

## Buergermeisters: leading citizens

**N**ine people have been honored with the Herald Times' top citizen award since Jim Mongeau was named the first buergermeister in 1980.

The buergermeister (honorary mayor) honor is bestowed upon a citizen of the Alpine Village area who has demonstrated long and varied service to the community. The Herald Times makes the annual selection, just prior to the festival.

The buergermeister performs a variety of ceremonial tasks during Alpenfest, and rides in the Grand Parade.

Mongeau, longtime chairman and general manager of Alpenfest, has been a driving force behind the successful festival. He retired this year after 33 years of teaching at Gaylord High School.

In 1981, Harold Elgas was presented the honorary title. Elgas, whose efforts are largely credited with the success of the Alpine Village theme, is one of the original organizers with the festival.

The retired bank president sports an Alpine vest covered with pins from each of the festival's 25 years.

Then-superintendent of Gaylord Community Schools Tom Gill was recognized in 1982 for his dedication to education and community involvement.

In 1987, Gill left Gaylord to become superintendent of Marquette Public Schools.

Ted Engel Jr. was honored with the traditional black velvet jacket of the buergermeister in 1983.



Jim Mongeau



Harold Elgas

The former owner of the old Chalet Centre, and a Gaylord native, was honored for a long record of service that included

helping with fundraisers, promoting the school system and helping with the development of the Gaylord Air Industrial Park.



Tom Gill



Ted Engel Jr.

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