

The Berkshire Eagle

Whaling honored by Downtown Pittsfield Inc.

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Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD -- George Whaling, the president of Whaling Properties LLC, a Pittsfield-based development company, has been named Person of the Year for 2011 by Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.

He received the honor at Downtown Pittsfield's recent holiday party at the Colonial Theatre that was attended by more than 100 members of the organization.

The award is given annually to honor a person who has made a significant impact on downtown Pittsfield. Whaling, who owns seven key properties in the center of the city, is the largest property owner in downtown Pittsfield.

Arriving in Pittsfield in 1990, Whaling worked for SAMPCO for 10 years before he purchased the Greystone Building on the corner of North Street and Maplewood Avenue in 2001.

Within a few years he purchased three buildings across the street and carried out several significant upgrades to all of those properties. He converted one of his North Street buildings to condominiums, then sold out all of the units.

"Downtown leaders get excited when they hear George is buying a downtown property because they know he will upgrade it tastefully and attract quality tenants," said Peter J. Lafayette, the president of Downtown Pittsfield Inc., in a statement. "He has raised the standards for other owners and has been a critical force in improving downtown's image."

In his acceptance speech, Whaling emphasized his belief

in downtown's future and predicted that downtown Pittsfield will continue to evolve as the center of business, culture and entertainment in Berkshire

County.

He also recognized his sister, Val Whaling, who has been a critical part of the team overseeing the renovations and managing the properties afterward.

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