



114 West Broad Street
Tamaqua PA 18252

APRIL 8, 2014

2014 JOSEPH M. PLASKO CITIZENSHIP AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED BY TAMAQUA CHAMBER

Every year for the past 51 years, a citizen from the Tamaqua area is chosen to be honored by the Tamaqua Chamber for their volunteer contributions to the Tamaqua community.

A committee, comprised of representatives from the Tamaqua Area School District, the Tamaqua Ministerium, several Tamaqua service organizations, and the general public select the winner, using written nominations received from throughout the community.

This year's recipient is Tom Banditelli, Sr., owner of Tom's Autobody and Marine, in Tamaqua. The nomination letters included just some of Tom's volunteer contributions (see attached).

Tom will be honored at the 64th Annual Tamaqua Chamber's Annual Community Dinner, which is scheduled this year for April 23rd, at the Hometown Fire Company.

When informed of the committee's decision, he responded "I really don't feel deserving of the award. I just try to give back to the community when I can as a "thank you" for their support of my family and my business. I really enjoy being able to do that."

Linda Yulanavage, Executive Director of the Tamaqua Chamber, said "This is such a great choice. Tom is so deserving of this. He has contributed so much to so many over the years, without any thought to any kind of recognition. I am looking forward to honoring him at the dinner this year."

In addition to the presentation of the Citizenship Award, the Chamber will also release its annual Community Progress Report at the dinner. The popular report gives a snapshot of the events, accomplishments and efforts of various community groups and the volunteers who are moving Tamaqua forward. Copies of the report are used throughout the year as a marketing tool, giving prospective investors, businesses, new residents, real estate agents and the general public valuable information about the Tamaqua area.

The annual community dinner is open to the public, and reservations can be made by calling the Chamber office at (570)668-1880.

I am nominating Tom Banditelli, Sr. to receive this year's Joseph M. Plasko Citizenship Award.

Tom has served our community for more years than I can count. He has been a very involved and dedicated member of the Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the Board of Directors there. Tom has provided for those in need throughout our community through his business as well as personally, offering his services and financial support whenever he is asked.

Tom has been active in improving, organizing and promoting activities at the Owl Creek Reservoir, which provides our community a beautiful "green space" where people of all ages can enjoy the outdoors, creating a place where everyone can hike, bike, fish or simply "take a walk in the great outdoors" there.

His dedication to our community continues each year, as he organizes the annual Fishing Derby for the Tamaqua Chamber, to promote one of the most valuable resources we have in this area – the Little Schuylkill and the recreational opportunities it offers. He always has the time to share his knowledge of fishing and the outdoors to the youth of the area. He participated in the planning meetings for the Tamaqua Arts Center and continues to support their programs there. He and his family recently helped to establish the Chris Banditelli Memorial Fund for the Tamaqua Community Arts Center.

As a very active advocate for our community, Tom volunteers his time and financially supports many organizations, including the Tamaqua Community Partnership, the Tamaqua Chamber, Schuylkill County Trout Unlimited, the Tamaqua Baseball Association, the Tamaqua Italian Club, the Tamaqua Community Arts Center and so many more.

Every year at Christmas, Tom brings a "Santa mailbox" to Depot Square for the kids, as well as organizes and provides transportation for Santa and Mrs. Claus when they arrive downtown.

Tom's many contributions to Tamaqua are always done unselfishly and without a thought of personal gain. I do not know of a situation or cause that Tom has refused to help in some way.

He works tirelessly year round to promote Tamaqua and to make it a better place for all of us to live. While I know that Tom will probably say what he does is "no big deal", Tom's dedication and contributions to the Tamaqua community makes him the perfect recipient for this award.

Tom has truly shown us what it means to be a good neighbor and outstanding citizen of Tamaqua.