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Dear Waukee Citizen of the Year Committee:

Please accept, and give serious consideration to, my nomination for Waukee **"Citizen of the Year"** **Geoff Warmouth**. Geoff is a long-time resident of our community and there is no better representative for this award.

Geoff has made **true and authentic contributions to our community for a number of years**. In a recent conversation I learned that for many years he played Santa Claus during the annual community holiday party. He has also been making donations, in the form of supplies, materials, and merchandise, *quietly* to the schools, churches and other community organizations ever since his first year in business. He understands that charity in this form is all about helping the community and its members...and not just for a PR photo in the newspaper.

Geoff, owner of Waukee Hardware on the Waukee Triangle, is the quintessential small-business owner, he works extended hours, he knows his customers and he knows his products...really well. Both Geoff and his store are a *"throw back" of sorts, reminiscent of the old time main street hardware stores of yester-year where first class customer service and friendly visits were the norm*. To be frank, the quality of customer service he provides is a lost art and many businesses would do well to learn from his way of doing business. Geoff's friendly, **community-centric attitude** will bring the customers back to the store...and back to the Triangle--where the pride and essence of our town is on display.

Geoff is a critical ambassador for Waukee. He understands what it means to be a contributing and responsible member of a community. Geoff was one of the first people I met when we moved here four years ago. He sold me some light bulbs, gave me the phone numbers of some local carpenters, plumbers, and electricians, and warmly welcomed me to Waukee saying, **"You will like living here, it's a great place."** He was right.

Geoff and his wife Anne are huge advocates for "buying local." On occasions when he couldn't help me with a project, he wholehearted pointed me to another local person who could. He understands the importance of **community businesses working together, not against each other**, for the benefit of the community and models this wonderfully.

It is important to recognize the importance of the historic Waukee Triangle business district to our community. Geoff's store is a part of the heart and soul of the Waukee. I look for every opportunity to bring my business to Geoff's store, and then usually we grab an ice cream cone or visit the Pin Tree Gallery. In an era where big box store are dominating the landscape of the regional economies, it is nice to see "one of the little guys" experience success by doing thing the right way—based on relationships and being a **true advocate for the community**.

Geoff has been active on various community committee and such, the local fire department, the chamber, St. Boniface Church and others, and while he isn't as active as he used to be, his focus remains on serving his customers, one relationship at a time, and in this way is a **true ambassador for Waukee**. *He is on the front-lines of community leadership, doing the people-work every day, with extended hours, bringing people back to the Triangle time and time again. His work matters and makes our community great.*

Geoff Warmouth is a community leader in the trenches, connecting with people, promoting his follow local business owners, and promoting the town he loves. He is an example of how to be a citizen in a community. **Geoff is the quintessential representative of Waukee and therefore deserves the honor of Waukee "Citizen of the Year."**

With Sincere Regards,

Tom Buckmiller

Dr. Tom Buckmiller