

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

## Welcome and Introductions

Dogs Slide – Community Relations Director/City Clerk Virginia Olsen explained how the Evergreen Program began in 2009 with grant funding and was so successful, the City Council decided to fund it from that point forward.

Garden Club slide: Virginia recognized the Mountlake Terrace Garden Club. The Garden Club plants the beautiful flowers at the city entry sites shown in the program. If you can give them just an hour or two each year when they do a project, they would really appreciate it.

City Council Slide: Virginia introduced Mayor Pro Tem Doug McCardle who welcomed everyone and introduced the City Council.

Next Virginia introduced City Manager, Scott Hugill and other city staff.

Evergreen Slide: There are 24 winners in 6 neighborhoods. Nominees were judged in the following categories against properties within their own neighborhood.

Category 1 – Pride of the Neighborhood or Best Maintained Residence

Category 2 – Best Maintained Business

Category 3 – Best Maintained Multifamily Property

Category 4 – Transformation Award

This award honors owners for a residential, business, or multifamily property that has changed for the better over time, consistent with the city standards and with noticeable change of the past year. These properties have been transformed into a visual asset. This applies to properties that have been unnoticed and are now “showpieces”, as well as real “eyesores” that have simply become nice-looking properties.

Category 5 – Sustainability Award - This award honors a property that best utilizes “green” features to help protect and preserve the environment and reduce its carbon footprint.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Virginia introduced Lisa Norton, the Executive Director of the Senior/Community Center and explained that the Senior/Community Center is available to rent.

## Lake Ballinger (3)

### Janet Wiggin c/o Daughter Sheryl Barth

Best Maintained Residence, Lake Ballinger

We are leading off this year with this well-maintained Lake Ballinger home located on 228<sup>th</sup> Street, just west of 66<sup>th</sup>. When I visited in May, I rang the bell and was greeted by the happy smile of Janet Wiggin, a 57-year resident who took great pride in her property. Sadly, after the notification letters went out, I received news from Janet's daughter Sheryl that her mom had passed away in July. We decided to present the Evergreen Award posthumously to Janet and her daughter who said gardening kept her mom going after her husband Richard passed away two years ago. Janet's smile and friendly demeanor really epitomizes the welcoming community that Mountlake Terrace represents. She told me she had recently reseeded her front and back yards and I noticed the butterflies were enjoying the yard full of gorgeous spring flowers and their fragrances.

In 2013, the Wiggins won an Honorable Mention Award and I thought I'd read what was presented then after I spoke to Richard.

Richard Wiggin and his wife Janet bought their Mountlake Terrace home in 1962. They moved here from Arizona because of a new job. They liked Mountlake Terrace because it was centrally located, had easy freeway access and was close to good schools.

Richard said he mows the lawn, but his wife does about 80% of the yard work. Richard said, "She likes to go to the nursery and pick out the plants she likes. And if they don't grow, out they go!"

He added that they didn't need the recognition to keep their yard nice. They enjoy doing so. The Wiggin family takes walks around the neighborhood and they also see some of the properties that need work. Richard says "Those properties stand out too." Well Richard, that's why we have the Evergreen Awards to recognize the well-maintained and the transformation properties and also why we have two code enforcement officers!

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Daughter Sheryl now lives in the home and she said her parents enjoyed the walkability of Mountlake Terrace. Janet and Richard walked a 3 mile loop every day down 66<sup>th</sup> to 236<sup>th</sup> and up past the library on 58<sup>th</sup> and back over the overpass. Sheryl wanted to come tonight and accept the award but she was unable to attend. She was so kind to send me this photo of her parents from their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Thank you to the Wiggin family for being a positive contributor to the Mountlake Terrace community for 57 years! To Sheryl and her family, please accept the city's condolences for the loss of your wonderful parents and we welcome you back to Mountlake Terrace!

## **Také & Suzanne Furuyama**

Most Sustainable Property, Lake Ballinger Neighborhood

The first of our two Most Sustainable properties is owned by Také and Suzanne Furuyama located on the south side of 226<sup>th</sup> Place also known by long-time residents as K-Mart Hill. They moved to Mountlake Terrace from Ohio in 2003 and they love our city's convenient location to the greater Seattle area. Suzanne added, "What is not to love about the Pacific Northwest...it is always green!" The Furuyamas have two children ages 9 and 13 and their daughter, Chiyo, joined them this evening.

