



First Names Released for 20 Notable People of Avon Award

(November 2, 2015) The Town of Avon is celebrating its 20th Anniversary on November 30, 2015. As part of the celebration, a contest was held to select 20 Notable People of Avon that have made a positive impact on Avon or are from Avon and have made an impact beyond Avon. Residents submitted names and a Selection Committee selected the 20 Notable People of Avon.

The Select Committee was Pam Lyons (Avon Rotary), William Rhodehamel (Hendricks County Community Foundation), Beverley Austin (Avon Town Council), Pat Laughlin (Deputy Township Trustee), Nic Quintana (Avon Kiwanis), Susan Truax (Avon Library) and Rachel Shelton (Avon Tri Kappa)

Over the next few weeks, leading up to November 30, we will be releasing the names of the 20 Notable People of Avon. Today is the first release of three of the 20 Notable People of Avon.

The first Notable Person is Adrian Parsons

Adrian Parsons helped make soybean a sustainable and profitable crop for Indiana. He moved to Washington Township in 1852, served his country in the Civil War and was wounded in action. He served his community as Hendricks County Recorder, Washington Township Trustee and as a teacher. In 1884, Mr. Parsons bought an 82 acre farm in Washington Township and around 1891, he bought soybeans from Japan and became the first farmer in Indiana to engage in the purposeful and sustained experimentation and production of this grain. He is recognized as Indiana's Soybean Pioneer by the American Soybean Association and the farm press.

The second Notable Person of Avon is Florence Cartlidge.

Florence was a recipient of many community awards including Citizen of the Year by Avon Rotary Club, Avon Founding Citizen of the Year and AT&T Silver Spirit Award for athletic excellence in tennis.

Avon United Methodist Church honored her with "Florence Cartlidge Day" to recognize her fifty years of service to the church and community.

Her community service included the Avon Optimist and Rotary Clubs, Board Member of the Washington Township Public Library and Hendricks Regional Health Foundation. She was a founding Board member for Sycamore Services, a leader in making a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

She won the Indiana State Tennis Championship seven times and was ranked 4th nationally in Women's Doubles . She also taught tennis lessons to hundreds of young men and women from the Avon area.

In 2008, she sold her property to Hendricks Regional Health YMCA and her family donated the Cartlidge Barn (pre-Civil War) to the 4-H Fairgrounds to be used for educational purposes and special events.

The third Notable Person is Jim Miller.

Jim played basketball for Avon High School and graduated in 1954. He was an Indiana high school basketball coach for 37 years with different schools and retired with a record of 607-251. He won 16 Conference Championships, 18 sectionals, 5 regionals, 2 semi states and went to Final Four in 1966 and 1994.

He is the recipient of 9 Coach of the Year Awards and he was the Indiana Nominee for National Coach of the Year in 1988. He is a member of the Franklin College Hall of Fame and was inducted in to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2004.