

Carders embody Spirit of OC

BJ's owners recipients of '08 Spirit of Ocean City award

CHRISTINE CULLEN

■ Staff Writer

(Sept. 12, 2008) Always ready to lend a hand and their musical talent to a good cause, Billy and Madlyn Carder are this year's winners of the Spirit of Ocean City award.

The award, which was announced this week, is given annually by the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce to recognize people who have run their businesses while also working to promote Ocean City and make it better. In short, the award goes to people who embody the spirit of the resort and the Carders fit that description well.

"We never thought we would be the recipients of such an award, given out by our peers. We're very humbled by it. You can't get any better than the Spirit of Ocean City and I certainly hope we are that spirit," Madlyn said.

Their nomination was kept a secret from even Madlyn, a member of the chamber's board of directors, until they were chosen as the winners. The Carders join the ranks of past recipients like Steve Pappas of the Greene Turtle, Carolyn and Bruce Kennington of Senior Cigars and Bill Ochse, formerly of the Kite Loft.

Owners of BJ's On the Water, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year (the restaurant opened in 1979), the Carders have been a fixture in the Ocean City restaurant community "for four decades," Billy said.

"There's not too many places in town that have been under the same ownership as long as we have," he said.

But the Carders are known for more than their food. The couple supports many charities in town, with a particular

holds an annual fundraiser.

"We channel a lot of energy into that every year and stay active in the various events of the American Cancer Society," Billy said.

Through their band, Teenage Rust, the Carders provide support and some great music for a host of other charitable events every year, including the annual Alzheimer's gala, the Michael G. Mann golf tournament, the Irish-American festival and the Elks Lodge fundraising event.

"We're very lucky to have band members who are as giving with their time too," Madlyn said of the seven-member band.

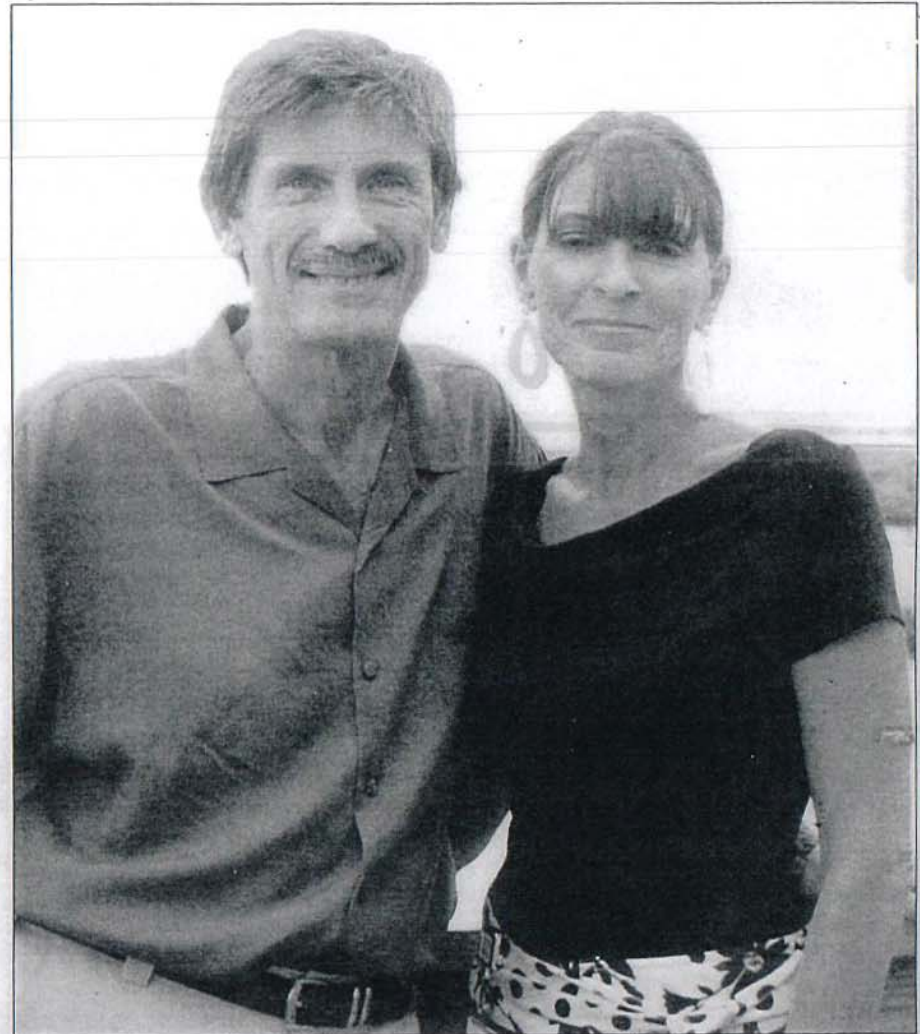
Ocean City is such a giving town, with all its residents willing and eager to help just about any good cause, and Billy said there are sometimes more good causes than there is time to lend a hand. Nevertheless, he and Madlyn always try to give back to the community.

"It never ceases to amaze us how charitable everyone in this entire town is," he said.

Madlyn has served on the Board of Port Wardens and board for the convention center expansion, was an original member of the Ocean City Development Corporation and is a member of the chamber Board of Directors. Billy is a charter member of the Ocean City Elks Lodge and was honored as their citizen of the year in 1999 and is the secretary of the OC Pleasure Club.

The Carders are also members of the chamber, Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, Worcester County Licensed Beverage Association, Downtown Association, Irish-American Club and Humane Society.

"We love this town and we've grown



OCEAN CITY TODAY/CHRISTINE CULLEN

Billy and Madlyn Carder, owners of BJ's On the Water restaurant, are the recipients of the 2008 Spirit of Ocean City award. The award was presented in recognition of the Carders' efforts to make the resort an outstanding place to live and visit.