Here's a view of their blank slate after they formed their garden area. When they moved in, the front yard was moss and dandelions while the backyard was primarily concrete. First they removed the concrete and made a small backyard garden, but Suzanne said it didn't get enough sun so after several failures, they moved the garden to the front yard.

When they transitioned to the front yard garden, they tried to make use of recycled materials. They covered their grass using cardboard boxes and had 60 yards of untreated wood chips delivered from tree removal companies. Next they obtained several trunk loads of spent coffee grounds to supplement their compost/garden soil.

Suzanne said they surrounded their vegetables with tons of flowers not only for curb appeal but also to attract pollinators. Také sent me an incredible list of over 30 vegetables, 11 herbs, 8 fruits and 20 flowers that they grow. Some of the

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

vegetables are tomatoes, potatoes, collards, broccoli, asparagus, cucumber, kale, spinach and wasabi.

Some of the fruits are pretty familiar such as a number of berry plants as well as Asian pears, persimmon and peaches.

Suzanne and Také love growing their own food. They noted that it's so much fun to go out and pick what you are going to have for dinner. The downside is that it isn't always easy and it's a lot of work, but it is extremely rewarding.

As noted, their flowers provide color and curb appeal and attract pollinators to make their garden come to life. Their list of flowers includes African daisy, asters, bachelor's button, Blackeyed Susan, bleeding heart, candytuft, coneflower, cosmos, daffodil, echinacea, iris, marigold, petunia, poppy, salvia, sunflower, Sweet William, tulips and zinnia.

Congratulations to the Furuyama family for an amazing garden using sustainable principles and your Most Sustainable Award!

## **Lake Ballinger Estates**

Best Transformation Property, Lake Ballinger

If you're driving southeast up Lakeview Drive toward the freeway, you'll see Lake Ballinger Estates on one side and Lake Ballinger on the other. We've noticed a number improvements over the past couple of years that really give it a fresh look.

Tonight we have several members of the Lake Ballinger Estates Condo Association here with us tonight led by Neal Foozer who is the president of their board and works here at the Mountlake Terrace Senior Community Center; Bill, the association's resident manager and Grant, the head groundskeeper. Thanks to all of you for helping to get the word out.

Lake Ballinger Estates has had a nice transformation that includes new windows and siding, installation of new gutters, a refurbished pool deck, new bridges, and they painted their fire hydrants bright red and one bright green. They also installed new fire alarm systems in four of the condos. Bill and Neal said more upgrades are coming.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Lake Ballinger Estates is also being recognized for keeping their property in top shape from a maintenance perspective. Here's an aerial photo I found online of their nearly 20 acre property that includes 120 units in 10 buildings.

Some of the maintenance highlights include clean parking lots, roofs, and signage; nicely groomed lawns and pruned trees and shrubs. We'd like to recognize Grant Gurwell for his hard work to maintain this huge property. It is important to the city for our multifamily properties to be well-maintained and your efforts really make a difference in the overall appearance of our community!

Here is an interior photo of one of the units.

Here's the swimming pool with its new pool deck.

And the views aren't too bad either! Here's a view of the lake from a resident's patio.

You know it's springtime at Lake Ballinger Estates when you see the amazing rhododendrons that make the grounds pop with color. Neal said that they brought in 70-80 yards of new topsoil to create and enhance the flowerbeds and it gave residents more freedom to plant gardens.

It's not a surprise that there is such a great turnout tonight from Lake Ballinger Estates and honestly we didn't have room for them to bring everyone who expressed interest. Their community involvement has been excellent for years.

Many of the residents came to our open houses and meetings regarding the planning of the Lakeview Trail shown in this photo and it was community input that actually changed the location of the trail to the side by the lake. Originally it was planned for the condo side but when the golf course owners walked away, it gave the city the opportunity to make some changes and design the trail where it is today.

