Chamber Awards Criteria and List CHAMBER 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 an 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: 4/8/2022



Citizen of the Year

- 1957 De. 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 Brandenberg
- 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

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

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

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

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

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

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