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Chudzynski is community award winner

Lauren Adley, Mustard Seed Mercantile, Times Theater also honored at annual gala

By **CHRISTINA M. SEILER**
Managing Editor, The Sentinel

Kendra Chudzynski is the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Community Service Award winner.

The award is given once a year to someone who made outstanding contributions to the community over their lifetime, via their volunteerism, philanthropy or career.

It is the 58th year the award has been bestowed upon a Rochester or county citizen.

Smith Sawyer Smith's Mart Smith has announced the winner for the past several years. This time, he got to recognize one of his coworkers. Chudzynski is an insurance portfolio advisor and healthcare specialist at the Rochester insurance agency.

Also honored at the chamber's annual gala were Organization of the Year The Times Theater, Emerging Business of the Year The Mustard Seed Mercantile and Businessperson of the Year Lauren Adley.

Smith would normally give hints about the winner of the service award before revealing their name at the end of his speech, but he said that would be impossible this year because Chudzynski is so well known.

Chudzynski has served on the chamber board for year, having



Photos provided

ABOVE: Kendra Chudzynski, with her husband Dan, is recognized Saturday as the 2024 Community Service Award winner. **RIGHT:** Mallory Hadaway and her husband Anthony after their vendor mall, Mustard Seed Mercantile, was named Emerging Business of the Year.



Julie Shambarger accepted an award for Organization of the Year for The Times Theater Saturday from the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce.



See **CHUDZYSKI**, page A2

TALK OF THE TOWN

Grand opening

For the first time in its history, Fulton County Habitat for Humanity will have a physical space to interact with the public and store building materials and supplies.

A grand opening for its building at 917 Franklin St. is Thursday, with a two-hour open house following the ribbon-cutting at 4 p.m.

Day of Prayer

Pastors of the community will lead prayer sessions at 12:04 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday during National Day of Prayer on the west side of the Fulton County Courthouse.

Farmers market

The Fulton County Farmers Market returns May 11 from 8 a.m.-noon outside the Fulton County Courthouse. It continues on Saturdays until the end of October, and new vendors are always welcome.

Banner exhibit

Eta Mu Chapter of Psi Iota Xi and Honeywell Arts and Entertainment sponsored the annual Banner Competition again this year in Fulton County. Students of all ages created banners with the theme "Welcome to My Little Town."

The finalists from Rochester Community Schools are now on display at the Fulton County Public Library through May 22 on the wall in the Great Hall. Winners' banners will be hung on poles soon in downtown Rochester.

Porker Run

Fulton County ABATE's Porker Run is Sunday.

Cost to participate is \$20 per rider, \$5 per passenger, and includes a meal at the end of the ride. Registration starts at 11 a.m. at Putt's Bar



Photo provided

Rochester Police Department gathered coworkers, friends and family for the retirement celebration of Matt Campbell, who leaves the department as lieutenant/detective after 30 years of service and holding several positions in the department, from patrolman to training officer. He served as the department's DARE office, was a narcotics and canine officer with companion Stryker, taught firearms and defensive tactics. He recently has taught in the sniper school for the Indiana Police Academy at Camp Atterbury.

& Grill, with kickstands up at noon. Prizes for the best hand, oldest rider, youngest rider and furthest rider will be given out at the Rochester VFW.

For more information, contact Robert Adkins at 574-709-3229 or Corrina Thomas at 574-702-1372.

Meals for causes

The 41st annual Rochester Kiwanis Club Chicken Noodle Dinner is 5-7 p.m. Monday in the Rochester High School cafeteria. Cost is \$12 at the door or from members. Carry-out will be available, and proceeds fund college scholarships.

The Rochester Optimist Club serves a pancake and sausage break-

fast from 7-11 a.m. May 27 at the Fulton County 4-H Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$8, or \$3.50 for ages 12 and younger, and available from club members or at the door. Proceeds go to Dolly Parton's reading initiative the Imagination Library.

Health fair date

May 8 is the date of a Community Health Fair from 4-7 p.m. in the Community Building at the Fulton County 4-H Fairgrounds.

There will be health screenings, information on community resources, vaccines, giveaways and more.

See **TOWN TALK**, page A3

City finances for air burner

By **WESLEY DEHNE**
Staff Writer, The Sentinel

The city of Rochester has ordered a new piece of equipment to dispose of woody debris in a more cost-effective and environmentally friendly way.

Indiana Treasurer Daniel Elliott recently announced the Indiana Bond Bank, through its Hoosier Equipment Lease Purchase program, is assisting the city with financing the \$150,000 purchase of an air curtain burner.

The HELP program assists Indiana communities in acquiring essential equipment through a standardized and streamlined lease-purchase process. Flexible repayment is available with competitive interest rates.

The program exempts entities from the need to seek bids for financing. Since July 1, 2023, more than \$18 million in equipment has been financed through the program.

Rochester Street Department Superintendent Duane Border is excited about getting away from the practice of open burning, for which the city has occasionally been granted special permits from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Permit requests allowing such activity to occur over 60-day periods have commonly been sought and approved as a means to dispose of significant amounts of storm debris.

Border says the city's two wood chippers can't keep up, particularly after a severe weather event, and some debris just isn't suitable for grinding. As a result, the city is frequently left

with a big pile of debris requiring a hole to be dug for the open burning process.

"I've never liked that process," he said, adding it's not a clean burn and creates a lot of smoke.

The primary objective of an air curtain burner is to reduce the particulate matter, or smoke, which results from burning wood waste.

In the process, heavy fuels are loaded into a large rectangular box, ignited and burned at high temperatures using a forced curtain of air that recirculates hot gases and smoke particles into the box to reburn. According to the Clean Burn Company, air curtain burning results in 90 percent fewer emissions than open burning.

In addition to improved emission rates, air curtain burners can process significantly more dead material than open burning in the same period.

Border estimates the air curtain burner will burn roughly 9 tons per hour and reduce 1 ton of material to approximately 100 pounds of ash. Some area farmers have already expressed interest in spreading that ash on their fields to offset the use of lime, and the city has its own property also available for application.

Border likes the idea of there being nothing left over, that everything goes back in the ground. Another benefit is that the machine is mobile, meaning it can burn on site rather than requiring debris to be hauled.

The lead time for the air burner, approved for purchase earlier this month by the Rochester Board of Public Works and Safety, was 4 to 6 weeks.

CONTACT US

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Thursday
**SUMMERTIME
TEMPS**

High 82 Low 62
Weather, Page A2

Deadline for property taxes approaches

Bills sent for nearly 20,000 parcels of land

By **CHRISTINA M. SEILER**
Managing Editor, The Sentinel

By May 10 Fulton County Treasurer Kathy Adamson

should be wrapping up the spring property tax collection period.

She mailed bills this year for 19,754 parcels of land in the county. Postage cost: \$7,419.28.

Those parcels represent \$22,896,923.72 of taxes

owed. Property taxes in Indiana are based upon assessments the previous year. Adamson expects to collect 85 to 95 percent of that amount.

May 10 is the deadline for taxpayers to pay their spring installment of taxes. The fall installment is due Nov.

12. Those who don't pay on time face a 5 percent penalty. Those who don't pay on time in November face the same, or 10 percent if their bill isn't paid by Dec. 12. Penalties accrue over time.

See **DEADLINE**, page A2