Thanks to the maintenance team and residents of Lake Ballinger Estates! Best Transformation, Lake Ballinger neighborhood.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

## Gateway (4)

### **Manny & Lori Quinteiro**

Best Maintained Residence, Gateway

Manny Quinteiro, who's newly retired, came to City Hall after receiving the award notification letter to ask what it was all about. When I explained the Evergreen Awards to him, he said that was such a nice thing to do for the community. Manny and Lori are here with Lori's sister, Stephanie and her husband Steve. Also with them tonight is former Mayor Pat Cordova who was on the City Council for 16 years. Always nice to see you, Mayor, and I know Stephanie and Steve because our kids went to school together!

Lori was born in Seattle and said her parents moved to Mountlake Terrace when she was young. She shared stories of growing up here, hanging out with friends at the old Arctic Circle and Maggie's Market located by the Starr Barber that's still on 56<sup>th</sup> and 228<sup>th</sup>. Lori said they enjoyed the black licorice ice cream.

Later on, Lori met Manny who lived in Florida and when they moved back from there, they rented a home on Peterson Drive. In 1992, they bought this house from Pat Cordova as Lori was good friends with Pat's daughter, Pam.

Manny is quite the wood worker with a shop in the garage and he's been working on the house. He and Lori have put on a new roof and new gutters, painted the house and repainted their white porch to give their home a really clean look. You can see the difference from this Google photo from last summer.

Lori mentioned that they had a beautiful red maple tree out front near the street where they hung lanterns but it was diseased and had rot so they were very sad to remove it. Here are two photos they sent me that show the beautiful autumn colors and the attractive lanterns placed on its branches.

Other upgrades you can see from the before photos are a new driveway and these cheerful Adirondack chairs on the deck that Manny made in his shop in the garage. Lori said he decided to paint them orange and she selected the pillows. She wasn't sure about the orange color at first but that pop of colors adds a lot of personality to their lovely rambler.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Other accents include a new tool shed in the backyard and garden fountain, and bird feeders in the front and back yards. One final thing the Quinteiros would like to note, the large rooster next to their driveway does not belong to them. It's a landmark for the neighbors who live next door and set back from 48<sup>th</sup> so delivery drivers can find them.

Congratulations to the Quinteiro family for your Best Maintained Award and the transformative improvements! Your home looks terrific!

## Steve and Deb Seng

Best Maintained Residence, Gateway

Just a ways north of the Quinteiro home on 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue, you'll see Deb and Steve Seng's home just south of 236<sup>th</sup> Street where they've lived for 48 years. In fact, Deb shared that next month they will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. She spent some time talking to me while her hubby, Steve, took his daily walk.

Deb said she loves the eclectic and thoughtful neighbors and Mountlake Terrace is astoundingly nice! The first glimpse of the Seng home really shows a neatly edged green lawn raised up with a retaining wall and a super clean driveway and path to the front porch.

In this photo, you can see the raised yard and nice looking cement bulkhead all around. We found a before photo from Google images so you can see the difference.

The clean walkway and cement bench were designed by Deb about ten years ago in order to open things up. She enjoys sitting on the porch and having conversations with her friends and neighbors.

Their lawn is done, interestingly enough, by a former Evergreen Award Winner Doug Cuttrell who owns a landscaping business in the Gateway neighborhood with several Mountlake Terrace clients.

In the side yard that wraps around the corner lot, there's a California Lilac Shrub in front and behind it is a Butterfly Bush with purple flowers. Azaleas and ground cover add color out front near the street.

Steve came home from his walk while I was talking to Deb and shared some of his thoughts. He said he appreciates all of the neighbors and enjoys their chats. As we

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

talked, he waved at our Public Works Supervisor who drove by and he said he thinks the city is pretty well run and everyone stays on top of things pretty well too. He added that the only thing he'd like to see was some speed patrol by police on their side of 236<sup>th</sup> instead of just parking down by Candy Cane Park.

Up by the house, the Sengs have hydrangea, Japanese maple, and a clematis climber. Their home has two driveways and a pretty big back yard that you can see into from 237<sup>th</sup> Street. I had a really enjoyable time talking with the Sengs and learning about their lovely neighborhood. Another charming attribute of living in Mountlake Terrace. Congratulations to the Seng family!

