

North Haven honors those who spoke up

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N O R T H H A V E N — Things have come full circle for Annette and Rico Gattilia, a School Lane couple who turned the town and the former Upjohn Co. on their sides while getting officialdom to recognize the smells coming from the chemical plant on Stiles Lane.

Thirty-two years later, the Gattilias and others who helped in the fight to get rid of the smells, and ultimately the chemical plant, were recognized for their work and stewardship of the environment.

The Board of Selectmen on Thursday night piggybacked on an earlier award by the New England region of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by giving certificates of appreciation to the Gattilias and other members of the Citizens Advisory Panel that is watching as the latest owner of the property, Pfizer, spends millions on remediating the 77-acre site.

First Selectman Michael J. Freda presented certificates to the Gattilias, Miriam Brody, Tom Roberts, Hugh Davis and CAP Chairman David Monz.

Several members who couldn't attend will receive their citations another time.

"This is **North Haven's** way of thanking panel members who have contributed so much since 1995," Freda said.

In 1979, the Gattilias started the Concerned Citizens for the Environment.

In 1995, after the plant closed and remediation work started to be planned, the citizens' panel was established as a conduit between the town and Pharmacia & Upjohn, which then owned the land.

Though work has been done over the years and groundwater continues to be treated, a final remedy for the site has been approved by the EPA and work will begin this year.

The panel was also honored May 11 in Boston's Faneuil Hall when the EPA presented its Environmental Merit Awards for 2011.

The EPA also recognized Brody, Monz, Davis and Roberts.



Mara Lavitt/Register

Rico, left, and Annette Gattilia receive congratulations from **North Haven** First Selectman Michael Freda, right., Thursday.