

White River trustee wins \$5,000 grant in National competition

The National Center of Small Communities (NCSC) has announced that Holly Hughes, trustee for White River Township, is a recipient of the American Hometown Leadership Award for outstanding leadership of America's smaller communities.

Wal-Mart, which co-sponsors the award to promote strong leadership in small towns, is presenting the community a grant of \$5,000 in Hughes' honor.

"The winners of the American Hometown Leadership Award

community improvement projects to help boost the economic vitality of White River Township. Wal-Mart awards more than \$2 million annually in economic development grants to support local efforts to attract new business.

This year, the company will award more than \$600,000 of these grants to more than 200 communities across the country through the American Hometown Leadership Award. The award recognizes outstanding civic accomplishments by elected officials who serve on a local government's board, council or advisory committee in a community with a population of 25,000 or fewer.

"Wal-Mart's traditional customer base is comprised of small communities throughout America," said David Glass, president and chief executive officer of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. "We are committed to improving these towns and townships not only by providing quality retail establishments, but also by lifting up the best leaders who are making a difference. We can all learn from their example."

NCSC is the only national, non-profit organization devoted to serving the

leaders of America's smaller communities. The mission of NCSC is to provide small town decision-makers with the tools to govern effectively and the skills to expand local economies, protect natural resources and preserve community character.

Helen Carlson, White River Township clerk, was one of the people involved in nominating Hughes for the award.

"We are real thrilled, one of the reasons we nominated Holly was for her tremendous work on the channel," said Carlson.

Hughes commented that the award was a great honor, not only to herself but to the community.

She also mentioned that it was not just an effort on her part, but a huge combined effort by many that made the award possible. She noted that everyone who worked on the channel project did a wonderful job, from the senators to the White Lake fishermen.

"It was a good team effort," commented Hughes.

Hughes said that she does not know yet where the township will spend the \$5,000.

"This is wonderful," she said.<



Holly Hughes

demonstrate not only outstanding leadership qualities, but also the creativity and initiative needed to bring a measure of excellence to their work," said Tom Halicki, executive director of NCSC. "Their ability to envision great things for things for their community, and their ability to translate that vision into action, makes them deserving of our highest honor."

The Wal-Mart Economic Development Grant is earmarked for