

DDA Recognition Dinner – Council Recap

2/9/26

Purpose of the Event

- Recognize individuals and businesses who positively impact the Pinckney community
 - Celebrate leadership, volunteerism, and service
 - Serve as a **fundraiser for the Depot Project**, specifically early engineering and development costs
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Event Overview

- **Theme:** 1920s Great Gatsby
 - Community embraced the theme; strong engagement and attendance
 - **60 seats sold**
 - The event was very well received
 - DDA is exploring opportunities to expand the event in future years
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Community Contributions & Partners

- **Music:** Brian Ignatowski (American H2O)
 - **Photography:** Mike Szafranski (State Farm)
 - **Awards:** Tina Harrison (Sweet Pumpkin Design)
 - **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Created by Keith LaRue
 - **Decor & Ambience:** Funded by Julie Amy (For Kids' Sake) & Jo Self (Practical Strengths)
 - **Wine:** Donated by Shadia (Bliss & Fish)
 - **Venue & Meals:** Steve & Matt (DIO)
 - Venue provided at no cost
 - All meals donated (confirmed after the event)
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Fundraising – Depot Project

- Event proceeds support the **engineering phase** of the Depot Project
- **Ticket pricing:**
 - \$35 per person

- \$60 per couple
 - **Raffle baskets:**
 - Donated by each DDA member
 - Basket values ranged from **\$100–\$1,100**
 - Included local goods, services, memberships, and experiences
 - **Final donation total:**
 - Currently being finalized
 - Full report to follow once totals are confirmed
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Nomination & Recognition Process

- **Nomination period:** Approximately six weeks (December–January)
 - **Seven award categories**
 - Promotion across **four Facebook pages**
 - Posted collectively and individually by category
 - **60 community members submitted nominations**
 - Most-nominated individual in each category received an award
 - Additional top nominees will be publicly acknowledged over the coming weeks on the *DDA Pinckney MI* page
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Key Outcomes

- Strong community participation and enthusiasm
 - High level of collaboration across residents, businesses, and organizations
 - Increased visibility and goodwill for the Depot Project
 - Reinforced culture of appreciation and civic engagement
 - Positive momentum for future DDA-led initiatives
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Next Steps

- Finalize and report total funds raised for the Depot Project
 - Continue public recognition of community contributors
 - Evaluate adaptations and expansion opportunities for next year's event
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Acknowledgments & Thanks

- Thank you to the **DDA Members** for their leadership, donated raffle baskets, and hands-on support
- Appreciation to **Jeff Buerman** for leadership and continued partnership
- Special recognition to **Jo Self**, serving as **Community Liaison & Event Coordinator**, for organizing the event and managing logistics

Prepared for Village Council update – Pinckney Downtown Development Authority