

Our best Mason wins O&E's top award

Susan Mason, a suburban life editor and coordinator of Street Scene, has been named Observer & Eccentric Journalist of the Year.

She was among eight O&E staffers nominated for the award and announced Monday at the newspaper's annual award program. The award, which includes a cash prize, honors outstanding work performance, initiative, creativity and leadership of an O&E staff member.

Reporters, copy editors, photojournalists and special editors are eligible to win the award.

Mason edits the suburban life section in Thursday's O&E. Wayne County editions (Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Westland, Redford and Garden City). She also plans and edits Street Scene which focuses on local bands, concerts and film calendars, advice columns and reviews of offbeat films and videos. Street Scene appears in the Monday

Wayne and Oakland editions of the O&E.

In addition to being honored by her peers for work done in 1992, Mason took first place for best lifestyle/family section in the 1992 Michigan Press Association competition. She also received a second place from the Suburban Newspaper Association for a story on grandparents raising their children's children.

Mason's suburban life sections were described as "consistently well-written, enhanced by great photos and graphics while exploring varied and unusual topics."

A graduate of Wayne State University, Mason joined the O&E in 1985 as a reporter covering Westland city and schools. She later covered the school beat in Livonia and was promoted to suburban life editor/Street Scene coordinator in 1988.

She is a member of the Schoolcraft College Woman's Resource Center Advisory Board.

Before coming to the O&E, Mason worked for Associated Newspapers, a group of community newspapers based in Wayne. She spent 13 years as a reporter, copy editor/news editor and editor covering Wayne and Westland.

She lives in Westland with her husband, Bob, and their two English setters.

Other nominees were Darrell Clem, a reporter for the Westland Observer; Tim Smith, a reporter for the West Bloomfield Eccentric; Alice Collins, a reporter for the Southfield Eccentric; Beth Sundin, copy editor; LaAnne Rogers, reporter for the Garden City Observer; Marie Chestney, reporter for the Livonia Observer and Keely Wygonik, O&E Taste and Entertainment editor.



Top journalist: Susan Mason, Wayne County suburban life editor and coordinator of Street Scene, is presented with the Observer & Eccentric Journalist of the Year award by Philip Power, owner of the newspaper.

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