



**100 Civic Center Parkway,  
Burnsville, MN 55337**

Phone: 952-895-4400

[www.burnsville.org](http://www.burnsville.org)

Contact: Marty Doll, 952-895-4402



**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 191**

**100 River Ridge Road,  
Burnsville, MN 55337**

Phone: 952-707-2000

[www.isd191.org](http://www.isd191.org)

Contact: Ruth Dunn, 952-707-2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JULY 16, 2013**

## **CITY OF BURNVILLE, DISTRICT 191 AGREE TO TRANSITION PLAN FOR CITY-RUN YOUTH CENTER, THE GARAGE**

On Tuesday, July 15, the Burnsville City Council and Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 (District 191) School Board discussed the future of the City-run youth center, THE GARAGE. The two parties have agreed to a transition plan that will turn THE GARAGE weekend music program over to a non-profit organization, and move after school activities to Nicollet Junior High.

As part of a new partnership known as the "Burnsville Youth Collaborative" (BYC), after school programming at THE GARAGE will be moved to Nicollet Junior High, 400 E. 134<sup>th</sup> St., beginning with the 2014/2015 school year. The program will target youth in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and will offer after school academic and enrichment activities Tuesday through Thursday during the school year. Programming will also be offered throughout the week during the summer months.

In addition, the BYC will enter into a partnership with a newly formed non-profit organization, which will continue to offer weekend music programming, as well as music related classes and coursework at THE GARAGE. Burnsville high school students will then have the opportunity to take classes in music production and design with the expanded facilities at THE GARAGE. The non-profit group is expected to operate its program at no cost to the BYC partners, and would use ticket revenues and grants to offset their operating expenses.

The BYC will be made up of partners representing the City of Burnsville, District 191, District 191 Community Education, the Burnsville YMCA, the newly formed non-profit organization at THE GARAGE, and future participants who provide youth services in the community. A BYC Coordinator, who will be hired by District 191, will serve as the primary liaison for the partnership. The goal of the BYC is to implement a new youth program service model that can continue to meet the growing needs of youth in Burnsville.

As part of its 2015 budgeting process, the City Council will consider funding improvements to THE GARAGE, located at 75 Civic Center Parkway, to expand the facility's music offerings and provide a state-of-the-art facility for music programming in the coming years.

THE GARAGE is currently a one-of-a-kind, city-run youth recreation center with after school and summer programs for young people in middle and high school. It also operates as an all-ages music venue on weekends. The upcoming changes to THE GARAGE are the result of a recently gathered youth survey, and feedback from a "Youth Summit" held in 2013 that was collected in an effort to improve and expand youth services and facilities in Burnsville.

*For more information on THE GARAGE visit [www.THEGARAGE.net](http://www.THEGARAGE.net). For more information on THE GARAGE transition plan contact Burnsville Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Director Terry Schultz at 952-895-4505 or District 191 Communications Director Ruth Dunn at 952-707-2020.*

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