shop, Los Cucos, Republican Women, Sister Suzie's Chocolates, Su Casa Café, Subway, Sweet Treats, Taste of China, The Ticket, and Viola's Flower Shop. He gave a shout out for volunteer photographer, Stanley Naumann and a thanks to Gloria Kinz and Audra Schulz for their work for many years on the Main Street Advisory Board.

Prior to launching the evening festivities, which included music by Mike McGrew and saxophonist Shaakir, Pickett introduced those being recognized for their contributions to downtown during the year 2010.

He said that each year the Main Street Advisory Board selects businesses and individuals who serve as models for other downtown businesses to emulate. He described the recipient of the 2010 Volunteer of the Year award as a business that could be described as "The Top Dog." Owned by Hepzibah Hoffman-Rogers, Thunderpaws Canine Solutions was recognized for their generous donation of time, talent and resources and colorful and fun approach to events and activities held in and around downtown that celebrate pets and pet owners.

Pickett then announced the initiation of a new award to recognize a business that has helped create a dynamic downtown by making improvements of its appearance. The first recipient of the new Downtown Beautification Award for 2010 was given to Tavie Erwin and the owners of Advanced Home Health Services. It was noted that in the past few years not only has the building been fully renovated both inside and out in tasteful fashion, but the business has wonderful seasonal window displays and decorations, and hosts activities downtown including an incentive pro-



Advanced Home Health Services was awarded the Downtown Beautification Award for 2010 for their work inside and outside the building and great seasonal and promotional window displays.

gram that supports local business and rewards healthy living.

2010 was a big year for downtown Seguin due to the commitment Guadalupe County made by converting a 60,000 square-foot vacant building into the Justice Center and constructing a parking garage that houses close to 200 vehicles. The Main Street Advisory Board recognized the County Judge and Commissioner's for the important role this investment in downtown Seguin plays in creating a dynamic downtown now and in the future.

Pickett then noted the vision and efforts of a person who

undertook the renovation of a primarily vacant four-story historic building and put the resources together to transform it into a viable part of our historic downtown, installing fire sprinklers on all floors, constructing eight downtown living units, providing lease space for a successful restaurant, and making the ballroom and lobby of the historic Aumont Hotel available for special events, including donating the space for community fundraisers. He also made a big effort to restore the flag pole on top of the four-story structure and proudly flies the American flag, which is visible all up and down Austin Street. Tom Giles with Aumont Ventures was named 2010 Downtowner of the Year by the Seguin Main Street Advisory Board.