

## Jim Gill

### Recipient of the first “Citizen of the Year” award

The Dover Historical Society in its yearly review of the Hall of Distinction program gave thought to honoring an individual citizen who had made significant contributions over a one year period. The award would be based on many of the same principles in the Hall of Distinction statement, but focused on one year not a lifetime.

In December of 2018 the Dover Public Library hosted an open house to display the completed renovation project started in 2016 by Jim Gill.

After ten years as a librarian at the Tuscarawas County library Jim was hired from among many candidates for the position of Director at the Dover Public Library. He replaced Dan Cooley who had served the city of Dover well in that capacity for 29 years.

Jim began putting some of his ideas to work at the library. In 2013 he undertook a renovation of the Children’s Room in the building. That proved to be successful and increased interest in the use of the library.

Encouraged by that he then proposed a renovation of the main rooms of the library and created a “Capital Campaign” to raise the money needed - \$500,000. Prior to that the city had passed 3 library levies over the years due to Jim’s efforts.

This effort brought the entire community together as the funding campaign continued over two years. All the money raised was by private donations.

In 2019 as the Board of Trustees met to discuss the upcoming Hall of Distinction program. Jim’s work came to mind and the award for a “Citizen of the Year” was created.

Jim will be the first to give credit to his wonderful staff of workers in helping to continue the work of the library.

Jim Gill proved to be an excellent example of a person working to make Dover a better place to live and work. The Hall of Distinction Committee was proud to award Jim the first ever “Citizen of the Year” award.