

# Anne Arundel chamber honors business leaders with awards dinner



## Business Hall of Fame

From left, the 2013 Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame members Tom Marquardt, Louis L. Zagarino, Anne C. Chambers and Michael E. Ashford stand with their shadowbox plaques.

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When Jane Snider decided to open a school in the 1980s, her plans took her to Crownsville and then to an old stallion farm in Edgewater.

Now, The Summit School has a 15-acre campus and enrolls about 100 students with dyslexia each year. Snider left the school in June to launch Heads-Up Consultants, which offers services to parents, schools and nonprofits. On Wednesday, the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce named Snider the business leader of the year for its 2013 Business Hall of Fame and Awards Dinner.

“When (students who have difficulty learning) find teachers who know how to teach them and they feel like ‘I’m not dumb,’ that’s when you know you’re really making a difference,” Snider said. “It’s an amazing gift to be recognized by the business community. You think of successful business leaders as people who have a lot of money. As educators, we don’t make a lot.”

The event was held at Loews Annapolis and included awards for several business leaders and inducting four — former Capital Gazette Communications publisher Tom Marquardt, McGarvey’s Saloon and Oyster Bar owner Michael Ashford, Indian Creek School founder Anne Chambers and hotelier and restaurateur Louis Zagarino — into the Comcast Business Hall of Fame.

“This is the first time I put on a suit coat and tie in I don’t know how long,” said Marquardt, who retired last year. He added he played a part in distributing the awards in the past. “It’s really humbling to be part of that group. It’s an awesome group.”

Zagarino, who is on the board of directors for the BWI Business Partnership and the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau, agreed.

“For almost 20 years, I kept looking at the Hall of Fame wall thinking ‘maybe, just maybe I’ll make the grade,’” Zagarino said. “I still don’t think I made the grade, but I’ll take it anyhow.”

### Other winners included:

- Small Business of the Year: Naval Bagels, which has locations in West Annapolis and Arnold.
- **Green Business Award: Edgewater-based Brick Cos., a privately held firm that uses a green building philosophy toward its commercial, residential and recreational properties.**
- Nonprofit of the year: Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, which funds nonprofit organizations in the county. Earlier this year, the organization hosted the Great Give, which raised about \$600,000 for nonprofits.
- Entrepreneur of the year: Shelley Sarmiento, of the Little White Fashion Truck. She started the business with \$35,000 she raised from selling personal belongings and now has yearly sales approaching \$650,000.
- Don Riddle Corporate Citizenship Award: Severn Savings Bank for its record of giving toward local efforts such as scholarships and Chesapeake Bay cleanup projects.
- Anne Arundel County Schools’ Community Outreach Award: The Assistance League of the Chesapeake, a Millersville organization that provides community-based programs like tutoring, mentorship and other activities.
- Anne Arundel Economic Development Corp.’s Development Award went to the Elm Street Development, which handles seven properties in Anne Arundel County and is expected to add more over the next five years.