



Tawny Receives an Award.

Tawny Hammond, President of the Springfield Civic Association, was presented with the **2007 Herb Hunter Award**. The Awards Committee and the entire Board of Directors of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce made their selection. A certificate was given immediately after the Fairfax County Strike Force Team's presentation at Crestwood Elementary School in the evening of January 15, 2008.

Herb Hunter Award:

Herb Hunter was one of those individuals who went well above and beyond the civic call of duty in order to better his community. He was a very giving, caring, and genuinely concerned member of this chamber as well. He would always offer up the meeting rooms in "The Hunter" motel for everyone and anyone that needed a place to meet in Springfield. Many of you know that Herb Hunter donated the land for the first Fire Station here in Springfield (Company 22 / Backlick road). In short, he was a man who loved helping his community and would do so at the drop of a hat and not be bothered by what may be disrupted in his world in order to get it done. Herb Hunter was tragically taken from our community during a robbery at his motel. Shortly after his death the chamber developed this, its most prestigious award, bearing his name. This award is given every year to individuals who exemplify the spirit of giving back to the community that Herb Hunter was so well known for.

2007 Award:

One of our privileges and responsibilities in a democratic society is to be civically involved. Standing up and voicing our displeasure is not where our responsibilities and privileges end. We must be part of the solutions just as we are certainly part of the problems in our community. Our civic responsibilities and privileges do not end after a certain amount of time, at a certain age, or because we are busy with work or family.

Those words are taken from the President's Column of the November issue of the Springfield Civic Association's newsletter, the Springfield Reporter. The President of the Springfield Civic Association is Tawny Hammond.

Tawny was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. Her father a Police officer and her mother a librarian, Tawny along with her brother and sister grew up as no strangers to public service. (Her sister is currently a Fairfax county Deputy Sheriff.) Tawny earned a degree in communications from Western Illinois, went into business for herself for a few years in Oak Park, Illinois, and then took what she calls a leap of faith in 1989 to move to Falls Church and start her career with the Fairfax County Park Authority. She worked at three different facilities in the county and then, fortunately for us, she became the Manager at Lake Accotink Park in 1997. When she arrived at the park it offered just 10 different programs to the citizens of Springfield; today it offers more than 100.

Tawny moved to the Crestwood section of Springfield in 1999 and immediately became active in the Springfield Civic Association. Soon after she agreed to serve as treasurer, and then in 2002 she was

elected president. She immediately saw the need for the creation of the Association's website. She developed partnerships with area businesses and schools, and she made it apparent that she was not afraid to present and tackle the issues that impact Springfield: revitalization, development, transportation, and health and safety.

Tawny is a recipient of numerous awards. For example, in her first year as president of the association she was named **Citizen of the Year** by the Springfield Times; in the same year she also received Fairfax County's highest award for public service given to an employee, the coveted **A. Heath Onthank Award**; in 2004 Springfield's inter-service club council presented her with **the Bob Westmoreland Award for Community Service**; in 2005 she received **the Chamber's Public Service Award**; and in 2006 Tawny was recognized by Braddock District Supervisor, Sharon Bulova, with **the Best of Braddock Award**, and she received another award, **the Public Service Award** from American Legion Post 176.

Tawny is quick to point out that many of the awards she received were due in great part to the people she has surrounded herself with. She says that one of her greatest strengths is her ability to bring smart and hardworking people together and building a team. It's a common theme that is echoed in the words of Diane Boughton (a devoted member of the Civic Association and community leader) who says:

"Tawny Hammond's style of leadership has attracted and created a dedicated team of diverse and multi-talented people who are happy to serve with her on the Springfield Civic Association Board.

"Speaking of team building, Tawny has been active with the Springfield Days' committee since the day she arrived here in Springfield. She even took over just recently as the Chair of that committee.

"Tawny Hammond exudes a positive attitude and energy that have been contagious in our neighborhood. As President she has effectively excelled in representing and fighting for the needs of all residents and homeowners in our community. She tackles the tough issues that face our rapidly changing environment, and tackles them head on. Under her leadership the membership has grown significantly, and by example she inspires active participation.

"To put that in perspective, when Tawny joined the Civic Association, there were roughly 20 people in attendance at most meetings. Today, there are over 200 people in attendance.

"Tawny is the ultimate Springfield promoter and advocate. Her pursuit of improvements to the quality of life for the entire Springfield community and surrounding businesses has been relentless. She exudes a positive attitude and energy that has been contagious in our Springfield community from the day she arrived in 1997. Her collective achievements have made Springfield a better place to live."

Tawny Hammond received many awards for her various contributions in Greater Springfield as noted above. This time the Awards Committee and the entire Board of Directors of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce present **the 2007 Herbert C. Hunter Citizen of the Year Award**, our highest honor, to its winner, Miss Tawny Hammond, who represents well an individual who has significantly contributed to improving the quality of life over a sustained number of years for the betterment of the community.