

# Recognizing Canby residents

By Don Beman – Canby News

Darold Snortum was selected as the first Canby Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. Known to all as Dar instead of Darold, the announcement of the first awarding of the Citizen of the Year was made Saturday night during the annual Chamber Community Recognition Night, a time set aside to recognize all those in the community who are honored for their work and for their activities. Some 26 individuals were recognized this year. The Citizen of the Year was selected from those nominated. The nominations were open to anyone and the first recipient was suggested to the Chamber by Marcia Kompelien.

"He is people minded as well as being very community minded," said Kompelien.

"Darold is always there to answer questions about plants, fertilizer, landscaping, planting; whatever your needs may be.

"He is very knowledgeable in his greenhouse and landscaping business and most willing to help. Whenever Darold leaves for a weekend and leaves his billing notebook for Canby and out of town customers to write down what plants they have taken, this shows how much trust he has for his customers."

Then there's the other side, the community side.

"Concerning the community aspect, Darold has served on various church boards as well as holding the position of president of the congregation at Our Saviours Lutheran Church. He has also served on various civic organizations, including the Lions Club and the Rotary Club International

"He has devoted much time serving on the City Council. He was also elected mayor of the city of Canby."

In addition to all that, Snortum has served as a volunteer weather observer for the National Weather Service.

At the end of last year's growing season, Snortum officially retired. He plans to continue to work with plants, but his job as a weather observer has been assumed by the city of Canby. His equipment was moved to the Water Department.

"Whether it be civic organizations, church boards, the City Council or the mayoral position, Darold always has one thought in mind and that is the betterment of Canby, Minnesota."

The community recognition portion of the annual Chamber event is also open to everyone and is designed to honor residents for their efforts in a community wide fashion.

On Saturday night, Sioux Valley recognized four for their years of service. Theresa Keimig was recognized for 45 years of service and Cheryl Mortenson was recognized for 25 years of service. Karen Evjen and Kevin Streff were also recognized by Sioux Valley Canby CEO Bob Salmon. The General Federated Women's Club of Canby honored Jeanne LaTourette and Marion



Snortum for dedicated volunteer service. Those awards were presented by Audrey Busse and Cheryl Melby.

The Canby Education Association recognized Elaine Knutson for being selected Teacher of the Year. Superintendent Loren Hacker also honors Jim Schmidt for his handling of the Future City Competition, Dianna Fliss and Everett Johnson for their service on the Canby School Board and the Canby faculty for being in the top 30 in the state for college preparation.

Teresa Hunt recognized Jessica Sik for her service on the Canby Student Council.

Pete Schmitz of Farmers Cooperative Association presented awards to Bonnie Moberg and Gene Yackley for service excellence through the years.

The Canby Rotary Club honored Lloyd Cleveland with its Rotary Vocational Service award.

Brian Skogan, representing the Porter Fire Department, honored Jesse Schlecht and Kyle Kack for their lifesaving efforts during a fire in Porter.

Chamber President Derrick Ruether, on behalf of the Veterans Service Administration, recognized the Canby Fire Department for community service to veterans. Fire Chief Larry Duis accepted the award.

In turn, Duis honored Bruce Wornson for 22 years of service as an EMT.

Laurie Driessen presented awards to four on behalf of REM Southwest Services - the ARRM CARES award - to Brenda Duis, Phyllis Melrose, Tom Paulson and Danielle Streich.

The Chamber presented two community spirit awards. One went to Jerry Baer for his community cleanup efforts and to Roger Janiszski for his efforts in community development as both a businessman and a developer.