

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **hometownlife.com**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Jan 11, 2007

Foundation to present first-ever Peacemaker Award

The late Dr. Francis Schmitt will be remembered when the Garden City Foundation for Educational Excellence presents its first ever Peacemaker Award.

Named in his honor, the award will be presented to a member of the community at a Peacemakers Observance at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 15, at Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium.

An original member of the district's diversity committee, Schmitt helped plan the foundation's Peacemaker's Breakfast and was involved in a lot of projects in the community, said Susan Collins, curriculum director for the Garden City Schools.

"He is an example of who we look for as a peacemaker in the community and we want to honor him," Collins said. "He was appreciated for his diversity and inclusion of all people in the Garden City community. He was someone who reached out to others."

A Garden City First Citizen, Dr. Schmitt maintained an active schedule over the years, serving as a volunteer reader at Henry Ruff Elementary School and co-chairing a committee overseeing a large renovation project at St. Raphael Church where he had also chaired the parish council. He also was an active member of the Garden City Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis and the Friends of the Garden City Library.

The foundation had sponsored a Peacemakers Breakfast for four years.

Held on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the breakfast was a way of honoring King and celebrating peacemakers of the world -- King, Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, former President Jimmy Carter and young peace poet Mattie Stepanek.

The format has been changed this year to a half-hour program and moved to O'Leary to permit more of the community and the district's staff to participate. It will begin with a continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by the program at 8 a.m.

The program will include performances by the Douglas Elementary School Glee Club and Crystal Bell Choir, a reading of King's "I Have a Dream." Shirley Gumina will read her peace poem, Collins said.

Seating is limited and free tickets are available by call the district's curriculum office at (734) 762-6350.
