

Gordon and Carolyn Young Chosen as 2018 Parade Grand Marshals

The annual Stow Fourth of July Parade, co-sponsored by the City of Stow and the Kiwanis Club of Stow-Munroe Falls, is celebrating its 60th marching of the summer highlight with the theme, "Welcome to the Sixties," and choosing two Stow residents as the Grand Marshals of this year's parade.

Gordon and Carolyn Young, longtime Kiwanis members and well-known owner/operators of the former Stow Music (dba Young's Strings), were surprised at a spring Kiwanis Club luncheon meeting with the news that they had been unanimously chosen by the Parade Committee for the honor of leading the parade.



Gordon Young was born in Willoughby and graduated from Cleveland Heights High School. He immediately entered the US Navy, serving at Great Lakes Naval Station and at Pearl Harbor. He then continued his education at Ohio University where he was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, graduating with a degree in Business. A career in Graphic Arts Sales took him all across the US; he retired in 1986.

Having moved to Stow in 1979, he wasted no time after retiring from his sales job, finding just the right connection with the musical people of Stow: He and his wife Carolyn established Stow Music, better known as Young's Strings. "The store" gave him the time and the opportunity to become more involved in the community, and he takes pride in being recognized as a founding member and the first president of the current Kiwanis Club of Stow-Munroe Falls in 1991. Other community involvement includes the Stow-Munroe Falls Chamber of Commerce, the Kent State Aviation Fair, Taste of Stow, and as an active member of the Stow United Methodist Church.

Gordon is the father of five, grandfather of 11, great-grandfather of four – soon to be five! Carolyn Young, who met Gordon on a blind date to the Cleveland Playhouse to see the play "Waiting for Godot," married him in 1969. They have one son, Steve, and two granddaughters.

Carolyn was born in Akron and graduated from Copley High School. She graduated from Oberlin College with a degree in Music Education, spent a year studying in Salzburg, Austria, and did her Master's work at the Ohio State University and at Kent State University. Her teaching career took her from Cleveland to Euclid to Eastlake to Mentor, and to the Orange Schools; she retired from the Orange System. While teaching school, she was also giving private violin and viola lessons locally for 20 years. She is also a former member of the Cleveland Philharmonic and Lakeland Civic Orchestras.

Her community involvement starts out mirroring that of her husband: She is a charter member, past president, and secretary of the SMF Kiwanis Club. She also served on the Fourth of July Parade Committee, Taste of Stow, Kent State Aviation Fair, Stow Fine Arts Commission, Mobile Meals, sang with the Augmented Nine, and is an active member of the Stow United Methodist Church.

Gordon and Carolyn Young, married 49 years, and devoted so many years to the betterment of Stow. Thank you, and congratulations!