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# Time to honor a hometown legend | Bob Shryock



By [Bob Shryock | For NJ.com](#)

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Charles R. "Chuck" Forsman, who has devoted most of his adult life to aiding his community in numerous meaningful ways, will be honored as the 14th recipient of the Wenonah Hometown Legend Award during Wenonah park ceremonies after the parade on the Fourth of July.

According to selection committee chair Carl Hausman, the legends award recognizes a current or former resident who "inspires legends, instills pride, and serves as a role model **for the people of Wenonah.**"

But it's just one of two major acknowledgements for the civic-minded Forsman in a stretch of three weeks.

On June 20, Forsman weathered the heat to be recognized on the site of the old Tall Pines restaurant for his significant role in **turning the run-down property, including a golf course, into a state preserve.**

In typical Forsman fashion, he deflected much of the credit to Ken Atkinson and Richard Dilks, who were central to the success of the venture when Forsman was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

"But I was overwhelmed (by the attention)," said Forsman. "A lot of people told me I was wasting my time. But I vowed to do it."

Forsman, 81, resided in Wenonah for 42 years and currently lives in Mantua.

Forsman, who retired in 1993 as Senior Technical Supervisor at Mobil Research and Development in Paulsboro, and who holds nine patents, has helped solve environmental and infrastructure issues in Wenonah and surrounding communities.

Forsman lectured and provided training at Mobil corporate facilities throughout Europe. Assigned to Germany for a year, he learned German so he could teach in the native language.

Among his career highlights was a presentation at the Society of Automotive Engineers in Cherry Hill which was attended by the president of Mobil. Forsman published research papers for the society which dealt with the diagnosis of diesel engines.

Since retirement, Forsman has worked in land development, affordable housing, and resource management.

He worked with attorneys and local officials in the purchase of conservation lands that comprise the "ring of green" surrounding town.

Forsman and members of a regional water management board collaborated to develop a formula for water allocation that protected the source of drinking water.

Forsman's list of activities is lengthy: Lions Club, zoning and planning board, environmental commission, lake/pond restoration preservation committee, He was active on the committee that assisted the transition of former golf course Eagles' Nest into Tall Pines Park, was involved in the renovation of the Teahouse on Comey's Lake, and was Wenonah Town Watch captain for a quarter

century. He won the borough's Volunteer of the Year award in 1999.

He and his wife Lorrie have been married 59 years. They have three children, six grandchildren, and one great grandson. "Lorrie is my inspiration," Chuck says. "She's there for me all the time."

Mars Rover scientist Steven Squyres was the first legend honoree in 2004, his brother Tim, a motion picture film editor, was the 2015 winner.

Other past winners: Paul Stankard, 2005; Bradley Caraker, 2006; Jack Sheppard Sr. 2007; Bob Shryock, 2008; Don and Kathryn Ralston, 2009; Marjorie Lentz, 2010; Lauren Ward Larsen, 2011; Katharyn (cq) Nicole, 2012; Winston Byrd, 2013; and Woody Platt, 2014.

And well-deserved Chuck Forsman, 2016.

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