

Chamber Awards Criteria and List of Past Winners



Citizen of the Year

Honors a significant contribution (lifetime or long-time) to the community.

Business of the Year

Honors an established Franklin/Carlisle/Township-area business for its contributions to the community. Significant changes, such as expansions or employment, may also signify eligibility for the award. Non-profit organizations are eligible for this award.

Industry of the Year

Honors an established Franklin/Carlisle/Township-area industry for its contributions to the community. Significant changes, such as expansions or employment, may also signify eligibility for the award.

Thirkield Award

Recognizes a commercial, industrial, or non-profit organization's renovation project that contributes to the Franklin/Carlisle/Township-area image.

Eldridge Award

Recognizes an individual, group, or organization that preserves an aspect of Franklin/Carlisle/Township-area history, such as a historic building, downtown history, stories of historic figures, oral tradition, etc.

Eva Louise Polley Award (formerly the Perry Maxwell Award; renamed in 2022)

Recognizes an individual, group, or organization that contributes a feeling of goodwill in the community.

Ron Diver Friend of Education Award (new in 2022)

Recognizes an organization or individual who actively supports public education in the Franklin/Carlisle/Franklin Township-area (note: this is not for someone employed by the public schools).

Note: The winners are at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Award winners are announced prior to the ceremony with the exception of Citizen of the Year and President's Awards.

Criteria were updated in 2018 to better reflect the eligibility of Carlisle-area individuals and organizations. In 2022, the Maxwell award was renamed the Eva Louise Polley Award and the Diver Award was added.

Nominate online using the QR code.

Last updated: 6/23/2022



Citizen of the Year

1957 Dr. W H. Siegfried
1958 Howard L Cheney
1959 No Award
1960 Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly
1960 Milo Fealy
1962 SC Alexander
1963 Father Nicholas Schneider
1964 No Award
1965 Robert Timberlake
1966 William C. Good
1967 Donald House
1968 Kyle Cook
1969 Eva Louise Polley
1970 JT Riley
1971 Dr. Jean A Nock
1972 Dr. and Mrs. Orville Layman
1973 Dr. and Mrs. HS Gessner
1974 J. Stuart Tattershall
1975 Joe Baxter Jr.
1976 Vincent D. Bryant
1977 Philip Robison
1978 William J. Taylor
1979 Warren Young
1980 Shelby Middleton
1981 Florence Berger
1982 Dr. John E. Sharts
1983 CE Brandenburg
1984 Charles Maloney
1985 Don Sellman
1986 James L. Gross, Sr.
1987 Bernard Eicholz
1988 James Mears
1989 Jess Hollingsworth
1990 Dr. Jack Litle and James D. Ruppert
1991 Dr. Paul Kennedy
1992 Jerry L. Myers
1993 Rupert E. Ruppert
1994 Thomas R. Foley
1995 Jack B. Tracy
1996 Clarence McDade
1997 Al Porter
1998 Rev. Chuck Wolfinbarger
1999 Phyllis Darragh
2000 Paul Hillard
2001 Jan Truesdell
2002 Billy D. Estes
2003 Elmo Rose
2004 Wilburn DePew
2005 Tom Combs
2006 Liz Buchanan
2007 Harriet Foley
2008 Mark Kennard and Bob Knipper
2009 Rita Maschmeier

2010 Bob Turner
2011 Sonny Lewis
2012 Kenny Allen
2013 Chris Musgrave
2014 JoAnn Feltner
2015 Mildred Brown
2016 Dr. Rick Chamberlain
2017 Martha Bush
2018 Bob and Janette Alexander
2019 Tami Chamberlain
2020 No award; pandemic
2021 Jonathan Westendorf
2022 Charles Anderson

