

Maureen Fraser
Mayor

Charles Hall, *Alderman*
Jewel Jordan, *Alderman*
Nick Robbins, *Alderman*
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Molly Mehner
Town Administrator

Kristie Diamond
Town Clerk

Town of Collierville

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Contact: Jennifer Preston

Town of Collierville

Public Information Office

901-457-2202

Town Leaders honored at Leadership Collierville Anniversary Celebration

Leadership Collierville celebrated 30 years since its inception on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Ridgeway Country Club. Alumni, current class members, and community leaders gathered for a Derby-themed evening that honored the program's impact and the individuals shaping Collierville's future. Representative Kevin Vaughan introduced the guest speaker, Judge Mark Norris. Judge Norris shared words of wisdom regarding how followers, in today's digital world, do not necessarily mark a successful leader – often a great leader can be unnoticed but leaves a lasting mark.

One of the evening's highlights was the presentation of the H.R. Houston Community Leadership Award to Chief Paul Witt of the Collierville Fire Department. The award, named after longtime community leader Randy Houston, who was also in attendance at the event, recognizes an exceptional commitment to leadership and service in Collierville. Chief Witt has served with the Collierville Fire Department for 25 years. He is currently the Chief of Operations and previously served as the Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector playing an integral role in fire safety prevention and education throughout the community.

"In public safety, leadership and networking is everything. Chief Witt's dedication to fire prevention, emergency response, and community partnerships has made a significant impact throughout the entire Town. We are proud to celebrate his well-deserved recognition and grateful for his service to the community," said Fire Chief John Selberg.

Mayor Maureen Fraser also took the stage to proclaim "Jay Myers Day" in Collierville, honoring the legacy of the late Jay Myers, a past mentor in the Leadership Collierville program and a guiding force for many alumni, including Mayor Fraser herself. As part of the tribute, Board Trustee Maureen Yarborough announced the return of Leadership Collierville's mentorship program — a meaningful way to continue Meyers' lasting impact on future leaders.

This year also marked the debut of a new award: the Jeff Abeln Outstanding Alumni Award, created in memory of Assistant Police Chief Jeff Abeln and previous Leadership Collierville Board Chair. The inaugural award honors an alumni's impactful service over the past year, and was presented to Laura Todd, who was recognized for her leadership in connecting Leadership Collierville alumni and leading a dedicated committee that organized the successful 30th Anniversary Celebration. Todd's efforts emphasized the importance of honoring the past while empowering the next generation of leaders.

"The Jeff Abeln Award holds deep meaning for all of us because it honors the spirit of service and leadership that Jeff lived every day. I am pleased to see the inaugural award go to Laura Todd, whose dedication, energy, and commitment to connecting our Leadership Collierville family embodies everything this award represents. Laura's impact over the past year has been extraordinary, and I know Jeff would be proud," said Mayor Fraser.

Leadership Collierville, founded in 1994, continues to serve as a cornerstone of community development. Through its programs for adults and youth, it fosters leadership skills, civic engagement, and a deep understanding of how Collierville operates. The organization remains a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to preparing Collierville's citizens for the future.

Applications are now being accepted for the next adult and youth Leadership Collierville class, visit leadershipcollierville.org or contact Director Tasha Holmes at director@leadershipcollierville.org for more information.