

Press Release

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Michelle Hanks Honored as 2018 Chamber Spirit of Community Award Recipient

Spring Lake, Michigan - The Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg Spirit of Community Award was presented to Michelle Hanks at the Chamber's Annual Dinner. The award honoring the community spirit of the late Daryl DuBridg was presented by Kelly Larson, 2014 recipient of the Spirit of Community Award and 2016/17 Chamber Board Chair. The Spirit of Community Award acknowledges individuals that provide valuable service by devoting time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community and who demonstrate leadership and initiative in the development of volunteer projects.

It is not often that a performing musician and a self-proclaimed "tax geek" are one in the same, but it fits Michelle Hanks to a tee. As a nontraditional student, she graduated with a BA in Accounting from University of Wisconsin - Madison and obtained her CPA when she moved to Michigan in 1998. Although many met Michelle through her work at DeBoer Baumann, many more knew her as Mikki Marsh - local singer/songwriter with a slight Texas accent.

Michelle and her husband Gary saw an opportunity in a historic building in the Village of Spring Lake to create a live/work space that would not only bring a music venue to Northwest Ottawa County, but provide Michelle an outlet for her creative musical side. The old Masonic Temple was transformed into Seven Steps Up, a unique venue for artists and community alike. The venue brought a new vibe to the Village bringing over 400 concerts to date.

Michelle, strongly believes in giving back to the community and was looking for ways to expand the reach of music outside the walls of Seven Steps Up. She founded and serves as CEO of Courtyard Concerts, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit formed to give back to the community by donating to local charities. Next came Liz's Concerts for Kids, a free event specifically for kids at Seven Steps Up and this past year, organizing and using her training as a professionally trained sound engineer for Market Music at the Grand Haven Farmers Market and Winter Market at the Depot.

Michelle has served as President of Grand Haven Rotary and is a current member of Spring Lake Rotary. She is a member of 100+ Women Who Care, a past Athena nominee, member of the Lakeshore Athena steering committee, and Treasurer for West Michigan Alliance for Veterans. She is an animal lover and supporter of local animal shelters.

In 2017, she stepped up to invest and serve her community as a Spring Lake Village Council Member, Council Liaison to the Spring Lake DDA and by opening Michelle Hanks Tax & Business Consulting in Spring Lake. With a partner DDA member she is spearheading the Village Adventure, Spring Lakes first business crawl.

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