

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 22, 2005

Contact: Napa Firewise
Shelly Engleman – 707/257/9378
sengleman@cityofnapa.org

Balzac Communications & Marketing
Roger Archey – 707/255/7667
rarchey@balzac.com

NAPA RESIDENTS HONORED FOR FIREWISE PARTICIPATION

NAPA, Calif., November 22, 2005 – Napa Firewise, a countywide wildland fire awareness program sponsored by the Napa County Fire Marshal's office and the City of Napa Fire Department, announced today the recipients of this year's Firewise defensible space development effort. Defensible space is an area 30 to 100 feet or more surrounding a home or structure where combustible materials have been reduced or removed to mitigate the spread of wildland fire.

The top prize of a \$1,000 gift certificate from Central Valley Hardware Supply went to Donna Morgan of Angwin for her efforts in organizing a community initiative to construct defensible space zones in her neighborhood. "I am thrilled at the prize," said Morgan. "The certificate will be put to good use. I am already thinking of buying a chain saw and other tools we can share with the neighborhood. This will help continue our defensible space effort for many years to come."

In addition to the \$1,000 prize, individual \$500 gift certificates from Van Winden's Garden Center, Whiting Nursery and Davey Tree Service were awarded to Rachel and William Casey of Spring Mountain Road, St. Helena; Rodney Sterling of Deer Park; and Steve and Betsy Moulds of Dry Creek Road, Napa.

The award recipients were acknowledged by Supervisor Diane Dillon during the Napa Board of Supervisors meeting on November 22, 2005. Ernie Loveless, Napa County Fire Chief, applauded the grass root efforts of the award winners. "Each winner expresses the community spirit that makes Napa County a special place to live," said Loveless. "These folks demonstrate how defensible space planning, including landscape management, can add beauty and safety to their homes. We applaud the fact that they are taking responsibility for their safety as well as the safety of their neighbors."

Winners were selected by Napa County fire officials after submitting photographs and a description of their defensible space efforts. A similar program will be offered in the spring of 2006.

For information on the Napa Firewise program, visit www.co.napa.ca.us/firewise or call 707.257.9378. Napa Firewise is funded in part through grants from the Western States Wildland Urban Interface Program.

###

Digital photographs illustrating defensible space are available by contacting Roger Archey at 707.255.7667.