

CRYSTAL APPLE AWARD NOMINEES

Below is a description of each of the nominated businesses. Please review the information and vote for the nominee that exemplifies an extraordinary contribution and commitment to Columbia County in 2007.

CROSSWINDS AT HUDSON/3D DEVELOPMENT

3d Development Group, LLC is dedicated to the development & redevelopment of affordable housing. That vision was brought to Hudson in an effort to help build affordable worker housing for the City. 3d Development President Bruce Levine reached out to City and County Leaders, to bring this project to fruition. Crosswinds will not only provide safe, clean, high tech housing to workers and their families, it will also serve to help the City of Hudson as it works to an economic revival. 2007 accomplishments include:

- Investing over \$8.5 million in the construction project which has a major impact on the local economy. Used several local companies, from Colarusso Sand & Gravel in Greenport and Paul Szafran Carpentry in Hudson to Dunn Builders Supply in Greenport for construction of project. Hired half a dozen local workers as well as filled local motel rooms with their crews, who are also patronizing local restaurants. Two new full time jobs will be created once construction is complete.
- 70-unit complex will include one, two and three-bedroom units that all come equipped with heating and air conditioning, dishwasher and kitchen appliances as well as hook-ups for a washer and dryer. In addition, there are community laundry facilities, an education room with computers, a community room with a kitchen and two multi-purpose rooms.
- Recognizing that the internet has dramatically altered the way we perform our jobs, communicate with others, expand our knowledge and learn of opportunities, all households will have high speed internet connectivity with no charge for usage
- Rents are pegged to the median income in Columbia County. Crosswinds is targeted to those wage-earners with an annual household income between \$15,900 and \$34,250. A third of Hudson residents now renting fall in that range, plus many more around the county, as well as some who work in the county but are forced to live elsewhere.
- Project was constructed using Green technology including 100% Energy Star appliances and lighting so that upon completion, the buildings will achieve an energy efficiency rate that is 30% or greater than that required by the NYS Energy Conservation Code.

THE FIREMEN'S HOME OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The Firemen's Home is a 92-bed facility that serves volunteer firefighters, ladies auxiliaries and their spouses who have given much of their time. After two years of construction and anticipation, they moved into their new home in June of 2007. Designed with all the comforts of home and every amenity possible, members are able to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle in a magnificent setting. The Firemen's Home is the only nursing home in New York State devoted to caring for volunteer firefighters. 2007 accomplishments include:

- Investing over \$31 million in new facility. They have 30 Columbia County residents that live at the home. If they were in another facility, the County would be charged for their care.
- They employ 185 staff, which includes a large base from Columbia County. Their current budget is over \$10 million a year, which \$5.5 million is paid out in salary, which in turn gets spent in the local community. They use local vendors and physicians, which accounts for the balance of their budget. They have created 45 new jobs since 2000.
- The Home is inspected by the NY State Department of Health, at least every 15 months, and receives good surveys. In 2005, the Home received its first deficiency free survey and in doing so received the Circle of Excellence Award from NADONA. The Firemen's Home was one of 700 facilities countrywide to receive the award.
- They are active in their community. They have provided a home for the Hudson Rotary to meet on a weekly basis. Their facility is used as a teaching facility by the Questar LPN Program and CNA Program.
- The Home's softball fields are always in use by Hudson Little League, Hudson Pop Warner, Special Olympics, County Volunteer Firemen's Association and more.

THE MAC-HAYDN THEATRE

The Mac-Haydn Theatre is home to the great American musical since 1969. The Mac-Haydn Theatre has been bringing musicals to life in a unique, intimate, charming 350-seat theatre-in-the-round, where every seat is less than 30 feet from the stage. Professional actors and actresses come from all over the country, bringing a wealth of experience from a wide variety of theatrical venues. Many go from the Mac-Haydn stage to international tours, Broadway, Hollywood, and television. The theatre began in a barn on the Columbia County Fairgrounds. Now, it is 'at home' on a hill overlooking the quaint Victorian village of Chatham. 2007 accomplishments include:

