

# Our Citizen of the Year

Progress and sacrifice.

It is a slight bit of a departure to choose two people as "Citizen of the Year", but there has certainly been precedent set in the past, and I think you'll agree that this married couple is a team very deserving of the honor.

Since they are both educators, it seemed natural for me to turn to students, past and present, to explain why these teachers are "Citizens of the Year" every year.

Meaghan says: "[They] are the most important people in my life. They introduced me and made me realize my love for theater, which in itself has given me more memories than I can count. Their passion for their jobs is inspiring, as well as their love for their students. Whenever someone seems "off", they take it upon themselves to check on them, and insure them they're always there to help. They're such selfless, compassionate, and loving people; I don't know what I'd do without them."



John told me: "They're two of the most selfless individuals I know. No matter your background, where you've been, or your reputation, they give you the chance to make something of yourself. They've instilled in me a sense of who I am that I would have never been able to find without their guidance and wisdom. I'm eternally thankful for what the two of them have done for this community, whether it has impacted me directly or not, it's always been for the best."

And this from Hon. Rep. Leigh Webb: "If it were not for [their] tireless efforts, along with their dedication to teaching the teenagers of Franklin other subjects, high school drama and community theater would simply not exist to broaden their students' horizons, and by so doing, enrich all of us."

I'd only add that the sacrifices made by this couple for Franklin are numerous and varied. They use their talents in so many ways to accelerate our progress as a community. I could mention my own family and many of my own experiences to illustrate why I have made this choice. But suffice it to say that anyone who can convince the Mayor and other officials to play "basketball" while riding a "donkey" has got some pretty special talents.

Please join me in thanking our "Citizens of the Year", Jack and Jule Finley.