Commission names Carter Sportsperson of the Year

FORUM

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The Weston Sports Commission announced that Michael Carter is the recipient of the 2014 Weston Sportsperson of the Year Award.

The award is presented by the Fairfield County Sports Commission and Carter will be honored at the 10th annual Sports Night dinner on Monday, Oct. 20, at the Hyatt Regency in Greenwich. Carter is one of 15 Fairfield County winners who are deemed to have had the greatest positive impact and contribution to each of their sports communities over the past year.

Carter, a 29-year resident of Weston, has long been involved in town sports, including a stint as president of Weston Little League. He is being recognized this year for his role as head of the Weston Stadium Lights Committee, who took the project from an idea to a reality in less than one year. In the coming weeks, lights are being installed at Weston High School Stadium Field.

Carter always emphasized during 15 public meetings that the lights will be a major source of community gathering and pride, hence the project’s name “Bringing Westonites Together.” In addition to Friday Night Lights high school football games, the lighted field will drastically improve the lack of practice space for youth sports in Weston, which are at an all-time high in popularity.

“Michael did what he does best; he listened, learned and then acted,” said Dawn Egan, former Boosters president and head of fund-raising for the lights committee. “Throughout the process, Michael was thoughtful and considerate. What impressed me most was that Michael took on this Herculean project despite the fact that two of his children already had graduated from the school system and his youngest was in his senior year at WHS. He knew and understood the benefits that the lights would provide to the community as a whole.”

Weston High School Athletic Director Mark Berkowitz said, “Michael worked tirelessly and selflessly to make real what many of us had only dreamed about, lights on Weston High School Stadium Field. The effort he put forth on behalf of our community, our youth and high school athletes was amazing. We ran into many speed bumps along the way but with Michael’s leadership and determination the process kept moving forward and never got off track. Michael has always been a positive and influential person in Weston and truly cares for this town and its youth. We are fortunate to have Michael on our team and we all owe him a huge thank you for his dedication to Weston.”

The award also is given to Carter for leading the Weston Sports Commission in 2014 as well as all prior years since its inception in 2005. Carter recently announced that he is stepping down as president of the Weston Sports Commission after many years of service.

“For the past nine years, I have been in awe of the quality of Weston’s Sportspersons of the Year,” He said. “Each of them, in their own unique way, inspires us all to get involved and make a difference. To be selected this year and to have my name engraved next to theirs is an extraordinary honor.”

Incoming Weston Sports Commission President Eric Albert said, “It has been an absolute pleasure working with Michael on the Lights Committee and I now have impossibly big shoes to fill running the Sports Commission. Michael does it all the right way. He always gives 100% effort and strives to get the most out of not just himself but everyone he works with. He is a true leader and community builder and this recognition has been a long time coming and is beyond well-deserved. Everyone on the Lights Committee agreed that the lights would not have become a reality without Michael’s leadership and dedication.”

The Weston Sports Commission consists of a broad section of the Weston sports community, including the presidents of the town’s sports programs. Current members of the commission are Nathan Klatt (Weston Little League), Kevin Joyce (Babe Ruth baseball), Allison Narins (Babe Ruth softball), David Levy (Weston Basketball), Tony DePasquale (Weston Youth Football & Cheer), Chris Harris (Weston Lacrosse), Chris Myers (Weston Soccer), Lexie Proceller (Weston Swimming), Jon Pressman (Adult sports), Eric Albert (Parks & Recreation Commission chair), Terri Clevenger (Boosters Club), Mark Berkowitz (HS AD), Matt Medve (MS AD), and Gayle Weinstein (First Selectman).

Anyone interested in attending the awards dinner or being a local sponsor for Sports Night should visit the Fairfield County Sports Commission’s website at www.fairfieldcountysports.com. Questions about the Weston Sports Commission can be sent to westonsportscommission@gmail.com.