

2009 Wendell Chamber Banquet

The 2009 Chamber Banquet was a huge success. The evening was about honoring great and wonderful people, past and present, that live and work in our community. There was laughter and there were tears. The tears were for a wonderful lady that passed away last month. Mrs. Jackie Ammons was honored with a perfectly thought out speech by past President Terry Hodges. With every word that Terry Hodges spoke, you could see everyone's head shaking in agreement. Mrs. Jackie Ammons was and will always be a huge part of the Wendell Chamber and this community. She was the recipient of the Mayors award in 1998. Three other individuals were also honored.

The first award given out was the Wendell Revitalization Award. Current Chamber President Bruce Lynch started this award presentation off by telling how Robert E. Clayton came about bringing his business to Wendell. This is a great success story. He walked into the Chamber office and before leaving he had a place to live and a person to build his practice. The Wendell Revitalization Award went to Dr. Robert E. Clayton of Acts Medical Clinic.

The next award was the Wendell Downtown Revitalization Award. This award is limited to the downtown area, but everyone in town knows that this place was a well awaited and greatly anticipated restaurant. The award went to Samuel Ivarra of El Cerro Mexican Grill. He took a building that had sat empty for several years which had many cosmetic issues and turned it into a quaint Mexican Grill. The details are all throughout the restaurant and the food is exquisite.

The last award was presented by Mayor Pro-Temp Bill Connolly. The criteria for the Mayor's Award is an individual who quietly goes about the town doing the things that make Wendell a wonderful place to live. This award was started by Proc Dean in 1971. This years Mayor's award went to Regina Harmon of The Total Connection. Mr. Connolly started off by mentioning the three businesses that she has in Wendell, The Total Connection, Forever Photos and Martial Arts Academy. He then went on to talk about the annual movie night that she has put on for several years as well as the annual food drive to help feed local citizens.

All of these individuals help to make Wendell a better place to live and work.

The banquet was well attended with 126 people present, and was catered by Meadow Village Restaurant. Thanks to all that attended and we look forward to see you again next year.

