

Businesses get honors

BY MARY RADIGAN

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

GRAND RAPIDS — They are entrepreneurs, community activists and stakeholders in their business districts.

That's why recognizing them at the 18th annual Neighborhood Business Awards ceremony at the Wealthy Street Theatre on Thursday night is so important to keep the momentum going, according to sponsors.

Nearly 100 businesses from the city's 20 business districts were nominated for a variety of awards, with 12 being chosen by the Neighborhood Business Alliance and Neighborhood Ventures, sponsors of the event.

New this year was the People's Choice Awards, with winners being selected from an online poll, open to the public and sponsored by Rapid Growth Media.

"We look for significant investment in the neighborhood business districts, how they serve the needs and if they create jobs," said Kimberly Van Dyke, executive director of Neighborhood Ventures, a community economic devel-

opment organization.

Winners this year are:

Gerald R. Helmholdt Grand Award: Parkland Properties' Union Square Condos, 600 Broadway Ave. NW.

John H. Logie Neighborhood Business Champion Award: Robert Sullivan. "A longtime West Side businessman, who grew in success and scope to become a citywide business leader."

Best exterior maintenance: Logan's Alley, 916 Michigan St. NE. People's choice: Logan's Alley.

Best exterior renovation: O'Brien & O'Brien family dentist practice, 1503 Coit Ave. NE. People's choice: O'Brien & O'Brien.

Best interior renovation: Literary Life Bookstore & More, 758 Wealthy St. SE. People's choice: Grand Rapids Public Schools' Harrison Park Elementary School, 1440 Davis St. NW.

Best long-standing business: Jurgens and Holtvluwer Men's Store, 1054 W. Leonard St. NE. People's choice: Real Food Cafe, 2419 Eastern Ave. SE.

Best new business: Bobby

J's Restaurant, 15 Jefferson St. SE. People's choice: Pink Blvd. women's clothing, 974 Cherry St. SE.

Best new construction: (tie) Lighthouse Communities' Uptown Village, Wealthy Street and Diamond Avenue SE; and Cherry St. Investors' 924 Cherry St. project. People's choice: Grand Rapids Public Schools' Gerald R. Ford Middle School, 851 Madison Ave. SE.

Best reuse of a building: The Elevation Group's Hopson Flats, 212-216 Grandville Ave. SW. People's choice: Higher Ground Rock Climbing Center, 851 Bond St. NW.

Best promotional event: Creston Business Association's car show. People's choice: Local First's Eat Local Challenge.

Best use of a sign or awning: City Life Church, 449 S. Division Ave. People's choice: Martha's Vineyard, 200 Union St. NE.

Best window display: 954 East Resale with Attitude, 954 E. Fulton St. People's choice: Eastown Antiques, 1515 Lake Drive SE.

E-mail: mradigan@grpress.com