

Skutchan: Realtors to recognize 2015 Housing Heroes

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(Photo: Courtesy photo)

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Each year the Fort Collins Board of Realtors gives out any number of awards, but the coolest for me is our recently created Housing Hero Awards.

These awards were created three years ago to recognize FCBR members, community leaders and organizations that seek to ensure that Fort Collins' housing future is diverse, affordable, available, sustainable, safe and healthy.

This is our opportunity as a leading voice for housing to say a big thank you to those who go above and beyond to make sure that housing issues are top of mind and that we as a community continually work to find solutions that protect our housing future.

During the initial two years of these awards FCBR had the opportunity to celebrate community icon Sister Mary Alice Murphy for her decades of housing advocacy, along with FCBR members who serve in a number of capacities including years on various boards and commissions, and community organizations that stepped up following the flooding in Fort Collins.

Considering who to recognize for 2015 made me realize how much work our community is putting into this crucial issue. It also served as a reminder of how important homes are in our daily lives and what it takes to try to ensure that all wage earners are afforded the opportunity to find shelter within our fair city.

With this in mind it's my great pleasure to announce the 2015 Fort Collins Board of Realtors Housing Heroes.

Big thanks to FCBR members Greg Rittner of Windermere Real Estate and Eric Kronwall of RE/MAX Advanced for efforts as Realtors. Rittner spent the past several years as leader for our Government Affairs and represented Realtors on conversations about the city's Climate Action and Old Town plans, among others. Kronwall has spent decades advocating for housing and this year took on the biggest challenge of all by putting his name on the ballot for City Council.

To Mayor Pro-Tem Gerry Horak, our community leader Housing Hero, go huge kudos for an ongoing housing and community focus. Anyone who even remotely pays attention knows that Horak and our organization don't always agree on the details, but his genuine approach, willingness to listen and leadership have made Fort Collins a better place to live.

Finally, FCBR is pleased to recognize the Fort Collins Housing Authority and The Coloradoan as community organizations that have taken on leadership roles to address housing. The Coloradoan's focus on housing affordability has been absolutely crucial to ensuring that housing issues are top of mind for our community.

The Housing Authority's their nationally recognized Red Tail Ponds project is just the latest example how this organization directly tackles housing affordability. Not to mention the numerous affordable housing projects the organization oversees.

Congratulations to each of our Housing Heroes. As Fort Collins tackles emerging issues related to housing, it's going to take a heroic community effort to have success. FCBR thanks those who work to protect our housing future.

Clint Skutchan is CEO of the Fort Collins Board of Realtors. Learn more about FCBR at www.fcbr.org. Reach Skutchan at 970-223-2900 or clint@fcbr.org.