



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Judy and Dr. David Rimple, of Dallas, have won an environmental partnership award through the PA Environmental Council.

## COUPLES

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to get to work every day.

In addition, the trail is close to the bus line so people may choose to use the trail one way and take the bus the other.

"There are so many opportunities that can open up when you get people out of cars," Judy Rimple said. "It kind of broadens all of our horizons to be outdoors."

The Rimples met in the outdoors in 1990 while on a boat trip on the Danube River in Budapest. David, 75, a semi-retired cardiologist, and Judy, 68, are still active and enjoy walking, bicycling, gardening, fly fishing and tennis.

It is the Rimples' hope to form a larger body composed of all of the smaller trails so they can come together as one.

Don and Wendy Sweppenheiser were chosen for the award for their partnership efforts in adopting and beautifying several areas in Tunkhannock Borough. They helped form a Shade Tree Commission in Tunkhannock which led to a shade tree ordinance that protects trees between the sidewalk and the road. The ordinance regulated what can be planted, where, when, what size, specifications and maintenance of trees and the responsibilities of homeowners.

Also with the help of the Sweppenheisers, the Tunkhannock Tree Association was named holder of three areas near the intersection of Routes 6 and 29 in Tunkhannock. A backyard habitat and mini-trail were established in an area called Action Park between Riverside Park and the bypass. The habitat was certified by the National Wildlife Association.

Because of the many beautification efforts, Tunkhannock Borough was designated as a Tree City USA for the last four years. Tunkhannock also received the Tree City Growth



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wendy and Don Sweppenheiser, of Tunkhannock, are recipients of the 2008 Environmental Partnership Awards. The couple was selected for the award for their partnership efforts to adopt and beautify several areas in Tunkhannock Borough. Award the last two years.

Both master gardeners through Penn State Cooperative Extension, Don, 59, and Judy, 55, are lifelong residents of Wyoming County and have lived in Tunkhannock Borough for 12 years. The couple plans to assist with maintaining tree areas for as long as they are able.

"We both like plants," Wendy said. "Sometimes things just aren't right. You see people not recycling. The world is suffering from climate changes. I guess over the last 15 years, Don and I are more aware of what is happening around us. I grew up being able to see trees around me and climb a tree, to feel the effects, the birds and everything in the tree. I want them to be there for my grandchildren."

Don Sweppenheiser was also instrumental in developing the first training session of backyard composting in Wyoming County in order to keep food scraps and yard waste out of landfills.

During the first week of November, the Northeast Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Tunkhannock Shade Tree Commission will plant 28 new trees with the help of local high school students. Flowering cherry, maple and elm trees will be scattered to prevent the spread of disease among the trees.

## THOMAS'

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agers are critical to the backbone of the business.

Thomas' Family Market is involved in many community activities in the Back Mountain and the other towns where stores are located. The Second Annual Thomas' Family Market Golf Tournament was held on July 16 with proceeds going to the Trucksville, Shavertown and Dallas fire companies. Thomas' also has a company bowling team at Back Mountain Bowl in Dallas and a golf team at Four Seasons Golf in Exeter.

"We just feel community involvement is part of what allows us to stay successful in business," Chris Evans said.

"The community gives a lot to us and we try to give a lot back," Baseski added.

The first Thomas' Family Market Super Food Town, which will be 43,000 square feet and offer many goods and services that are not available at other Thomas' locations, is set to open in Dallas within the upcoming months. The store will employ about 100 people and a job fair to fill full and part-time positions is planned.

At least one local business will sell their goods inside of the store as Asaki Hibachi and Sushi in Shavertown will have fresh sushi available for purchase. The Super Food Town will also have in-store hot foods and a seating area for customers to eat inside, an on-site chef and an extensive variety of natural and organic products.

The owners have been approved for a beer license and will operate Thomas' Beer Town out of the store, featuring cold six packs to go.

"For being born and raised in the Back Mountain, we appreciate how busy the people are," Baseski said. "And we're going to try to make their lives a little bit easier."



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST



Above: Chris Evans, one of the owners of Thomas' Family Market, takes pride in the meats the store offers its customers.

Left: Pam Evans, one of the owners of Thomas' Family Market, looks forward to the expansion of the company when another Thomas' will open at the location of the former Bi-Lo store in Dallas.

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Chris Evans  
One of the owners of Thomas' Family Market

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