



Sentinel photo by MICHELLE KELLEY

## Top citizen

Ionia County National Bank and Ionia JayCees member Colleen Lance is the recipient of the 1997 Ionia County Citizen of the Year Award at the Chamber banquet.

By MICHELLE KELLEY  
*Sentinel-Standard Reporter*

IONIA — A Coldwell Banker Furton and Hoppough real estate salesperson and former downtown Ionia business owner Arna Gail Spaulding was presented with the ATHENA Award Wednesday during the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

Spaulding was nominated by former backyard neighbor and current employer Cathy Hoppough. Last year's ATHENA Award recipient Yvonne Ulmer presented Spaulding with the award.

"I always looked up to her," Hoppough said, adding while growing up she respected Spaulding, who was a working mother of four children when it was not a widely accepted standard practice.

IN 1955 SPAULDING owned two retail clothing stores in downtown Ionia — The LeeAnn Shoppe and The Other Place. Eventually Spaulding expanded her stores

in Charlotte and Hastings.

When Spaulding decided to go to work with Hoppough it was a great compliment and honor, Hoppough said.

"She is the hardest working woman," Hoppough said. Spaulding has worked with Furton and Hoppough for nearly a decade.

The ATHENA Award is underwritten by Tom Carter Motor Sales, and is presented to an individual recognized for professional achievement, community service, and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills. Both men and women are eligible to receive the award.

Also receiving an award for her community service was Ionia County National Bank employee and Ionia JayCees member Colleen Lance — the recipient of the Ionia County Citizen of the Year Award.

Lance was nominated by her husband of 14 years Jeff Lance.

"Colleen is a good citizen, I have lived in

and with all my life and have never seen anyone who wants to help the people of this community as much as she does," Jeff wrote of his wife in a nomination letter.

COLLEEN SERVES as treasurer on the Jaycees Executive Board of Directors, and as treasurer for their family church, donate time to Helping Hands Hospice, volunteer at a bereavement camp for children who have lost a loved one, and has raised funds for the American Cancer Society.

The award was sponsored by the Sentinel-Standard.

Other awards at the banquet include Ionia Area Chamber Member of the Year, which went to Tom Millard; Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year which went to Connie Scheurer; and the Brick Award for most improved building which went to Independent Bank for its work on the Johnson Building.