

Student of the Year

This award is designed to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of a High School Senior in our community and the winner will be presented with a \$250.00 Scholarship (Sponsored by Southern Title & Closing) to be used to continue their education. Anyone may nominate themselves or another who is a senior in one of the School Districts or Private Schools in Columbia County planning to attend college or trade school.

The nominee must be a resident of Columbia County and should exhibit the following: Leadership ability; Involvement and/or Contribution to Community; Involvement and/or Contribution to School; Volunteerism; Innovation and Creativity. The individual must be in the top 10% of his or her class (a letter from a school official stating this will be needed to accommodate the nomination).

Nominations are limited to residents of Columbia County and are confidential; however, the individual submitting someone for nomination must identify themselves. Selection of the award winner is made by an ad hoc selection committee appointed by the Chairman of the Board of the Magnolia - Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

Young Professional of the Year

This award recognizes a young business professional, ages 21-35, who has made significant contributions to both their business and community and continues to dedicate themselves to growth within his or her career path. This individual must be a proven asset to the organization or business he or she is involved with, should be well respected by their co-workers, and contribute to the quality of life in this community.

Criteria:

- Must be between the ages of 21-35.
- Must be a proven asset to their organization or business.
- Shows dedication to personal growth and development.
- Contributes to the quality of life in Columbia County.
- Demonstrates strong leadership skills.
- Shows a passion to serve others through their actions.

Educator of the Year

This award is selected by school officials through nominations of the school employees. Each of the area School Districts or Private Schools in Columbia County will be able to submit one nomination. The Chamber will then select the winner of this award from the nominations submitted.

The nominee may be a teacher, administrator, office staff or other support staff member. The nominee should exemplify excellence in their field or job by their enthusiasm, expertise, creative ideas, and communication skills. This individual should be respectful and inspiring to both students and co-workers. The nominee must be a resident of Columbia County. Longevity of career should also play a factor.

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Small Business of the Year

To honor an industry or business with less than 40 employees, that has demonstrated outstanding service to the community and its employees.

Criteria:

- Chamber Member.
- Committed to employees and welfare.
- Provide an example of adapting to new management and marketing techniques.
- Be a good retail citizen or corporate citizen of the area.
- Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the community efforts with their time, financial, and/or other resources.

Nominations are limited to businesses within Columbia County and are confidential; however, the individual submitting someone for nomination must identify themselves. Selection of the award winner is made by an ad hoc selection committee appointed by the Chairman of the Board of the Magnolia - Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

Large Business of the Year

To honor an industry or business with over 40 employees, that has demonstrated outstanding service to the community and its employees.

Criteria:

- Chamber Member.
- Committed to employees and welfare.
- Provide an example of adapting to new management and marketing techniques.
- Be a good retail citizen or corporate citizen of the area.
- Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the community efforts with their time, financial, and/or other resources.

Nominations are limited to businesses within Columbia County and are confidential; however, the individual submitting someone for nomination must identify themselves. Selection of the award winner is made by an ad hoc selection committee appointed by the Chairman of the Board of the Magnolia - Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

Non-Profit of the Year

To be eligible for this award, the organization must be recognized as tax-exempt and designated as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

Nominees should distinguish itself through excellence in pursuit of its mission while meeting a defined public need, providing outstanding service to its constituents and the community, and demonstrate good stewardship of donor dollars and sound business practices.

Criteria:

- Chamber Member.
- Committed to employees and welfare.
- Provide an example of adapting to new management and marketing techniques.
- Be a good retail citizen or corporate citizen of the area.
- Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the community efforts with their time, financial, and/or other resources.

Citizen of the Year

This award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution(s) “above and beyond” exemplified by their service through civic, service, charitable or religious organizations and/or community activities. These are factors that will also be used in determining this award.

Nominations are limited to residents of Columbia County and are confidential; however, the individual submitting someone for nomination must identify themselves. Selection of the award winner is made by an ad hoc selection committee appointed by the Chairman of the Board of the Magnolia - Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

Archie Monroe Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is to recognize and honor an individual who has made sustained, significant achievements or contributions to Magnolia-Columbia County through his/her selfless dedication, leadership, and service to the people of this community.

Eligibility: Citizen or former citizen of Magnolia-Columbia County and may be posthumously awarded. Chamber membership is not required.

Criteria: Selection will be based on an individual who has demonstrated community philanthropic acts which:

- Promoted goodwill toward all people.
- Supported and encouraged business recognition, growth, and development.
- Routinely participated in a variety of community endeavors to stimulate the health, welfare, and spirit of the community.
- Provided sustained leadership that made a lasting contribution to the community.