

**CITY OF NORTH BEND
NEWS RELEASE**



January 5, 2012

**2011 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, YOUTH CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD
RECIPIENTS NAMED**

North Bend, WA – Mayor Ken Hearing and City Councilmembers honored the 2011 Citizen of the Year, Youth Citizen of the Year and Community Spirit Award recipients at the January 3, 2012 City Council Meeting.

“We were blessed with a great number of deserving nominations and it was very humbling to read the tributes prepared for each nominee who came from many walks of life. Male, female, old and young; they painted a wonderful portrait of the quality individuals found in the Snoqualmie Valley”, said Mayor Hearing. “The one common denominator among all of them was the gift of giving to others. It became clear that those that took the time to nominate someone had heartfelt reasons to believe that their nominee was the most deserving, and none of them were wrong”.

YOUTH CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

In giving the inaugural award for the **Youth Citizen of the Year**; Mayor Hearing was pleased to name **Miss Heidi DeHart** as the 2011 recipient. Miss DeHart is a senior at Mt. Si who has excelled in academics, leadership, and community service for many years. She has worked hard to balance a challenging AP schedule with many after school activities. She gets excellent grades, exhibits exceptional artistic talents, and serves as a positive role model and leader.

Miss DeHart has worked to develop her leadership skills by attending both regional and national leadership conferences. She has spent hundreds of hours serving our community, with possibly her biggest impact being through the Key Club Relay for Life Team. She has coordinated the Relay for Life garage sale that has become a community event and earned thousands of dollars for this charity. Her commitment to Key Club is just an extension of her hard work in academics. “Congratulations to Miss DeHart, I am confident she has made a tremendous impact serving as an excellent role model for the youth of our valley,” said Mayor Hearing.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

In the process of reviewing names of nominated individuals one person stood out as deserving special recognition not just for his work in 2011, but for an ongoing body of work within the community. “We have created the North Bend Community Spirit Award, which will not be presented annually; but will be reserved for those special people and organizations that have led by example within this community”, said Mayor Ken Hearing. “It is with the greatest honor that I present the **North Bend Community Spirit Award** to **Mr. Dave Olson.**”

Mr. Olson is the inaugural recipient of the Community Spirit Award, and he has spent most of his adult life giving to others. He is a man of faith who volunteers regularly for the North Bend Community Church. He is a man of action, working week after week to serve those less fortunate as a volunteer at the Mt. Si Helping Hand Food Bank. Mr. Olson is also a member of the Snoqualmie Valley Kiwanis, having joined to follow in the footsteps of his father Don and, according to one Kiwanis Official, this recipient works on every single club project including those associated with the Key Club. Those that know him realize that he has one of the biggest hearts in the entire Snoqualmie Valley.

2011 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

There can only be one person named the 2011 Citizen of the Year, and this year's recipient rose to the very top of the prestigious list. He garnered many nominations from community members who reported he is always there to lend a helping hand and share generously of his time and resources. "It is a special honor to present the **2011 Citizen of the Year Award to Mr. Nels Melgaard**", said Mayor Hearing. "We wish to recognize this man whose hard work, compassionate spirit and dedication to the community have made North Bend a better place to live".

Mr. Melgaard has long been an enthusiastic supporter of North Bend community events, organizations and causes. His personal business contributions from the Mt Si Nursery have enriched countless fundraisers and auctions, beautification projects and more. He is known as a man who does not seek out the spotlight for himself, and his actions exemplify a man of honor and integrity, a role model for youth and community action. Mr. Melgaard is a non-stop supporter of youth activities, local music, community service organizations, and helping people in need. Two years ago he rallied a group of people to re-charter the Sallal Grange, and has been a highly involved member ever since. He has been active with fundraising for the Elk Management Group, and volunteers his time to the Mt Si Wrestling Team and Snoqualmie Valley School District.

Mayor Hearing noted "North Bend is a better place because of the special efforts of these recipients who have helped to create a sense of community for all. They deserve this honor and recognition and we thank them for helping to make North Bend the city that is easy to reach . . . hard to leave".



Heidi DeHart, Youth Citizen of the Year, Mayor Ken Hearing, Nels Melgaard, Citizen of the Year and Dave Olson, Community Spirit Award.

Photo courtesy of Joe Dockery

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