Business of the Year

1970	Cincinnati Gas & Electric
1971	Ohio Bell Telephone
1972	No award
1973	Black & Clawson
1974	Meeker & Meeker Insurance, Inc.
1975	Kinney's Dine Bar Café
1976	Stone Container Corp.
1977	Cheney Pulp & Paper Co.
1978	Eldridge Publishing Company
1979	Lake Jewelry
1980	Gross Lumber Company
1981	Georgia Pacific
1982	Color Pac, Inc.
1983	Huntington National Bank
1984	R. L. Drake Company
1985	The Franklin Chronicle
1986	Laynecrest Lanes
1987	Conover Hardware
1988	Earle's Super Valu
1989	Warnock's Ashland Oil
1990	Parker's Dry Cleaners
1991	Eaton Anderson Funeral Home
1992	Oak Hill Banks
1993	Dr. James Stewart
1994	Estes Oil Company
1995	Turner's Clip Joint,
1996	Zink Meat Market,
1997	Mr. Frosty
1998	Franklin Chronicle
1999	Sleep-Tite Mattress
2000	Pisanello's Pizza
2001	Gymnastic Training Center of Ohio
2002	Community National Bank
2003	Franklin Family Clinic
2004	JD Legends/Strike Zone Lanes
2005	Southwestern College
2006	Conover Health Plus
2007	Kingdom Sports Center
2008	Marsh Grocery
2009	Senior Independence
2010	Anderson Funeral Home
2011	JD Legends/Strike Zone Lanes
2012	Designing Digitally, Inc.
2013	Franklin Savealot
2014	AAA Wastewater
2015	Franklin Self Storage
2016	Franklin-Springboro Public Library
2017	A&G Pizza
2018	Lake Erie Electric
2019	Carlisle Dairy Queen
2020	No award; pandemic
2021	Carlisle Manor Healthcare
2022	Village Station Bar and Grill

Industry of the Year

1992	Union Camp
1993	Walter F. Stephens
1994	Riverview Packaging
1995	Ferco Tech
1996	Miami Valley Paper
1997	IKO
1998	F&G Multi-Slide
1999	SRS Manufacturing
2000	UniFirst Corporation
2001	No award made
2002	Faurecia Exhaust Systems
2003	Bond Machine Company
2004	Burrows Paper Corporation
2005	Dayton Daily News PTC
2006	General Engine Products
2007	Riverview Packaging
2008	Waytek
2009	Richards Monument
2010	Franklin Boxboard
2011	Atrium Medical Center
2012	VRI
2013	Patriot Machining and Maintenance
2014	Gross Lumber Company
2015	Huhtamaki, Inc.
2016	F & G Tool and Die
2017	UniFirst Corporation
2018	Pfizer, Inc.
2019	Greenpoint Metals
2020	No award; pandemic
2021	Atrium Medical Center
2022	Franklin City Schools and Carlisle Local Schools

Thirkield Award

(renovation of an industrial or commercial building)

1992	Bill Shera
1993	Waffle House
1994	Laynecrest Bowling Center
1995	Dollar General Store
1996	No award made
1997	The Staver Group
1998	Adesa Cincinnati Dayton
1999	Savage Auto
2000	Aloha Tanning
2001	Williams Travel
2002	Subway
2003	IKO Production
2004	City of Franklin
2005	Pisanello's Pizza
2006	Architectural Reclamation
2007	Huntington Bank
2008	Franklin City Schools
2009	Landmark Kitchen and Bath Shoppe
2010	Cazadores
2011	Franklin Ridge Healthcare Center
2012	Huntington Bank
2013	Franklin Parkside Townhouses
2014	Franklin Tavern and Anderson Life Celebration Center (2)
2015	No award
2016	Peoples Bank
2017	Aviation Ground Equipment Corporation
2018	A & S Party Rental
2019	The Bank: Tattoos and Body Piercing
2020	No award; pandemic
2021	The Farm on Central
2022	Rod Litteral

Eldridge Award

(historical preservation)

