



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BURNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL AWARDS SEVEN ‘COMMUNITY BUILDERS’

The Burnsville City Council recognized seven members of the Burnsville community with their annual “Community Builder” award at the Oct. 21 City Council Meeting. This year, awards were presented to:

Chris and Paul Knirk, Volunteers with Kids ‘n Kinship: The Knirks have dedicated their time and energy to support youth through mentoring at Kids 'n Kinship for many years. Each week, they get together with their mentee to play board games, attend sporting events, ride bikes, canoe and make meals together.

Ebenezer Ridges Campus in Burnsville: Ebenezer Ridges Campus has been a trusted name in the Burnsville Community since 1976. The Campus has grown as part of Fairview Health Services to meet the needs of seniors and their families in the Burnsville area. They have become a number one choice for assisted living and independent living, and the community has also come to rely on them for transitional living, end-of-life care, adult daycare, memory care and childcare pre-school.

Eugene Grazzini, Economic Development Champion: Gene Grazzini has given more than a dozen years of service to the economic development activities in Burnsville – serving as the vice-chair and chair of Burnsville’s Economic Growth Committee and the Economic Development Commission. His insight regarding the needs of business and his ability to look at the “big picture” has been instrumental in efforts over the years to keep Burnsville business friendly.

Jim Schmitt, Burnsville Rotary: Jim Schmitt, a long-time community volunteer and active member of the Burnsville Rotary, has displayed a commitment to helping others on a near constant basis. Whether volunteering for Meals on Wheels, serving in numerous roles at Mary Mother of the Church or as Chair of the Burnsville Rotary’s Fundraising Committee – Jim is always thinking of others first.

Margo Swanson, International Festival of Burnsville: Margo Swanson has been involved with the International Festival of Burnsville since it began in 2007, serving as the event’s chair for the last five years. Margo has been a dedicated ambassador for the festival – and has been instrumental in continuing to build and grow the event.

Tom Taylor, Community Volunteer: Tom Taylor has been an unrelenting City volunteer for a number of years – dedicating much of his time to building the community even while owning and running his own business. Tom has been a crucial cog in the wheel for the Burnsville Fire Muster, as well as an honorary coach of the Burnsville Youth Football Team.

(more)

Vicki Roy, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage District 191: From the moment she moved to Burnsville in 1976, Vicki Roy has been a contributing member of the community she loves. When her children were young, she volunteered in the schools, and that involvement led to serving 20 years on the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 Board of Education. Vicki recently worked alongside District 191 Community Education staff to secure donations to support "Ready! For Kindergarten." She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Foundation 191, a non-profit organization created to enhance, enrich and expand educational opportunities within District 191.

The Community Builder award started 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@ci.burnsville.mn.us.



(hi-res photo available upon request)

Pictured above are members of the Burnsville City Council and the 2014 Community Builders. (From L to R): Council Member Dan Kealey, Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, Vicki Roy, Peggy Ludwigson (Ebenezer), Paul Knirk, JJ, Chris Knirk, Margo Swanson, Eugene Grazzini, Council Member Suzanne Nguyen, Council Member Mary Sherry and Council Member Bill Coughlin. (Not pictured Jim Schmitt, Tom Taylor.)

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