

# **The Post-Journal**

## **Cherry Creek Residents Receive National Community Heroes Award**

By Sue Ann Fish

6/14/2007 - CHERRY CREEK — Bruce and Brenda Hendricks efforts to promote a healthier lifestyle for those living in Cherry Creek are resulting in the 2007 Steps Community Heroes award by the federal Centers for Disease Control.

Lifelong community residents and health proponents, the Hendricks have worked to promote and establish environmental changes in the community.

The national award recognizes contributions made by local individuals in support of Steps to a HealthierUS, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, coordinated by the Center For Disease Control, that advances the goal of Americans living longer, better and healthier lives. Through the Steps Program, the CDC provides money to 40 communities nationwide in support of community-based interventions that focus on reducing obesity, diabetes and asthma and the risk behaviors that contribute to disease. The Hendricks are among seven winners selected from 28 nominations submitted by the Steps communities across the country.

The awards were presented at CDC's annual Steps to a HealthierUS Workshop held in Seattle, Wash., on June 6.

"It was a thrill to have our own heroes represented at the national conference," said Cheryl Foti, Chautauqua County Steps to a HealthierNY program coordinator. "Bruce and Brenda are true examples of community heroes who make a difference in their community."

As members of the Cherry Creek Business and Community Association and the Cherry Creek Memorial Park Committee, the couple successfully secured funding to build a walking trail in the Memorial Park through an application for a mini-grant from the Chautauqua County Steps to a HealthierNY program. In addition, the community participated in the America On The Move program, which encourages people to move more and eat less. The Hendricks exceeded their expectations of recruiting 15 people to "get on the move," with nearly 150 residents logging more than 34 million steps during the six-week program.

The Hendricks are members of the Cherry Creek-Leon United Methodist Church, where Mrs. Hendricks serves as Administrative Council chairwoman, and Hendricks serves as a trustee. They are active in the Business and Community Association and Memorial Park Committee. Hendricks serves as deputy mayor of Cherry Creek and is a liaison between Cherry Creek and the state Transportation Department. Mrs. Hendricks has directed the Pine Valley Community Choir for 18 years.

"This award is the result of a community effort, with people from all walks of the community — the bank, the Fire Department, the town and the village, volunteers, and the town Highway Department, all working together to make Cherry Creek a better community," Hendricks said. "

It's nice to see the community come together, as we build and continue to work on the Memorial Park," Mrs. Hendricks said. "We're awed and honored to accept this award. We're looking for able bodied people to come and work on the park with us this Saturday morning. I'm bringing refreshments!"



**P-J photo by Sue Ann Fish**

County Executive Greg Edwards, center, presents Brenda and Bruce Hendricks, left, with a certificate commemorating their National Community Heroes Award from the Center for Disease Control Steps to a HealthierUS program, as Chautauqua County Legislators Steve Kimball and Jerry Park look on.