

JOURNAL SPRINGVILLE



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Boston-Colden Chamber hosts awards dinner

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Editor

To help honor the many people, businesses and organizations who helped better the local community, the Boston-Colden Chamber of Commerce hosted its inaugural awards dinner on Jan. 23. Awards were given to the Bread of Life Outreach Center for Nonprofit of the Year, Essentially Well Oiled for Business of the Year and Herb Klein for Citizen of the Year.

The Bread of Life Outreach, located at 8745 Supervisor Avenue in Colden, is an all-volunteer organization that helps people and families in Aurora, Boston, Colden, Concord

and Holland. From its food pantry, to Gabriel's Closet Thrift Shop, the future Cherry Picker store and its many services and events held throughout the year, BOLO strives to help as many people as they can with its offerings.

"It is an honor to be recognized by the Chamber and that the good things that happen at Bread of Life are recognized and appreciated by the community," Bread of Life Outreach Executive Director Pat Thoman said.

"They have really done a great job taking care of the community," Mitch Martin of the Boston-Colden

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Bread of Life, Essentially Well Oiled,

Herb Klein honored with awards

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Chamber of Commerce said. "They don't pick and choose ... if someone needs help, they help them. They are just an excellent organization."

Essentially Well Oiled, located at 8348 Boston Colden Road in Colden, offers a variety of Essential Oil products, homemade goat milk soap and custom roll-ons made from Essential Oils, aromatherapy bracelets, Essential Oil diffusers and other products. The store also offers local products including Mingle's Back to Nature, Chick-A-Bee Farms and many other businesses.

"I feel very honored that we were honored as Business of the Year," owner of Essentially Well Oiled Debra Ehmke said. "I love the support that my home town has given me and I love the support that is coming from the community, plus all my vendors who are in here and everything they contributed to help me out with my business."

"It's nice to see a growing business especially in a smaller community. They have diversified and they have added other lines that other people are producing and started selling them at their location," Martin said. "So they are not just helping their business grow, but helping other businesses grow as well."

Herb Klein has been a longtime resident of Boston and has made his mark within the community through a number of endeavors. Klein was the creator of the original Boston Chamber of Commerce.



Photo provided

Representatives from the Bread of Life Outreach Center in Colden accept the Nonprofit of the Year Award from Mitch Martin (right).

owned Herb Klein's Barber Shop and was the creator of the Boston Town Band, which has been playing music throughout the local communities for over 27 years.

"It was very unexpected," Klein said. "I've had so much support."

"He has been a part of the Boston community for a long time," Martin said. "He saw a need in the community [to start the Boston Town Band] and even though he couldn't himself be a musician, he knew that he needed to get together people to do this. He is doing this for the community ... and he has been a staple in the community for decades."

After helping start the Boston-Colden Chamber of Commerce in 2019, Martin is happy to see the growth of the organization

and the support from the community. Seeing a good response during the awards dinner was another step for the Chamber and Martin is excited to see where the organization goes next.

"In one year, to have 80 people at our awards dinner, I feel that in a small community, that is a huge home run," Martin said. "I was extremely proud that we were able to put this together and the award winners, you can tell that this was an important thing for them. It overall was just a fantastic coming together of both these two communities and I think it's the beginning of even better things to come."

For more information on the Boston-Colden Chamber of Commerce or if anyone was interested in joining the organization, call 941-1516.