## **Bill & Heidi Weber**

Best Maintained Residence, Gateway

Nominated by 2018 winners Terry and Betty Baker and their daughter, Janice, the Webers' home, particularly their backyard, is beautiful. Betty said, "Something you would see in a Better Homes and Garden magazine. Hope you can go see it." Betty and her family are here tonight with another winner, Pat Eckternkamp whose house you'll see later.

The Weber home is an inconspicuous winner because it's surrounded by the privacy of a wooden fence, pruned arborvitae and several trees. This second photo, courtesy of Google, gives you a little better peek into the front yard from a higher vantage point.

The Webers bought the house in 1998 as they were looking for a bigger house to raise their three sons. When they moved in, there was almost nothing in the front or back other than a giant fir tree up front and a single lilac tree in the back. Bill said they first improved the front with shrubs, plants, small trees, and fencing.

After knocking on the door unannounced, Heidi was so kind to invite me inside. Molly and Clem kept an eye on me while protecting their mom as I was about to view their Shangri-La backyard. Heidi told me a cute story that "Clem", the black dog, belonged to a neighbor and kept coming over to their house. Finally, they learned where the dog lived and let the owners know that their dog was at their house every day so essentially Clem adopted the Webers. We can't blame him!

Bill said after they finished the front, they slowly started on the back with a deck and a new shed.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Here's a photo looking up at their beautiful deck with gorgeous flowers and greenery as well as the outdoor living room you saw in the previous photo. Bill said their son Bradley built a water feature in their backyard for his senior project. He shared that they were inspired by the idea of a Japanese garden. That started the ball rolling for the Webers to start planting things that are common in Japanese gardens and some with a tropical twist.

Each year the Webers have added something new to the back yard. A unique feature shown in the photo on the left is the yard is shaped like a guitar, inspired by Bill's love of guitars. Here you'll notice the Japanese garden theme, intricate brick work, retaining wall, planters, statues and lighting. The photo on the right shows the beautiful fire pit and seating area surrounded by a delightful garden.

Bill said his wife, Heidi, heads up the annual planting, starting off in early spring. The work is a form of "therapy" for them.

This next photo gives you another look at the Japanese garden theme. On a side note, the Webers shared that they were involved in youth sports for over 20 years. Bill was a baseball coach for MTYAA and then President of Richmond Junior Football before his son Michael took over. His son is currently a coach for MTYAA. Their other son, Brandon, went on to play professional football in the Canadian Football League for 10 years! Thanks for all that you've done for the youth in Mountlake Terrace!

Although the Webers do entertain occasionally, their home is mostly a place to relax and enjoy peaceful times with their family. Bill added that this has been an ongoing project for them but he believes they are close to the vision they had when they first moved there!

In addition to creating music, Bill painted these pieces of Clem and Molly that sit atop their deck and inspired my mini theme of the Evergreen Dogs this year.

Congratulations to Bill and Heidi Weber on your Best Maintained Residence Award! What a terrific home!

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

## Hemlock State Brewing Company

23601 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Suite 400

Best Transformation, Gateway Neighborhood

One of the welcome transformations happening in Mountlake Terrace is the opening of Hemlock State Brewing Company, located on the ground floor in Arbor Village at the corner of 236<sup>th</sup> & 56<sup>th</sup>. Hemlock State Brewing opened to the public in May and they offer about 8 brews on tap, 5 or 6 cider options, Diamond Knot root beer on tap, and a variety of soda and water options for those who don't indulge in beer.

Hemlock State Brewing started out as a home brewery operation in Shoreline and has three founders, Mark Dunford, Michael Ernst and Jerret Botch who are in the photo and here tonight with their families. Here's another photo from their opening day!

After gaining a great following in nearby Shoreline, they searched for a place where they could focus on brewing and serving good quality beer which led them to Mountlake Terrace and our revitalized Town Center.

Hemlock's designer, Cari, is also here tonight. She made the interior look really sharp in natural wood and forest tones to set a positive vibe for the brewery.

Hemlock State's name hails from the official state tree of Washington, the Western Hemlock, to give their company a local touch. This graphic along with the exterior graphics are done by Mark and we really appreciate your professional signage and clever use of your logo including the "YAY BEER" sign on the window. If you're an Instagramer, please visit and follow them @hemlockstatebrewing! They've got terrific photos and graphics.

