

Colleen McCormick Named Business Person of the Year

By Cathy Tyson



Colleen and Emily McCormick

Photos Andy Scheck

Lafayette's business community turned out to honor Colleen McCormick, the 2013 Marquis Business Person of the Year and founder of Lamorinda Music, at an honorary dinner held at the Lafayette Park Hotel.

McCormick opened the doors of Lamorinda Music in 2009 and through her hard work and dedication recently expanded the business to more than double its original size – surprising news in a sketchy economy.

Her uncle, Stevie Coyle of Mighty Fine Guitars, calls the first location "Dickensian – rather like the old curiosity shoppe," crammed full from top to bottom with equipment. The new and improved store on Lafayette Circle boasts 10 studios and room to breathe; Mighty Fine Guitars is tucked into a corner of the building, along with the Lamorinda Theatre Academy upstairs.

Daughter Emily McCormick celebrated her mom's accomplishments, sharing that "Mom was right" about

a number of things, including "a music store is exactly what this town needed." Apparently the elder McCormick had considered a soda shop or a business as an interior decorator. After being out all day, and finally returning with husband John McCormick towing a trailer full of music equipment, daughter Emily decided that she and brother Scotty should take mom seriously. "I couldn't be more proud," she beamed to the crowd gathered at the annual Business Person of the Year dinner. "Thank you for your stellar mother-ship."

"She does all the work, she's the CEO and CFO," said her supportive husband. "Her persistence has served her well," bringing her vision to fruition. After complimentary send-ups from family and friends, even a video sent in by Bob Athayde, music director at Stanley Middle School, recipient Colleen McCormick couldn't have been more gracious in her thanks for all the support from the community.



Chief Eric Christensen (left) stages a mock arrest during the skit portion of the event that included Joe Barton (Lamorinda Music), Colleen McCormick and Maurice Levich.

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