

THE DILLON TRIBUNE'S 2019 Dillonaires of the Year

"Making Dillon a better place"

The Dillon Tribune's "Dillonaire of the Year" award history

GROUP AWARD

- 2019
Engine 18 Tailgating
Company Foundaton.
- 2018
Jaycee Park
Renovation Committee.
- 2017
Festival of Trees Committee.
- 2016
Dillon Cubs Board
and parents.
- 2015
Wood Bank Ministry.
- 2014
BCHS Board
and Administration.
- 2013
Great Harvest Bread
Franchising Co.
- 2012
Beaverhead Business
Builders.
- 2011
Beaverhead
Search & Rescue.
- 2010
Montana Youth ChalleNGe
Academy.
- 2009
Dillon Volunteer Fire
Department.
- 2008
Dillon Jaycees.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD

- 2019
Sheriff Paul Craft
Law enforcement unifier
- 2018
Dr. Ron V. Loge, M.D.
country doctor.
- 2017
Stan Smith
making big screen dreams
come true.
- 2016
Marie Habener
youth reading facilitator.
- 2015
Gail Kuntz
Santa's helper.
- 2014
Gunnar Maisch
unselfish student.
- 2013
Joe Morstein
friend and helper.
- 2012
Terry Thomas
coach and mentor.
- 2011
"The General" Jim Womack
community icon.
- 2010
John Plutt Jr.
community helper.
- 2009
Forrest Karlsgodt
good samaritan.
- 2008
Ron Lake
Veterans' Park developer.

INDIVIDUAL BVHD SHERIFF PAUL CRAFT

By M.P. Regan
Dillon Tribune staff

He was living the good life, enjoying a well-earned retirement with his beloved wife of more than 40 years, travelling, visiting the three generations of subsequent Crafts.

But just as it had pulled him out of bed in the middle of the night and into potentially perilous situations so many times, duty called Paul Craft. Again.

So he came out of the good life of retirement because he believed he could help people in Beaverhead County live a better life by applying his skills and years of experience in law enforcement as their sheriff.

And he subjected himself to the rigors of a political campaign to get the chance to do that.

Friendly, capable, helpful law enforcement officers represent a big part of what makes living in Dillon and Beaverhead County so special. And Paul Craft exerts a profound, benign influence on both the Beaverhead County Sheriff's office he currently heads and the Dillon Police Department he led for the final seven years of his more than a quarter century with the department.

"Paul Craft has been a great mentor to me," said Craft's successor as Dillon's police chief, Don Guiberson, upon Craft's retirement in 2017.

That retirement did not last long, with Craft returning to law enforcement as sheriff after winning the job through a county-wide election later that year.

As a result, the local police department and county sheriff's office now share a clearer vision and greater determination to work together for the safety and welfare of the people they serve.

Whether he's snaring a dangerous criminal, giving bike safety points to a child or shepherding a renegade goose out of harm's way, 2019 Dillonaire of the Year Paul Craft keeps the peace and makes all the pieces work together as Beaverhead County Sheriff.



Savior

Back in 2016, when he was still serving as Dillon's police chief, Paul Craft helps a young bicyclist master the hand signals needed for safe cycling, in the photo above.

As Beaverhead County sheriff at right, Craft greets a young guest at the 2019 Coffee With A Cop event designed to forge closer ties between law enforcement officers and community members.

M.P. Regan photos

GROUP — ENGINE 18 TAILGATING COMPANY FOUNDATION

By J.P. Plutt
Dillon Tribune staff

The Engine 18 Tailgating Company crew is a fun loving bunch who live life with compassion while spending a lot of their time making Dillon a better place through numerous commitments to community service causes in the area.

As a by-product of their good will, they have created an enormous social gathering before, during and after UMW football games where there was none before. The tailgating party before UMW games is now a thing.

In a 2018 Dillon Tribune story, DVFD Chief Darrin Morast described the start of the movement that has evolved into a full blown scholarship machine.

"I just wanted to try to do something for M.J., and it's blossomed into something I never dreamed of," said Morast of Dillon footballer M.J. Simkins, who died in a house fire entering his senior year at Western. He wore football jersey no. 18 as a tribute to his love of Beaverhead County.

The renovated fire trucks of Engine 18 include one with a smoker, barbecue, two kegs and a full bar. The second truck has two 500 gallon tanks of propane, one for a smoker and the other for a rotisserie. In addition, the crew sells a line of Engine 18 merchandise.

The group attends football games and Dillon events of all kinds, bringing fun to wherever they go. In addition to the social interaction, the group donated one \$800 scholarship in 2018, a number that grew to seven, \$1,000 scholarships in 2019.

Engine 18, making Dillon a better place through fun and funding.



J.P. Plutt photos

