



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BURNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL AWARDS NINE ‘COMMUNITY BUILDERS’

The Burnsville City Council recognized nine community organizations and members of the Burnsville community with their annual “Community Builder Award” at their Oct. 20 City Council Meeting. This year, awards were presented to:

Sahro Abdullahi; Sky Oaks Elementary Cultural Liaison: In her role, Sahro Abdullahi serves as a vital link between families and the school – especially those who are new to the country. In addition, she is a tireless volunteer for the Somali community and a great role model for Burnsville’s youth.

Burnsville Lions Club; Ongoing Community Service: With the motto “We Serve,” the 56 current members of the Burnsville Lions Club will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in Burnsville in 2016. For the past 50 years, the organization has contributed countless hours of service, and countless dollars to support Burnsville events, initiatives, charities and organizations.

Jodi Congdon; Burnsville Fire Muster: For the last 10 years, Jodi Congdon has served as a volunteer and board member for the Burnsville Fire Muster. There, her work is instrumental in making sure the event goes off without a hitch. In addition to her volunteer work for the Fire Muster, Congdon also serves as a crisis counselor for women – and has given her time to a number of other worthy community causes. She does all of this, despite living with the debilitating disease of Fibromyalgia.

Fereidoon, Fereshteh and Gholamali Golchin; Honesty, Integrity and Positive Citizenship: The Golchin family was recognized as “Good Samaritans” for finding and returning the contents of a lost wallet – including hundreds of dollars in cash and important identification cards and documents.

Bill Johnson; Dedicated Community Service: Willard (Bill) Johnson has lived in Burnsville since 1969. Since the beginning, he has been a tireless volunteer for countless organizations. Most recently, Johnson became a member of the Burnsville Lions Club, and has been an active participant. As a Lion, he was instrumental in bringing the Lions Playground to Cliff Fen Park in 2013 and adding the new Splash Pad in 2015.

Gary Lally; Burnsville Commercial Real Estate Council: Gary Lally, of Hoyt Properties, was a founding member in 1999 of the Burnsville Commercial Real Estate Council. He remains a member today. As part of his work on that council – and with the six buildings his company owns in Burnsville – Lally has been responsible for the attraction and retention of numerous companies to Burnsville.

(more)

David McDevitt and Jen Waller McDevitt; #burnsvillestrong: The McDevitts are the driving force behind a recent community campaign, #burnsvillestrong. After the heartbreaking deaths of several young Burnsville community members, the McDevitt’s are working to turn grief into positive actions. The #burnsvillestrong movement started with t-shirts, bumper stickers and a group of caring students – and has now grown to include student mentors and a true sense of “community togetherness”

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church; Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): Three years ago, the Mission Outpost staff at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church opened Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (Vita) for the public. With just a handful of volunteers from the congregation, they spent weeks learning income tax law and income tax software to prepare returns for low-income families. During tax season, they serve low-income, disabled, immigrant and elderly taxpayers and help find more than \$500,000 in refunds that go back into family budgets.

Relay for Life; Community Service: Relay for Life is an annual event held in Burnsville to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Because of the planning and organization of the Burnsville Relay for Life group – Burnsville was one of the only Relay events in Dakota County to meet their fundraising goal in 2015. In fact, Burnsville Relay for Life exceeded their goal by \$1,000 – for a total of \$32,000 in donations.

The Community Builder Award began in 1998, and since then, has been presented each year to individuals, groups or businesses that have made a contribution that builds community and made a lasting impact on the quality of life in the City of Burnsville.

For more information on this year’s winners visit www.burnsville.org/communitybuilder or contact the City Clerk’s Office at 952-895-4490 or macheal.collins@burnsvillemn.gov.



(hi-res photo available upon request)

Pictured above are members of the Burnsville City Council and the 2015 Community Builders during the Tuesday, Oct. 20 Burnsville City Council Meeting.

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