The 2,500 square foot space features an open brewing area without glass, just inside the entrance, so customers can chat them up while they're brewing. As you walk in toward the bar, you pass a retail area that has neatly displayed t-shirts and souvenir glassware as well as a kids' play area. The Hemlock State team wanted to create a space where adults could enjoy themselves and families and their dogs feel welcome too. Inclusivity is a priority for them and they want everyone to feel like they belong there.

After talking in depth with Jerret, Hemlock State really "gets" what Mountlake Terrace is all about – a friendly, safe and welcoming community. He noted that they plan to be an integral part of the transformation happening in Mountlake Terrace.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Hemlock State wants you to know that they are a great place to grab a beer but an even better place to hang out! Here's a photo of the Mountlake Terrace Business Association who had an evening event there over the summer.

They offer seating for around 60 and it feels comfortable talking with friends and not being crammed in. There's a number of seats at the bar, often occupied for loyal members of their "Mug Club" and a lovely seating area in front of the fireplace where you can catch a game on the TV, people watch out the windows, or quietly enjoy the street trees with a brew.

Hemlock State Brewing did their homework about our city updating its Town Center Plan and light rail coming our way. They said our city's planning office was awesome to work with and Mountlake Terrace made them feel really supported as a business. They added they are excited to call Mountlake Terrace home.

With construction from both the city's Main Street project on 236<sup>th</sup> and the new Atlas 236 building under construction across the street, they could use your help to visit and let people know about them during the construction because they are still growing into the neighborhood and not everyone knows they are there yet.

Part of the uniqueness of Hemlock State Brewing is that they focus on producing quality beer (and they're picky about that) and they do not offer food. They do have some snacks but they want you to know they are hoping the city makes allowances for food trucks soon and outside food is welcome! It's a great place to host a small gathering or party and they are happy to reserve tables for you too!

If you haven't been to Hemlock State Brewing Company, go check it out! They open at 3 p.m. and there's parking inside Arbor Village with a door that goes directly inside the brewery. Also you can park on 56<sup>th</sup> and side streets within a block or so. Although it may sound difficult, I've never had trouble finding parking, even when attending events there. Congratulations to Hemlock State Brewing Company on a wonderful transformation and thank you for choosing Mountlake Terrace!

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

## Melody Hill (3)

### Jim & Becky Bowman

Best Maintained Residence, Melody Hill

Jim and Becky Bowman's spring flowers of their Melody Hill home caught my attention when driving down 224<sup>th</sup> Street last April. The adorable white arbor lured me in and I was curious to see inside. Jim had a number of plants and gardening tools out front and asked me to return when the yard was ready. I caught their purple rhododendron in bloom and two comfy red chairs where they enjoy the privacy of their yard and its beautiful flowers.

Jim and Becky are here with their son Greg and daughter Caitlin who sent me some of the photos tonight. When I approached the red front door, adorned for Easter, their dog Sadie let me know she was on the watch.

The Bowmans have lived in their home for 26 years. Besides spring and summer flowers, the garden includes raspberries, blueberries, pumpkins and vegetables.

Additionally, one of the most interesting things they have is their banana plants. In this photo, you can see the ten year-old banana plants on the left and the "fruit" on the right. Jim said the first plant was purchased about ten years ago from Sky Nursery and two others later on from Home Depot. He explained that technically bananas are herbs and in the photo, you can see the small green bananas forming on the stalk. Below that is the bud with petals folding back to reveal small flowers for each banana.

I visited again in the summer when the dahlias and wildflowers were blooming and I'm glad I did. Inside that white arbor, you can envision any special occasion surrounded by their flower garden in an array of bright, cheerful colors.

Perhaps the most interesting thing I learned talking to Jim was that his family has hosted a block party for the past three years after he and a neighbor had the idea. The first year it was held for National Night Out which is on a Tuesday night but since then they've moved it to a Saturday. Jim said they really enjoy the sense of community in Mountlake Terrace and how well the city is run and they appreciate the Police Department coming out to the event.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

You'll notice I enjoy sharing about the people and families in our city. In addition to building community in Mountlake Terrace, the Bowman's children are making their mark in the world. Jim shared that their son Peter is a ranger at Yellowstone; Caitlin served in the Peace Corps and is working for a non-profit global health company; and their son Greg played basketball for four years at the University of Washington and is now working in the health industry.

