

Geneva Lake West Chamber recognizes outstanding citizens

By Dennis West

Residents of Fontana, Walworth and Williams Bay received Citizen of the Year awards for 2001 during the Geneva Lake West Chamber of Commerce meeting at The Abbey Resort, August 7.

Geneva Lake Conservancy Executive Director, Chris Goebel, introduced the winner for Fontana.

Cynthia Wilson

"No one can claim any deeper love for this area than our Citizen of the Year from Fontana, Cynthia (Cindy) Wilson," said Goebel, who had nominated her.

"Cindy has been involved in the community for a long time. This year she was appointed executive director of the Fontana Community Development Authority. In that role, working with the other Authority members, she is responsible for implementation of the Fontana master plan, particularly the developments within the Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) district.

Cindy has campaigned tirelessly for the idea of economic growth with conservation of open spaces and environmentally significant lands — two of the central themes of Fontana's master plan. She has recruited and worked with planners and architectural firms on potential development in the Fontana quarry area, protection of green space in and through the historic district, and conservation development in outlying areas of the Village. For her dedication to shaping a bright future for Fontana, Cindy Wilson is our choice for citizen of the year.

Bob Rauland

Jerry Sjoberg, owner of Home Design Mfg., nominated and introduced the winner for Walworth, Bob Rauland.

Bob founded The Rauland Agency, Inc., Realtors, in 1961. Bob has been active in the Lakeland Medical Center (now Aurora Health), the Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge and Fairhaven Foundation. He served as a director of the Wis-



Joy Catterson (left) introduces the Geneva Lake West Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for Williams Bay, Karon White-Gibson, during the chamber's August lunch meeting at the Abbey Resort & Spa. (Beacon photo)

consin Realtors Association from 1965 to 1968, president of the Walworth County Realtors Association from 1970-72 and as a director of the Walworth State Bank since 1973. He and his wife, Cynthia, have four children.

Sjoberg said Rauland carries a quote in his wallet that reads, "God will not look you over for medals, degrees or diplomas, but for scars." "Bob doesn't ask for honors or medals for the things he does," Sjoberg added. "He's happy to be part of the community."

Karon White-Gibson

Joy Catterson introduced the Citizen of the Year for Williams Bay, Karon White-Gibson.

"Karon was a pioneer nurse in developing home care services for the middle class. In 1973, she developed a very successful business in health care and was named Chicago Businesswoman of the Year by the National Association of Women Business Owners, was featured in People Magazine

and named Small Business of the Year by a national accounting firm.

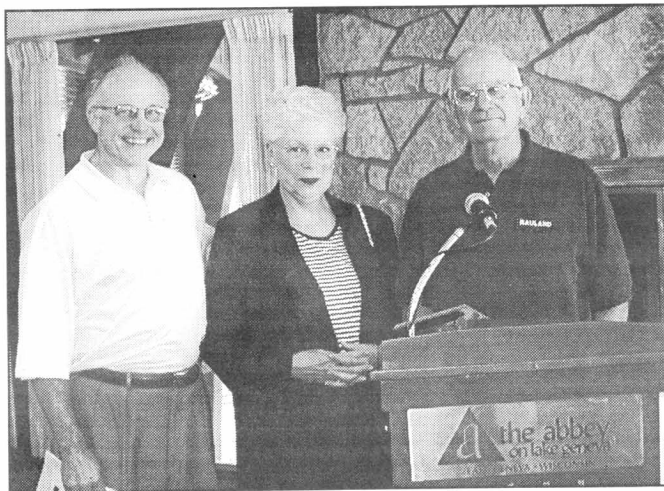
"She has been a volunteer since her days as a teenage candystriper. For the last 22 years she has used her own time and money to produce and host a television talk show featuring traditional, alternative and optional health care solutions for the consumer.

"White-Gibson is also co-author of the book, "Nurses On Our Own," an inspiring true story of challenges in nursing.

She, her detective husband and his partner, developed a program to teach seniors, parents and children how to avoid becoming the target of crime. CBS TV called them 'hometown heroes.'

White-Gibson is also a finalist for the Nursing Excellence Award and was nominated for a cable access award for her Golf for Juniors show.

More information is available about Karon and her work on the internet at americanurse.com/



Jerry Sjoberg (left) introduces the Geneva Lake West Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for Walworth, Robert Rauland, and his wife, Cynthia. (Beacon photo)