

The Newport Daily News

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WEEKEND EDITION

2010 EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARDS

The best of the best

Chamber hands out 6 honors

The Excellence in Business Awards, an annual tradition started by the Newport County Chamber of Commerce four years ago, will continue this year with six awards to be presented during a breakfast on Friday.

This year's winners were selected from nominations in six categories, including a new addition this year, micro-business, along with large and small business, nonprofit, woman- or minority-owned business and entrepreneur of the year.

A selection committee made up of chamber committee volunteers and previous award recipients reviewed nominations in each of the six categories. The micro-business category was developed at the request of very small businesses that belong to the chamber, according to Jody Sullivan, the chamber's executive director; only businesses with three or fewer employees were eligible.

"What makes Newport County such a special place is the incredible diversity of our business community," Sullivan said. "Each of these businesses exemplifies excellence in their categories and each are actively investing in our local community and economy."

"We are proud to have them as members and to be able to recognize their accomplishments."

Business innovation, customer service, growth, industry leadership, community service and other local, regional and national recognition were among the factors weighed by the committee.

The winners of the third annual Excellence in Business Awards are:

Micro-business: Green Envy Eco-Boutique, 223 Goddard Row, Newport.

Small business: Newport Prescription Center, 289 Broadway, Newport.

Large business: People's Credit Union, 858 West Main Road, Middletown.

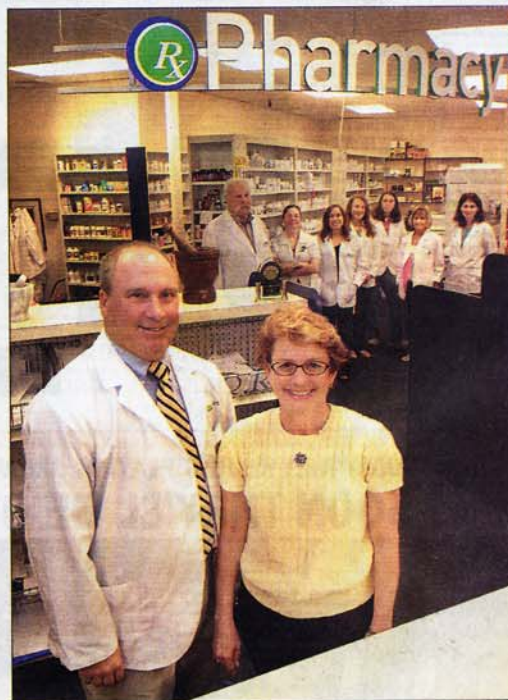
Woman-owned business: Bright Ideas Early Childhood Center, 1272 West Main Road, Middletown.

Not-for-Profit: Child & Family, 31 John Clarke Road, Middletown.

Entrepreneur of the Year: Nick Liuzza, Linear Title & Closing Ltd., 127 John Clarke Road, Middletown.

Highlights from each of the winning nominations, provided by the chamber, follow.

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR NEWPORT PRESCRIPTION CENTER



Jacqueline Marquie ♦ Daily News staff

David and Debra Whalley own and operate Newport Prescription Center. The store has about 30 employees.

Newport Prescription Center, owned and operated by David and Debra Whalley, has been providing pharmacy services to the Newport County community for more than 27 years.

Since the center's incorporation in 1983, the company has grown from four employees to 30. There are three full-time and two part-time pharmacists, 10 full- and part-time pharmacy technicians and two University of Rhode Island

pharmacy students.

Newport Prescription Center is a leader in its industry, being the first on Aquidneck Island to use an automated robot that is used for filling prescriptions. The robot increases efficiency and accuracy, which equates to less wait time and better service for customers. It also gives pharmacists more time to spend sharing information with patients.

Newport Prescription Center also provides Medicine-On-Time packaging, which ensures that medicines are taken in the proper dosage at the proper time. Medicine-On-Time is an innovative personal prescription system that allows a pharmacist to thoroughly review, organize and custom-package medications in accordance with doctor's orders.

The pharmacists and staff of Newport Prescription Center have traveled to local senior centers to provide free information sessions about medication issues. David Whalley also has offered the service of a free individual consultation with any senior citizen who has questions regarding the complicated choice of a Medicare "D" prescription plan.

There are usually two pharmacists on duty during busy times to ensure that they are available to answer questions and counsel patients on their medications. The majority of customers are women, children, young families and the elderly. For these special population groups, transportation to and from a community pharmacy often presents a significant challenge. To accommodate these patients, Newport Prescription Center provides delivery service from its location on Broadway in Newport.

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