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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anoka County Board Recognizes Public Health/Environment Award Recipients

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners recognized two individuals and two groups with Public Health and Environment Awards at the board's Oct. 13 meeting.

Connie Moore, director of Alexandra House, was the first recipient. Alexandra House is a shelter in Blaine that provides safe haven and resources to those suffering from domestic and sexual violence. Throughout her career, Moore has served as a member of numerous county, state and national initiatives that provide leadership in creating public policies and resources that address the needs of victims and offer workforce development options for low-income households. Recently, Moore served Anoka County through participation in the Joint Community Health Needs Assessment, which was co-facilitated by Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services and Allina Health-Mercy Hospital.

Rachel Workin, environmental planner for the City of Fridley, received an award for her hard work to improve the environmental health and wellbeing of Fridley and its residents. She's worked to set carbon and energy reduction goals for the city, helped the city apply for environmental grants, and she has advocated for small changes that make a big difference, such as smart salting, rain gardens, LED streetlights, the expansion of community recycling, and new curbside organics collection. Under her watch, Fridley has achieved Step 2 status in the Greenstep Cities program, has become a certified USA Tree City, and a Pollinator-Friendly Community.

The first group award went to the Homeless Outreach Event Collaborative, composed of the Blaine Police Department, Heading Home Anoka Housing Collaborative, and Northtown Mall

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staff. On Dec. 19, 2019, the Homeless Outreach Event Collaborative and several other police departments and community partners, hosted an event at Northtown Mall. Staff from multiple organizations came together to engage 35 individuals experiencing homelessness in the area and connected them with services. The police departments also worked with Anoka County on Jan. 22, 2020, for the 2020 Point in Time Count, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development’s annual count of people experiencing homelessness. This second homeless outreach event resulted in 48 individuals engaged and aided by onsite staff.

The second group, Invictus Brewing Company and The Topsy Steer, Blaine businesses which occupy a shared space, received an award for the development of a robust recycling program. The businesses applied for a joint grant through Anoka County to get color-coded trash, recycling and organics bins for their facility, along with a 6-month supply of compostable products to get them started. Nearly all of the paper products coming out of the kitchen at this location are now certified compostable, and the brewery has reusable glassware. The Topsy Steer and Invictus Brewing are able to divert about 32,000 pounds of single-stream recycling and around 182,000 pounds of organics recycling each year with their new recycling program.

“The Anoka County Board of Commissioners and the public appreciates the efforts of all our award recipients; they are making our area a better place to live, learn, and work,” said Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. Their caring and perseverance in making our community a healthier place is inspiring.”

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Connie Moore, Alexandra House director.

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Anoka County Board Recognizes Public Health/Environment Award Recipients – Add 2



Rachel Workin, City of Fridley Environmental Planner.



Homeless Outreach group, from left: Betty Notto, Johnna Krantz, Paula Mueller, Nate Hatanpa, Mike Sommer. Not pictured: Josh Kenner.



Previn Solberg, Invictus Brewing Company. Not pictured: Greg Austin, The Tipsy Steer.

DK: bv