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SPECIAL EDITION



### Fleetwood Bank to Receive The Fleetwood Cadillac Award for Outstanding Community Service

#### Betty & Ray Buss, Michael Mayer and William Strause Named Fleetwood Hometown Heroes

Friends of Fleetwood Parks is proud to announce the 2027 recipients of Fleetwood's Finest, a biennial celebration recognizing the individuals and organizations whose dedication, generosity and community spirit have helped make Fleetwood a special place.

**Fleetwood Bank** will be the recipient of the **2027 Fleetwood Cadillac Award** for Extraordinary Community Service. The award recognizes a local business or organization that has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to supporting Fleetwood and the people who call it home.

**Fleetwood Bank** has been part of the fabric of the Fleetwood community for more than a century. Founded in Fleetwood in 1907, the bank has grown alongside the community, serving generations of families, businesses and organizations while remaining deeply connected to its hometown roots. Through changing times, Fleetwood Bank has continued a tradition of personal service, local leadership and community involvement. Its long history is not only measured in years, but in the relationships, it has built and the role it has played in helping Fleetwood grow and prosper for generations.

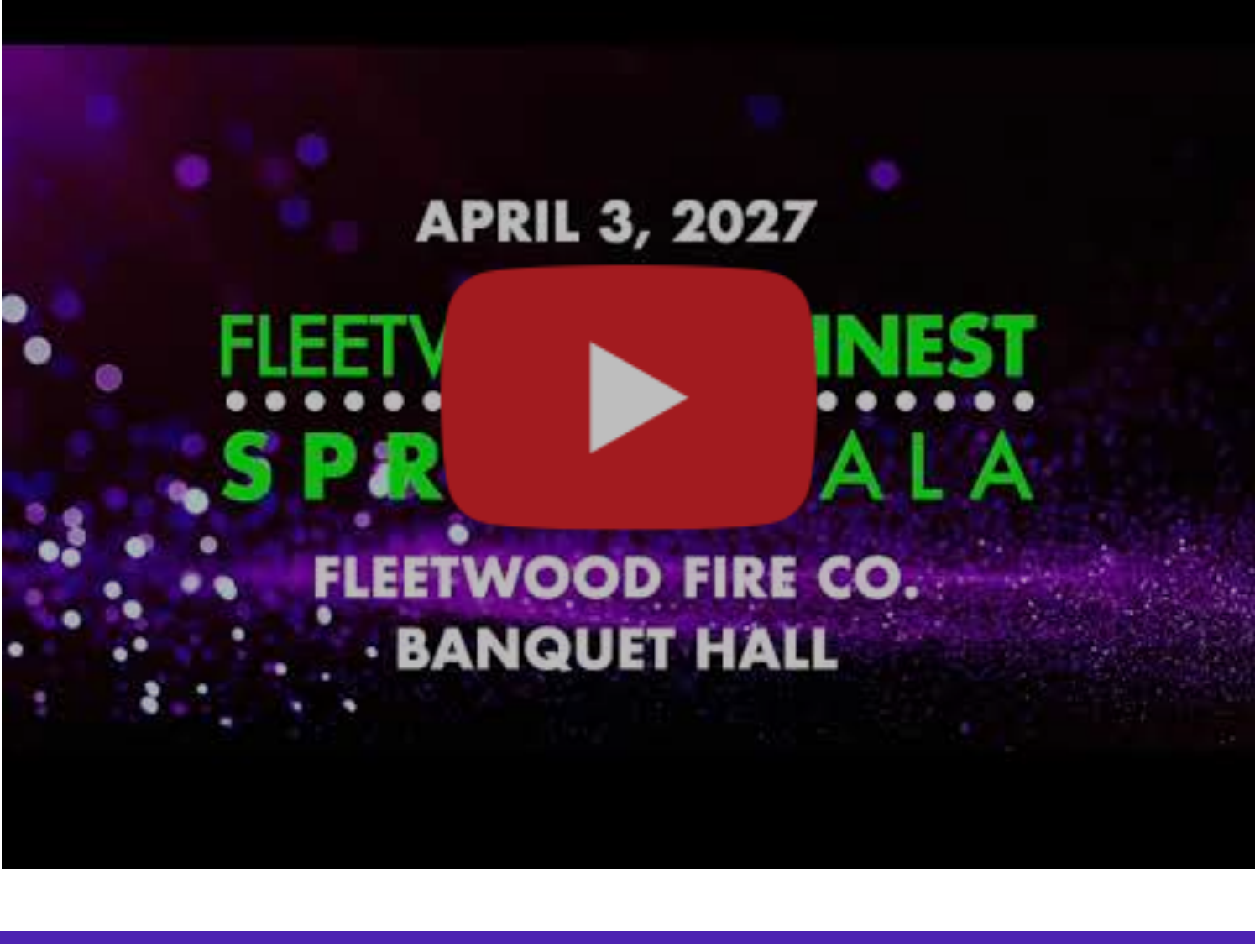
The 2027 Fleetwood Hometown Hero Awards will be presented to **Betty and Ray Buss, Michael Mayer** and **William Strause** in recognition of their outstanding commitment to the Fleetwood community. Each of this year's honorees has made a lasting difference through service, volunteerism, leadership and a willingness to give back. Their contributions represent the very best of Fleetwood and the community spirit that has helped shape the borough for generations.

