

Peskar is named Woman of the Year

July 18, 2010

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Elaine Peskar, a Strongsville resident since 1976, was recently chosen as Newburgh's Slovenian Woman of the Year for the Slovenian National Home on East 80th Street.

Elaine has been very active in the Slovenian community, as well as the local community. She has helped with the Strongsville Historical Society Car Show and other historical society events, she



Elaine Peskar

has prepared meals for the Strongsville High School football coaches during the preseason and playoffs, and she has assisted her husband, Tony, with many responsibilities in local groups. He says that when she helps, it is always with a caring smile on her face.

Elaine grew up in Garfield Heights with her parents, Marion (Magalski) and Walter Michalik. She is the eldest of four children, which include her sister, Linda (Weber), who lives in Parma, and her two brothers, Craig and Ken, who both live in Michigan. Elaine attended Garfield Heights High School and Cuyahoga Community College.

Elaine and Tony (Newburgh's Slovenian Man of the Year in 2007), have been married 37 years. They have lived in Strongsville for more than 33 years, and raised three daughters, Mary, Elizabeth and Donna here.

The Peskars are parishioners of St. Lawrence Church. Elaine is involved in many committees and activities at the church. Elaine was instrumental in helping Tony to revive the St. Lawrence school reunion Mass and dinner dance. She was the alternate for the Vibrant Parish Life Cluster Planning Committee and is a member of the St. Lawrence Altar Society.

Adding to her work in the community, Elaine is a member of Newburgh-Maple

Heights Pensioners, Strongsville Athletic Boosters, Slovenian National Home East 80th Board of Directors and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life team. Each year, she works alongside Tony at the Strongsville City Club Rib Burnoff and the Breakfast on the Covered Bridge events. She has been a member of the Red Hat Society for over seven years. She is co-founder of her Scarlet Orchids Chapter and is currently reigning as their Queen Mother.

When Elaine was nominated to receive the Woman of the Year award, she thought about it long and hard before accepting the honor. She accepted it proudly, but not because of the things she has done recently on East 80th, but for the 38 years she has helped there since meeting Tony and becoming involved with the people.

A dinner reception will be held in Elaine's honor on Sunday, July 25, following the 2 p.m. Mass at the Slovenian National Home. The \$15 per ticket cost will cover food, music by Joe Novak, and the presentation of the award. For more information, call Tony Peskar at 440-243-0312 or Anna Mae Mannion at 216-341-6136.

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Strongsville Resident rarely slows down

By: Alyse Lamparyk

July 27, 2010

Strongsville resident rarely slows down

Slovenian Home will salute Elaine Peskar as Woman of The Year on Sunday

By Alyse Lamparyk
Correspondent

Anyone who knows Elaine Peskar might just wonder what it would take to get the Strongsville resident to sit still for a while.

The answer might just come Sunday, she's the guest of honor at a dinner saluting her selection as Slovenian Woman of the Year by the Slovenian National Home for her hard work and dedication to the E. 80th St. center.

Since 1971, when Elaine first met her husband, Tony Peskar, the two have been helping in whatever way they're needed at the Slovenian National Home. She has mopped floors, helped in the kitchen and even cleaned the bathrooms.

"Stuff I don't always do at home," Elaine said amidst laughs.

While her service to the center dwindled at times, she has never really lost her roots there.

"Our friends from there are more like fam-

ily," Elaine said.

A resident of Strongsville since 1976, Elaine doesn't limit her involvement to just one organization. The retired Southwest Hospital employee was an active school mom as her three daughters progressed through the school system. She held office and was president of the PTAs at their elementary school, junior high and high school, earning an Ohio PTA Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions.

Even though her daughters had all graduated by 1997, she and Tony continue to support the schools. They especially enjoy watching the sports teams.

Since their marriage on April 29, 1972 the couple has helped one another with various group commitments.

Tony is a member of the Strongsville City Club and is thankful for his wife's help. She has enjoyed helping with the Strongsville Special Olympics, Rib Burnoff and Breakfast on

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Elaine Peskar

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the Bridge.

"When she helps it is always with a caring smile on her face," Tony said in an e-mail. Elaine also serves as Queen Mother of her Red Hat Chapter and helps the Strongsville Historical Society. During football preseason and the playoffs she often prepares meals for the Strongsville High School coaches.

"I've made a lot of friends and acquaintances in the city," Elaine said.

She attributes her love for getting involved to her personality.

"I do it and I find it effortless," Elaine said. "I'm an active 61-year-old; senior citizen, I guess."

When Elaine isn't busy with commitments, she enjoys fishing, eating and catching up with her daughters. Her first grandson was born in May and the last of her daughters will be married in October.

Elaine is looking forward to seeing family and friends at Sunday's event, which begins at 2 p.m. with a Roman Catholic Mass celebrated by family friend Bishop A. Edward Pevec, who officiated the couple's wedding ceremony. Dinner follows at about 3:30 p.m. and then dancing and music by the Joe Novak Orchestra.

Since Tony was honored as 2007 Slovenian Man of the Year, Elaine knows what to expect and is excited that over 150 people have purchased tickets.

Contact Tony Peskar at (440) 243-0312 to purchase a \$15 ticket to the event.