

Town of Raynham, Massachusetts

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For Immediate Release

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Community Pride Awards Announced

Raynham, Massachusetts - The Town of Raynham honored two local businesses and a longtime community volunteer at its annual Community Pride Awards at town hall on Monday, February 9, 2004. The Community Pride Awards are distributed annually by the Raynham Business and Economic Development Commission.

The Business and Economic Development Commission annually presents the Raynham Community Pride Awards to honor those businesses in the community that are models for property beautification, site turnaround, and community service.

Winning the award for site turnaround is Bernie & Phyl's Furniture, the largest privately owned furniture retailer in Massachusetts. Started by the Rubin family in 1983, the company has grown from a small storefront into one of the fastest growing furniture companies in the state with six stores and over 250 employees. The new Raynham store, located on Route 44 in the old Ames plaza, opened on August 16, 2003 and has made an immediate positive impact on the surrounding area.

Store Manager Deb Beresford reported that the Bernie and Phyl's store has exceeded all initial expectations for its first six months and feels the store has been very well-received by the community. "It is extremely important for us to be an active part of the community," said Beresford.

Winning the award for community service is long-time community resident and volunteer Paul LeClerc, owner of LeClerc Photography. Paul has lived in Raynham for almost 25 years and has been in the photography business in town for the past eight years. LeClerc Photography recently moved into an expanded business space on Route 44 and has added new photo development services to his long-time business.

Like many other parents, Mr. LeClerc got his start in community volunteerism through youth sports. He has coached in youth football and baseball for many years and devoted countless hours to the boards of directors of several youth organizations. He also was a founding member of the "Friends of Bridgewater-Raynham" organization and served as the first treasurer of that group.

The final award winner is the property beautification award and the recipient for this year is Amica Insurance, under the direction of Branch Manager Douglas Flight. Amica is located in Raynham Woods Commerce Park on Paramount Drive and has been a first-rate neighbor in keeping the facility and grounds of highest quality. While the local branch office has been a model for others with its attractive business location, it follows a great tradition of the company since its founding.

Amica Insurance has a long history of having a positive impact in the community through their charitable foundation, their support for causes such as Habitat for Humanity and United Way, and by being model corporate neighbors. Amica's has a long-standing tradition of giving back to the communities it serves and its involvement in Raynham is a perfect example of why the company is so successful.