1992	St. Mary Church
1993	City of Franklin
1994	Tom & Marsha Gardner
1995	No award made
1996	Franklin Historical Society
1997	Paula & William Moses
1998	First United Methodist Church
1999	Geoff Gorsuch,
2000	Helen F. Siegle
2001	Tim & Ellen Birchwell
2002	No award made
2003	Jenny Stewart
2004	Joyce & Bob Ehlert
2005	Tom and Sara Burns
2006	Junior Historical Society
2007	PH Bistro
2008	Franklin Area Historical Society
2009	Jeff Kirby
2010	Eric Henn
2011	No award
2012	Judy and Bob Bowman
2013	Geoff Gorsuch
2014	No award
2015	Eva Lousie "Weesie" Polley
2016	Ramesh Malhotra
2017	Harriet Foley
2018	No award
2019	Bob Bowman
2020	No award; pandemic
2021	Mike and Dawn McKinney
2022	Justin Rossi and Lucas George

Perry Maxwell Award

(promotes feeling of goodwill throughout the community)

1992	Franklin Square
1993	Ray Hendricks
1994	Dallas Whitt
1995	Elaine Smith
1996	Mary Beth Shane
1997	Phil Achtermann
1998	Wilburn DePew
1999	Paul Hillard
2000	Susie Mears and Frisch's
2001	Chris Musgrave
2002	Franklin Public Library Board of Trustees
2003	Jerry Ragland
2004	Phyllis Clark
2005	Drew Mantel
2006	Franklin Athletic Foundation
2007	Mary Novak
2008	Bob and Janette Alexander
2009	Nancy Osborne
2010	Terry Coyle
2011	Jim Wahlrab
2012	Franklin-Springboro-Carlisle Rotary Club and Franklin High School (2)
2013	Citizens for Youth
2014	Deardoff Senior Center & Jonathan Westendorf (2)
2015	Franklin High School Boys Basketball Team
2016	Downtown Farmers Market Committee
2017	Officer Steve Dunham
2018	Fraternal Order of Orioles Nest 263
2019	Project HOPE
2020	No award; pandemic
2021	Craig and Kim Harris

RENAMED the EVA POLLEY AWARD in 2022

2022 Kim Bilbrey

President's Award

(service to community or chamber)

1973	Bernard Eichholz
1974	Don Sellman
1975	Paul E. Fitzgerald
1976	Fred D. Pursley
1977	Margaret G. Ingabrand
1978	No award made
1979	Howard Harville
1980	James Reynolds
1981	Milo Fealy
1982	Denver Redman
1983	Phyllis Darragh
1984	Mabel Eldridge/ Harriet Foley (FGMV)
1985	Jean Burns Bowman
1986	John Aregood
1987	Supt Al Porter
1988	Philip Jackson
1989	Monica Gabbard Rhude
1990	Franklin Band Boosters
1991	Arthur Harp
1992	Jo Ann Feltner
1993	Dick Norvell
1994	Thom Shera, Mike Smith, Larry Fisher
1995	No award made
1996	No award made
1997	John Renick, Larry Fisher, Thom Shera
1998	Stan Kolb, Jerry Ragland
1999	Sonny Lewis
2000	Mary Novak
2001	Community of Franklin
2002	Bob Johnson
2003	Bill Wood
2004	Harriet Foley
2005	Rick Chamberlain and Ron Ruppert
2006	Darrell Hedric
2007	Dan Darragh
2008	Jim Mears
2009	Cherie Cooper-Darragh
2010	Charles Woods
2011	Steve Simpkins
2012	American Legion Post #149
2013	Ohio State Trooper Brent Hill
2014	Dan and Lynn Darragh
2015	WesBanco
2016	Carlisle Lions Club
2017	Joe Jeromos and Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
2018	Mary Nenninger
2019	Jim Mears
2020	No award; pandemic
2021	Franklin City Schools and Carlisle Local Schools
2022	Tom Isaacs and the Warren County ESC

Ron Diver Friend of Education Award
(new in 2022)

2022 Shoes 4 the Shoeless