Congratulations to the Bowman family on your cheerful home and for connecting our community!

## **Kevin & Cheryl Funk**

Best Maintained Residence, Melody Hill

Cheryl and Kevin Funk have lived in the Melody Hill neighborhood for 33 years. Located on 224<sup>th</sup> Street, just west of 66<sup>th</sup>, Kevin grew up here and Cheryl hails from the Tri Cities area. They started out on 225<sup>th</sup> Street in a 1,000 SF home but after having three children, they moved into this lovely house.

Cheryl said that Kevin is a little picky about the yard so he's the principal lawn mower and she focuses on the flowers, although they both enjoy working outside. Their tan home with smart black shutters gleams against the blue sky backdrop and the crisp green lawn is edged to perfection.

The front yard includes a beautiful strip of lawn adjacent to the street and a large, layered planted section that provides privacy in front of their home. The plantings include a Hinoki Cypress and three Japanese Maples out front.

Cheryl said the irises come from her mom's garden in Eastern Washington and the yellow and blue flowers were already there when they bought the house. The grasses were added specifically to make the yard more private. The golden chain tree out front adds a pop of yellow and a huge camellia tree split after the heavy snows this past winter.

Accent pieces include driftwood from Camano Island where they really enjoy beachcombing and an arbor that leads to the back yard. The sparkling walkway to the front door is immaculate.

In this photo, the greenery is just spectacular and you can see how they prune their trees and shrubs appropriately. The Funks said they enjoy Mountlake Terrace and

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

decided to buy here years ago because it's fairly close to downtown Seattle and they wanted a good school district.

It's apparent that Cheryl and Kevin take great pride in their property with meticulous maintenance to both home and yard. Congratulations on your Best Maintained Residence!

## **Abdul & Yasreen Azim**

Best Maintained Residence, Melody Hill

Abdul and Yasreen Azim are the owners of a stunning home located on the southeast corner of 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 224<sup>th</sup> Street. Not surprisingly, this home in Rosewood Terrace features ...roses!

My first visit, however, was in the springtime and their front yard garden did not disappoint with a variety of colorful tulips and azaleas that were just beginning to bloom.

Abdul came outside and told me about some of the improvements made over the past year that make their property shine. Like some of our other winners, the Azim home could have been either a Best Maintained or Best Transformation property!

One of the upgrades is this new concrete decorative staircase with attractive white planters flanked on each side. Here's a second photo from later in the summer with petunias in the planters.

Out front and wrapped around the west side, you can see the new driveway with inlaid brick pavers around the perimeter and radiating toward the house. Abdul said they were talking to the city about some potential plans for more improvements on this side of the house that was full of roses when I returned in mid-summer. The neatly trimmed hedges shown here keep their home separated from the traffic noise on 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The Azim home represents Rosewood Terrace very well with a garden full of roses and other flowers that border their narrow private road. As I took photos, a couple of walkers came over from 66<sup>th</sup> to see if I was taking photos for a magazine. One lady told me she admires their flowers every day on her walks.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Over the summer, I stopped by a couple of times to take photos of the flowers and try and catch Abdul or Yasreen at home. Twice I met Yasreen's parents, Raymond and Nisa, along with the Azim's children. I'm hopeful they will be here tonight but I was not able to reach them since those visits.

Congratulations on your Best Maintained Award in the Melody Hill neighborhood!  
The Azim family!

## Cascade View (4)

### Harry & Judy Ma

Best Maintained Residence, Cascade View

This two-story, four bedroom neoclassical style home built in 2006 really makes an impression in a number of ways. Owned by Harry and Judy Ma, we don't have a lot of details because we weren't able to reach them for comment. However, we did knock on the door and were greeted very kindly by a young man named John who said he's lived there for 8 years.

First impressions of the Ma home are that it looks like there's some Italian influence and there are a number of beautiful palm trees which are not common in Mountlake Terrace. The spiraled Italian Cypress trees are shaped to mimic the Roman column look near the front entryway. Up above the entrance, there's a balcony off what we assume is the master bedroom that overlooks the front yard.

