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EDA and Chamber Announce 2017 Business Excellence : Business Appreciation Award Winners

June 7, 2017, Front Royal, Virginia: The Economic Development Authority and the Chamber of Commerce announced today the winners of the *2017 Business Excellence : Business Appreciation Awards*.

Vetbuilders.com is awarded \$500.00 to help with the renovation of their new space at 130 A East Main Street. Vetbuilders.com is a full remodeling and service company. Queen Consulting and Technologies LLC, is awarded \$750.00 to help build a training program. And, The Vine & Leaf is awarded \$1,000.00 for new kitchen equipment, chairs and tables. In addition, the Chamber is awarding one free membership and free promotional mailings to the winners.

“We had great applicants this year,” said Jennifer McDonald, executive director of the Economic Development Authority. “It was hard to choose. But, I think we selected some great businesses for the awards. We want our small business community to know how much we value their hard work and dedication.”

The Award program was designed in 2011 in observance of Virginia’s Business Appreciation Month. There are three cash grants that are made to local small businesses showing excellence in business practices and contributing to the community in some way.

Small business owners or operators of businesses that are licensed in the Town of Front Royal or Warren County are eligible, and will have completed an online application at EDA’s web site, www.wceda.com. Small businesses are those with less than 500 employees (as defined by the Commonwealth of Virginia).

A panel comprised of EDA staff and board members and President of the Chamber judged the applications. Three prizes will be awarded in the amounts of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 in the upcoming week.

“This is great,” said Craig Laird of The Vine and Leaf. “This will help us a lot to make improvements at our bistro.”

In the seven years has been making awards, *Business Excellence* grants totaling \$13,800.00 have been made to Fork’d, Ben’s Family Cuisine, Passages Travel, Weathervane Graphics, Joe’s Steakhouse, Backroom Brewery, Bearfoot Enterprises, Lil’ Rugratz Daycare for outdoor play equipment; J’s Gourmet and Element for a new oven, The Main Street Daily Grind, Royal Broadcasting, Loving Arms, Linking You, which purchased design software – just to name a few.

“This is awesome,” said Nathan Scott of Queen Consulting & Technologies. “We are very, very thankful!”

“We would like to thank Rappahannock Electric Cooperative for its support of small business development and for being a sponsor of the Business Excellence Awards again this year. We look forward to continuing the award program,” said Patty Wines, Chairwoman of the EDA. “This is such a great way to honor our small business community.”

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