I started the Excellence in Education Awards in the Fall of 1990 (I think). It was in response to a school tax rate hike that was rolled back by an election, and because of the new construction commitments the board was talking about making up the deficit from the teachers pay, and other ways that would affect students. Maybe the Exchange News can confirm the year that occurred. I was dating a social studies teacher and was very aware of how demoralized and unappreciated this was making the teaching community. Consequently I designed a selection process for honoring teachers who demonstrate excellence in their field.