



City of Burnsville

100 Civic Center Parkway Burnsville, MN 55337
www.burnsville.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2004

Contact: Jim Skelly

City of Burnsville -- 952-895-4402

BURNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL PRESENTS AWARD OF VALOR TO 11 YEAR OLD, PRESENTS COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARDS

The City of Burnsville has a proud tradition of strong volunteer involvement and people pitching in to build a brighter future for the community. In that respect, the Burnsville City Council annually recognizes residents and business through a "Community Builder" award program. The City Council three individuals or groups as "Community Builders" and presented the Award of Valor at their Monday, October 18 meeting marking the sixth year that these awards have been presented. Two additional awards will be presented at the November 2 meeting.

The 2004 Community Builders named on October 18 include:

Award of Valor – Matthew Connelly

The Burnsville Police Department awarded the Award of Valor to 11-year old Matthew Connelly due to heroic action under extreme stress to save the life of his grandfather.

The Burnsville 9-1-1 center received a phone call from Matt Connelly, age 11 on August 19, 2004 at approximately 12:20 p.m. He stated that he was home alone with his grandfather, Joe Connelly who Matthew said had collapsed and was "breathing funny." To better describe how his grandfather sounded, Matt held the phone up to his grandfather's mouth. The dispatchers were able to hear the raspy breathing and articulate the respiratory difficulty to the responding medics. Matt further explained that his grandfather had fallen, face down on the ground. The dispatchers instructed Matt to attempt to turn his grandfather over to provide a clear airway for his grandfather, hoping to ease some of the respiratory distress. Although Matt was unable to turn Joe over, he was able to readjust Joe's head to achieve the same affect. To further aid his grandfather, Matt remembered that his grandfather had complained about being hot and so took off his grandfathers shoes and socks to help cool him down.

Matt remained on the phone with the dispatchers until help arrived. Throughout this entire phone call, Matt remained calm. He was able to articulate exactly what was transpiring at the home throughout the call. When unable to follow the dispatcher's directions exactly, he quickly determined a way to open his grandfather's airway by repositioning his head. The positive outcome of this 9-1-1 medical emergency was a direct result of Matt Connelly's clear thinking, calm demeanor and quick action. In addition to the award of valor, Connelly received the Burnsville Police Department's Legacy Coin and the Community Builder Award.

Sam Dalai – Community Safety

Sam Dalai has shown strong community leadership in disaster preparedness. He was a trainee in the first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training in 2001, and

continues to be a strong supporter of the program. In 2002, Dalal showed his spirit to help others by responding to the call for volunteers, and on short notice, traveled to the cities of Warroad and Roseau to help flood victims with disaster relief efforts.

He has assisted CERT Coordinator Russ Lalim with numerous trainings and served as an in-house volunteer to the Fire Department. He has visited with residents at the Fire Muster and National Night Out to encourage people to sign up for CERT training and is now a member of the Burnsville Citizen Corps Council's Council (BCCC) and the BCCC Mobile Volunteer Network.

In addition to his volunteer work for the city, Sam also volunteers for the Red Cross, where he uses his skills as an EMT to help others. As a State Farm employee, he has selected the CERT program for the Good Neighbor Grant Program for the past three years, resulting in more than \$1,000 in funding for the program.

Stone Grove Management Team – National Night Out

The traditional National Night Out party at Stone Grove Apartments – located at Williams Drive and Upton Avenue, - was typically attended by 30 to 40 residents. Most of the attendees were children. Due to new energy by the Stone Grove Management, the 2004 National Night Out event attracted over 100 residents including senior citizens, teens, and many families. The Block Party hit the purpose of National Night Out as a major community building event.

The City Council awards Community Builder awards annually at the second Council Meeting in October. Nominations are accepted from the community and reviewed by the Council prior to awarding. For more information please contact City Clerk Sue Olesen at 952-895-4490.

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Matthew Connelly and grandfather Joe Connelly are shown with members of the Burnsville City Council and City Staff at the October 18 City Council Meeting. From left to right they include

Fire Chief Ron Payne, Police Chief Bob Hawkins, Dispatcher Beth Molstad, Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, Dispatcher Vicki Ryan, Councilmembers Charlie Crichton, Steve Cherney, Liz Workman and Teresa Daly.



Community Builder Sam Dalal is shown with the City Council and Neighborhood Services Coordinator Marcia Honold. From left to right the photo includes Councilmember Liz Workman, Sam Dalal, Teresa Daly, Neighborhood Services Coordinator Marcia Honold, Steve Cherney, Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, and Charlie Crichton.



Members of the City Council are shown with the management team for Stone Grove Apartments, winners of the 2004 Community Builder Award.