



~HomeSharing's 35th Anniversary Gala Celebration~

Honoring

**Michael Deak**

**of the Courier News and Past President of HomeSharing**

Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club, Bedminster, NJ



**On Thursday, October 24, 2019, HomeSharing will host its 35th Anniversary Gala Celebration, honoring Michael Deak with the Frank Semcer, Sr. Outstanding Volunteer Leadership Award.**

A native of Somerset County, Mike Deak was raised in a household where community service and volunteering was considered a part of everyday life. His father was the chief and president of a volunteer fire company and his mother was treasurer of the ladies auxiliary for more than three decades, vice president of the PTA and a volunteer at the local library until the age of 86.

After graduating from Johns Hopkins University, Mike decided to return to Somerset County to pursue a career in community journalism because, he believed – and still believes – local journalism can have a positive impact on the community. A foreign correspondent can lead a life of romance, intrigue and adventure in covering a way on the other side of the globe, but a community journalist writes about the issues that people care about in their everyday lives – property taxes, the school board, what developments are going to be built and what non-profit organizations are doing to improve the community.

After working as a reporter for the Bound Brook Chronicle, Mike served as editor of the South Plainfield Reporter and the Messenger-Gazette, which was at the time, the largest weekly newspaper in Somerset County. It was there that Mike first learned about HomeSharing because entry-level reporters just graduated from college need affordable places to live.

He joined the HomeSharing board in 1990 and has served as president. He believes in the organization's mission to help those, through no fault of their own, who are in jeopardy of losing their homes and their independence through an innovative and compassionate program that has become a national model.

Mike was executive editor of a weekly newspaper chain and when it closed in 2005, he joined the Courier News staff where he still works today. He has won numerous New Jersey Press Association and Society for Professional Journalists awards. He lives in Neshanic Station in the house where he grew up and is still growing up.

**We ask you to join us in honoring Mike Deak by sponsoring a table at the event or by advertising in our journal. Your participation will provide an affordable housing alternative to those in need.**

**A sponsorship form is enclosed for your review which outlines all of the different levels of support. Your contribution at any level will truly make a difference in people's lives by preventing homelessness. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Blum, Executive Director, at (908) 526-4663.**

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