



2008 Citizen of the Year

Peter Bridgman was named Citizen of the Year 2008 — a fitting award for a deserving man.

There are many Berthoud citizens who are worthy of the title, but the timing of this particular selection coincides with the end of an era, and Bridgman's stepping down from the lead role in his organization. There are many volunteers who have helped make Habitat for Humanity the success

that it is — like co-founder Tom Patterson — whose sweat has been absorbed into the wooden studs and joists of the homes built by the organization. The thrift store that blossomed from Bridgman's dreams is a model of successful business management, and the ultimate in recycling concepts.

It's doing so well that it can finance its own new building. It's not just the houses and the store that will shape Bridgman's legacy; it's also what came from his tireless efforts to keep it all going. As a result of his energy, leadership and commitment, Berthoud people have been brought together repeatedly through a variety of fundraising events for Habitat.

"We've got all the pieces in place now," Bridgman said Tuesday. "We have the land to build houses on, the money and the volunteers to get them built. I don't think Berthoud Habitat really needs me any longer, and now comes an opportunity for someone else to get as big a bang out of it as I have."

Bridgman may no longer be needed, but he'll no doubt be missed. In his 12 years as organizer and spokesman for the organization, he has helped accomplish just about every goal that was set. Two homes have been built on the seven-acre site owned by Habitat on North Fourth Street, and there are enough lots remaining to last another eight years; a prosperous and financially viable thrift store in Berthoud supplies funding to continue building houses and has generated enough of a surplus to allow for the construction of a new building; Habitat's annual 5k run has become a signature event and has earned a solid place on Berthoud's calendar; a fundraising breakfast has been established as another source of revenue and relationships have been nurtured with area

churches, newspapers, town officials and the Berthoud Area Chamber of Commerce.

He's not going anywhere — he just won't be on the front lines organizing anymore, he said. "Habitat will always have a very special place in my heart."

"This man is St. Peter, the patron saint of Berthoud."

— Tom Patterson

Through the years

1967 Frank Starkey	1986 Curtis Wilson
1968 R.B. Fickel, D.D.S.	1987 John Beck
1969 O.J. Thompson	1988 John Erickson
1970 Lottie Boeve	1989 R.B. Fickel, D.D.S.
Armona Williams	Helen M. Fickle
1971 Helen M. Fickel, M.D.	Robert W. Turner
1972 John Berglin	1990 Pearl Wykoff
Byron (Pat) Mangan	R. Bruce Fickel
1973 W.B. Hardest, M.D.	1991 Harold "Gus"
Francis B. Nielson	Gustafson
1974 Virgil Barbre	1992 Garnie Kelly
Monte Waggener	1993 Berthoud Fire District
1975 Rev. Raymon Scott	1994 Morris Churchill
1976 Frank Burgess	1995 Tom Jones
1977 O.D. Mayo	1996 Jayme Shipley
1978 Tom & Inez	1997 Marina Searing
McCartney	1998 Tom & Carol Patterson
1979 Dean Sauceman	1999 Leonard Sherman
1980 Flossie & Preston	2000 Mo Stephens
Barrowman	2001 Chief Bill Wegener
1981 Elmer Carter	2002 Elnora McCloughan
1982 Alfred & Vena	2003 Gary Maggi
Winslow	2004 Scott Banzhaf
1983 Louis F. Bein	2005 Phil Pennock
1984 Jerry & Ellamae	2006 R.B. (Doc) Fickel, D.D.S.
Straight	2007 Jen Rotar
1985 Al Schmidt	2008 Peter Bridgeman

Berthoud Arts and Humanities Alliance



"Mayflower" and "Puddle Jumper" by Susan Geissler, acquired by BAHA in 2008

The Berthoud Arts and Humanities Alliance (BAHA) was founded in the early 1990s to promote local art and to bring art to public places. Among early projects were the murals on the Little Thompson Valley Pioneer Museum annex (now known as the Carlson Building), the Clymer mural on what is now the Berthoud Athletic Club and the agricultural mural on the building at the southwest corner of Third Street and Mountain Avenue. In 2002 BAHA added the ArtScapes program with sculpture on loan in Fickel Park and the bank building at Eighth Street and Mountain Avenue. The sculptures in the park came to include three permanent pieces, one donated by Dan Ostermiller and two by "Doc" Fickel.

A long term goal of BAHA was achieved in 2006 when the board commissioned the monumental mural "Berthoud's Roots" which

graces the south face of the old elevator. Dedicated on November 12, the 98th birthday of Helen Fickel, who with her husband Bruce, were major donors to the work, this mural has become an icon of Berthoud and one of the two most photographed locations in town.

The other popular photo opportunity is Walrus and Calf, a life size bronze sculpture which has become a favorite with the children. Realizing the uniqueness and popularity of this work, BAHA is purchasing the sculpture to be part of the permanent collection in Fickel Park.

BAHA is staffed completely by volunteers and all contributions go to support projects that bring the beauty of art to Berthoud. For more information contact David Mineo at 970-532-4902.