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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Wheat Ridge and Wheat Ridge Business Association Honor 2015 Business Award Winners

-Local businesses recognized for outstanding contributions to the community-

WHEAT RIDGE, CO – The City of Wheat Ridge and the Wheat Ridge Business Association (WRBA) recognized outstanding businesses in the community at the 12th Annual Business Appreciation Awards Breakfast on October 8th. Local leaders and members of the business community joined Councilmember Bud Starker to celebrate the achievements of Wheat Ridge businesses in six categories. A Special Recognition Awards were presented during the ceremony to highlight two local companies.

The 2015 award recipients are:

- **Businesses of the Year – Anthony M's Visions in Gold and Quality Auto and Tire Care**
- **Member of the Year – Cheryl Brungardt of Thank 'em Promotions**
- **Reinvestment Award – Confluent Development for the Kipling Ridge Shopping Center**
- **Cultural Commission Award – Colorado ACTS**
- **City Council Partnership Award – La Fonda Mexican Restaurant**
- **Mayor's Partnership Award – Wazee Partners**
- **WRBA Rising Star Award – Joe DeAgüero**
- **Special Recognition Award – AAA Propane**

Citizens and local businesses nominated businesses for the *Business of the Year* and the *Reinvestment Award*. Nominations were reviewed and winners selected by a team of Jefferson County business professionals. The individual or organization sponsoring the other awards selected their winners.

Business of the Year: Neighborhood Gazette – Anthony M's Visions in Gold; Quality Auto Care. This award recognizes a business that exemplifies the *Best in Business* and represents the values of the community.

Other nominees included: AAA Propane, Amici's Italian Restaurant, Cosmo's Retail Store and Dog Biscuit Bakery, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Karebear Bakery, Kevin Robb Studios, Pet Club of Wheat Ridge, and T-Bird Roadhouse, VinylWorks.

Reinvestment Award Winners: Confluent Development.

This award recognizes a business that has demonstrated that has accomplished one or more of the following: made a significant investment in its property, improved the overall appearance of the site, maintained property at the highest standards, or updated their building in a manner to make it more marketable.

Other nominees included: Lutheran Medical Center, Helliemae's Caramels, Kidney Center of Wheat Ridge, and Natural Grocers Vitamin Cottage.

Cultural Commission Award Winner: Colorado ACTS.

This award recognizes a business that has made an impact on the community through one or more of these activities: promoting/encouraging culture and the arts, promoting awareness of our cultural activities, diversity, or heritage, supporting opportunities in art education for all ages or incorporating art into the architecture and design of their building.

Other nominees included: Blu Iron Photography and Mid Mod Vintage.

City Council Partnership Award Winner: La Fonda Mexican Restaurant

The City Council recognizes a company or individual for their overall contributions to the City. It incorporates criteria from all award categories as well as contributions in volunteerism, leadership, and community investment/involvement.

Mayor's Partnership Award Winner: Wazee Partners, LLC.

The Mayor recognizes a company or program for their overall contributions. The award incorporates criteria from all categories as well as contributions in volunteerism, leadership, and community investment.

WRBA Rising Star Award – Joe DeAguero

This award is given to the WRBA member of the year for his or her contribution to the organization and the community.

Special Recognition Award Winners: AAA Propane

A special recognition award was given to Tammy and Tim Glover, the owners of AAA Propane for their cooperation and business spirit in allowing the reconfiguration of the propane tanks on their property to allow the construction of 50 new senior apartments.

Detailed information about the award recipients and their companies as well as photographs are available on request. Contact Steve Art, Economic Development Manager, at 303.235.2806 or via email at sart@ci.wheatridge.co.us.

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