"For more than 150 years, Fleetwood has been built by people who understand that a strong community doesn't just happen—it takes people willing to give their time, talents and resources to make a difference," said Friends of Fleetwood Parks President **Patty Keeney**. "Our 2027 Fleetwood's Finest honorees are wonderful examples of that spirit, and we are excited to give our community the opportunity to celebrate them."

The honorees will be recognized at the **Fleetwood's Finest Spring Gala** on **Saturday, April 3, 2027**, at the **Fleetwood Fire Company Social Quarters Banquet Hall**. The special evening will bring together friends, family, community leaders and supporters to celebrate the honorees and their contributions to Fleetwood. The gala will feature Red Carpet Arrivals, Dinner, Tributes, Desserts and Dancing to **Erich Cawalla** and the **Uptown Band**, creating a memorable evening of celebration and community pride. Fleetwood's Finest was created to shine a spotlight on the people and organizations who work behind the scenes to strengthen the community, support their neighbors and preserve the qualities that make Fleetwood unique.

Tickets and more information is available at [www.fleetwoodparks.com](http://www.fleetwoodparks.com). VIP tickets are \$75 and include an exclusive Cocktail Hour with the Honorees. General admission tickets are \$50. The Fleetwood's Finest Spring Gala will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Fleetwood Fire Company Social Quarters Banquet Hall on Franklin Street in Fleetwood.

GALA TICKETS



### FLEETWOOD BANK RECEIVES CADILLAC AWARD FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

For more than a century, **Fleetwood Bank** has been a cornerstone of the Fleetwood community, growing alongside the people and businesses it serves. Its story began on December 7, 1907, when The First National Bank in Fleetwood opened its doors with \$20,000 in deposits. By 1921, the Bank had established its home at the corner of Main and Franklin Streets, beginning a long history of investment in the heart of Fleetwood. Through the decades, the Bank continued to grow and evolve while remaining firmly rooted in the community. From early innovations such as drive-up banking and its first in-house computer and ATM, to the introduction of online and mobile banking, Fleetwood Bank has continually adapted to better serve its customers. Its reach also expanded with offices in Kutztown, Lyons, Blandon, Shoemakersville, Wyomissing and Oley. In 2006, The First National Bank in Fleetwood became Fleetwood Bank, marking a new chapter in its history while maintaining the local identity and community commitment that had defined it for generations. Today, Fleetwood Bank's story is one of more than a century of growth, innovation and service—a hometown institution that has remained deeply connected to the communities it serves.



Mike Mayer, Betty Buss with photo of Ray Buss & William Strause

### MEET OUR 2027 HOMETOWN HEROES

**Betty and Ray Buss, Michael Mayer** and **William Strause** have been named the 2027 **Fleetwood Hometown Heroes**, recognizing their extraordinary dedication and lifelong service to the Fleetwood community. Through education, athletics, public service, historic preservation and countless hours of volunteerism, each has helped shape the community in a meaningful and lasting way. Their contributions span generations and reflect the spirit of giving back that has long made Fleetwood a special place to call home. The Hometown Hero Award celebrates not only what they have accomplished, but the many lives they have touched and the example they have set for others through their commitment to their hometown.



### ERICH CAWALLA & THE UPTOWN BAND CELEBRATE THE FLEETWOOD HONOREES

Get ready to celebrate in style! **Erich Cawalla & The Uptown Band** will bring their high-energy sound to the **Fleetwood's Finest Spring Gala**, providing the perfect soundtrack for an unforgettable evening of celebration. Known as one of the region's premier live bands, The Uptown Band has entertained audiences for nearly two decades with an exciting mix of jazz, pop, rock, R&B, Motown and dance favorites. Led by Fleetwood-area favorite Erich Cawalla, the band promises to keep the celebration going and the dance floor full as we honor Fleetwood's Finest.

### GET YOUR GALA TICKETS EARLY TO BE AT FLEETWOOD'S BIGGEST PARTY

Make sure to purchase your tickets early for this year's **Fleetwood's Finest Gala**, as our last Gala **sold out!** Get ready to walk the red carpet and celebrate Fleetwood in style with an unforgettable evening honoring the people and organizations that make our community so special.

Your ticket includes the **Red Carpet, Cocktail Hour, Dinner by Moyer's Catering, Special Tributes, Desserts, and Dancing to Erich Cawalla & The Uptown Band. Beer, wine, and soft drinks are also included.** It's a complete evening of celebration, entertainment, and community—and **Gala tickets make the perfect holiday gift** for family and friends!

GALA TICKETS



### THE 2027 FLEETWOOD FINEST GALA COMMITTEE

Donna Fick  
Jessica Galeassi – *Fleetwood Bank*  
Patty Keeney – *Friends of Fleetwood Parks*  
Connie Jo Keller  
Lynn Kopicz  
Joel & Kelly Schaeffer  
Belinda Stoudt – *Fleetwood Vol. Fire Co.*  
Anita Tempesco – *ANITATrinket*



To have a friend sign-up for the monthly newsletter, just send the email address to: [friendwood@cloud.com](mailto:friendwood@cloud.com)



[fleetwoodparks.com](http://fleetwoodparks.com)

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE BREIDEGAM FAMILY FOUNDATION AND THE MARTIN GUITAR FOUNDATION FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF FRIENDS OF FLEETWOOD PARKS IN 2026.



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