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- In 2007 The Mac-Haydn Theatre brought jobs, entertainment, culture, career development, business, tourism and permanent residences to the County.
- The theatre is celebrating its "Ruby Jubilee" 40th Anniversary season. It has brought people from neighboring areas into the County to see the beauty, the goods and services that the County has to offer.
- Besides giving hundreds of aspiring theatre performers, staff and crew a strong professional experience to build their career on, Mac-Haydn has given thousands of audience members from Columbia County and up to 150 miles and more away the pleasure of attending top-quality professional theatre and given thousands of youngsters their first live theatre experiences.
- Statistical arts economic studies indicate that the Mac-Haydn Theatre has an economic impact on the County well above the \$2 million range. The year-round staff swells to about 60 during the summer season, all of who shop in the County for their daily living needs. The 30,000 plus patrons add their substantial buying power also.
- The Theatre is a strong supporter of buying local. They have supported numerous local organizations by donating tickets to dozens of groups. They have been active in collections for natural disasters across the country as well as holding drives for local area animal shelters.

SPENCERTOWN ACADEMY ARTS CENTER

The Spencertown Academy Arts Center has been an integral part of the community since 1847, when it first opened as a school. Over the years, it developed into a community center - a gathering space, where children and adults alike can appreciate its stunning architecture, enjoy musical and theatrical performances, fine arts and an array of programs and classes. 2007 accomplishments include:

- The Spencertown Academy employs 5 full-time and part-time people with a dedicated group of volunteers and Board of Directors. Everyone wears multiple hats to make the organization thrive.
- The development of the Arts-in-Education program has been a wonderful joint project between the Academy and Chatham Central Schools. Now in its third year, the partnership provides enrichment programming to more than 400 students and faculty at the Mary E. Dardess Elementary School and Chatham Middle School, bringing a rich arts component into the curriculum.
- The Academy organizes the annual Festival of Books, which beautifully organizes over 10,000 books for the event. Volunteer curators select exquisite art to hang in the Academy's gallery and a wonderful gift shop boasts unique affordable gifts for all occasions.
- The Academy offers a wide variety of performances including Folk Series, Cabaret in the Country, Jazz Spoken Word, and World Music Programs that come to fruition as artists are scouted out and invited to Columbia County from across the region and around the world.
- Professional and amateur musicians alike have called the Spencertown Academy home for its monthly jams. The folk jams have run continuously for over 30 years, providing opportunity for folks to drop in, play some music, sing or just listen.

SUNDOG SOLAR

SunDog Solar is the first and only solar energy company in Columbia County, helping home and business owners reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and gain energy independence. SunDog offers full-service design and installation of solar electric and solar hot water systems for residential, commercial and municipal customers. SunDog also helps clients improve their energy efficiency by providing comprehensive home energy assessments and has added bio spray foam insulation to its list of services. 2007 accomplishments include:

- Applied for and received over \$750,000 in grants, rebates and loans on behalf of our customers from the New York State Energy Research Development Authority and the United States Department of Agriculture to install renewable energy systems and implement energy efficiency measures.
- Contracted to install over 100kW (1 kilowatt = 1,000 watts) of renewable solar electric energy, that annually reduces carbon emissions by nearly a quarter of a million pounds – the equivalent of planting over 150 football fields of trees per year – saving customers close to \$1 million in electrical costs over the next 25 years.
- Provided over 300 hours of educational outreach and demonstration programs by participating at trade shows, town hall meetings, school fieldtrips, and numerous community events. Informing and educating students, homeowners, tradespeople, and state and federal policymakers about the importance of renewable energy and environmental impact.
- Created eight new "green collar" jobs. Offering the opportunity to expand professional and technological expertise in a rapidly emerging field, three Bard College interns successfully transitioned into full-time employees.
- Invested \$250,000 in the development of the first carbon-neutral 20,000 sq ft manufacturing and office facility in Columbia County producing electricity from a 12.6kW pv system, generating hot water from solar thermal collectors, and heating their facility with a vegetable oil boiler utilizing fryer oil collected from local restaurants. The vehicles used for installations are powered by bio diesel fuel.