

Goodyear All-American effort recognized 90-person contingent gets special reception for work

By Elias C. Arnold

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Goodyear and its All-American City Award delegation were recognized for their efforts this week.

Avondale-based West Valley National Bank and Litchfield Park's blu sushi, a new restaurant, hosted a reception for more than 90 business professionals, community members and city officials and employees responsible for the award.

Goodyear was one of 10 winners named an All-American City this summer in Tampa. The city was one of 17 finalists asked to present to judges in the 60-city competition.

At Tuesday's reception, Goodyear Mayor Jim Cavanaugh presented ceremonial keys to the 23 businesses and community members who donated nearly \$40,000 toward the effort.

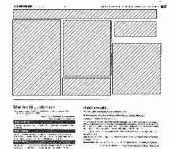
The money covered travel expenses for the 37 people who made a presentation before judges in June, when the awards were announced.

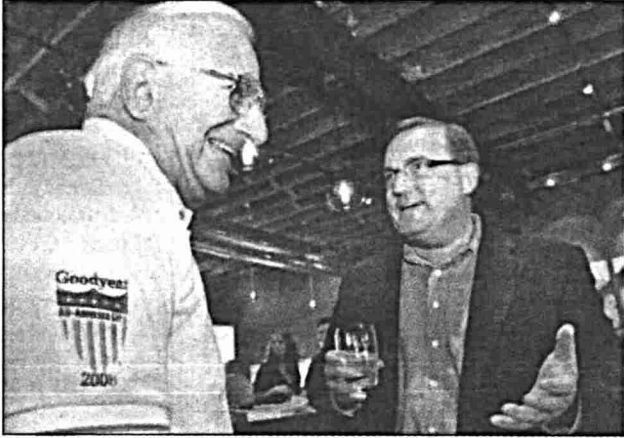
Delegates included Cavanaugh, City Councilwoman Georgia Lord, nine city staffers and 26 citizens.

Cavanaugh told the crowd that Goodyear was the only community to highlight proactive achievements, such as recruiting San Antonio-based University of the Incarnate Word and New Hampshire's Franklin Pierce University. Other cities touted programs reacting to established problems like crime and health care, he said.

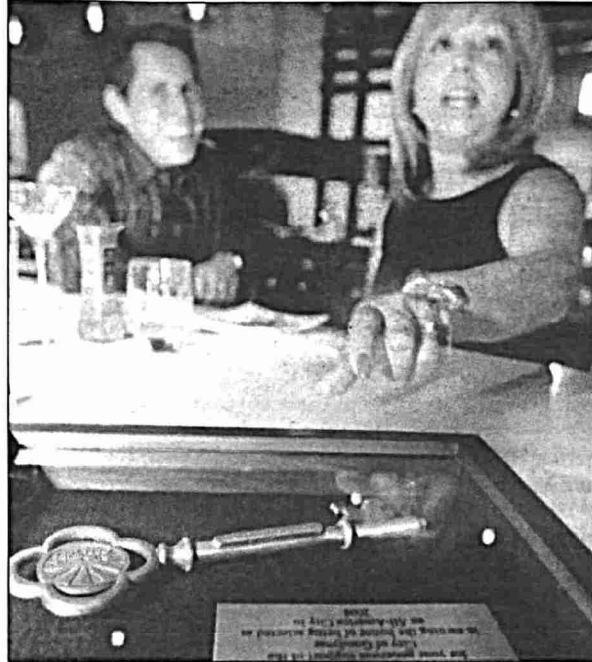
Cavanaugh dismissed criticism that the city held its celebration in Litchfield Park, instead of Goodyear, and characterized the city's achievements as having a broader regional impact.

He said Goodyear's universities will serve residents throughout the Southwest Valley. Also, Goodyear, Avondale and Litchfield Park's joint effort to accelerate the widening Interstate 10 was a key point in the presentation in Tampa, he said.





Goodyear representatives Craig O'Connor (left) and Connie Chavez with Macy's chat while admiring the Key to the City award during a celebration gathering at blu sushi in Litchfield Park. City Councilman Frank Cavalier (above-left) chats with Knox Kimberly of Triadvoates. Goodyear won the 2008 All-American City award. About 90 people put together Goodyear's presentation.



PHOTOS BY CARLOS CHAVEZ/THE REPUBLIC

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