On the southeast corner of the property, there's a wraparound brick retaining wall that looks as if it's under construction since it was not there in Google photos from a year ago. More of these bricks were stacked in this area that features a Japanese maple tree. When I returned just a few days ago, this wall was completed but I couldn't get photos because it was pouring down rain.

Lovely red tulips provide bright accents throughout the yard. In this photo, the Roman column theme continues leading the guest along a patterned walkway to the east side of the house where you'll find the driveway and garage entrance. The walkways and driveway are very clean and well maintained.

To the right of the garage is another side yard that's been converted from grass to brick with an assortment of trees and privacy shrubs. It's a unique property on an

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

interesting street that features other neoclassical style homes. Congratulations to the Ma family for your Best Maintained Property!

## **Lauren Eck & Hua Nguyen**

Best Transformation, Cascade View

Lauren and her husband Hua have lived in Mountlake Terrace for about 3 years. They moved here because of the city's convenient location and they could get more house in Mountlake Terrace than they could in Seattle. Lauren said Mountlake Terrace feels like a small town even though it is in a large metropolitan area and there is a strong sense of community here.

I first visited last spring when they had just received a large delivery of bark that you can catch a glimpse of in this photo. They've been adding it around the yard one area at a time.

In the next photo, you can see what a huge transformation they have accomplished in just three years. This is the Google photo from 2015, just before they purchased the house. What a difference! The yard was full of weeds and uncared for and the house looked abandoned.

Now back to the transformation!

When asked about the garden near the street, Lauren said they try to keep that area looking pretty throughout the year. She said they have some crocuses for early blooms, followed by tulips and daffodils. They also have California poppies, a daisy plant and echinacea that bloom during the summer. In addition, they have rosemary and a couple of heuchera also known as coral bells for year round color and structure. Here is a photo of their lilac tree in bloom last April with a small birdhouse hanging from it.

When I returned in late summer, I saw these fantastic dahlias that were planted in raised beds they added this year. Lauren said they planted the dahlia tubers last spring and here are several photos showing their beauty.

Future plans to keep the amazing transformation going include adding a new shed this fall and finishing the fence. They also want to continue to improve the front yard and add some additional plants. Even without these improvements, their home definitely stood out in their Cascade View neighborhood. Lauren and Hua,

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

thank you for taking such great pride in your property and serving as an example to your neighbors. Your transformation is a part of the makeover our city is now experiencing. Congratulations and welcome to Mountlake Terrace!

## **Danielle & Aaron Malins**

Best Transformation, Cascade View

Aaron and Danielle Malins moved into their lovely home on Halloween in 1996. They live right on the border of the Cascade View and Cedar Terrace neighborhood on 222<sup>nd</sup> Street between 44<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

I met Danielle when I came by last spring to take photos and learned that her husband Aaron has been in the construction industry and currently works in a quarry. She said Aaron used to design parks so it makes a lot of sense given Aaron's background that their yard looks like a park! We are recognizing the Malins for their wonderful transformation of both home and yard although they admit that they are still working on some things including the driveway that's coming next.

The Malins' transformation began in the spring of 2016 when they tore off the siding and installed Hardie Plank siding. Danielle said the bottom color is called Monterey Taupe and the top lighter color is called "Cobblestone" and you can see the scalloped pattern. The white band in the middle, I learned is called a belly band which is a layman's term for a decorative horizontal band around the house.

It was important to the Malins for their home to be visually distinctive so in addition to the new siding, they installed a cedar timber porch cover to give their house a northwest feel. They like the way it screens out the rain while they get their keys out.

This year, the Malins tackled the yard project. They previously had retaining walls up closer to the house as shown here but due to the clay-like soil and sloped front yard that lost moisture, their yard just didn't do well. So they designed a retaining wall to elevate and level the front yard and added sod this past spring. Danielle and Aaron have cleaned out the planted areas that feature three maple trees, two reds and a green, plus beauty bark, seasonal flowers and plants.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

The Malins have two children – their son is a senior at Mountlake Terrace High School and their daughter has the designer interest of her parents majoring in architecture with a minor in construction management from Cal Poly.

Even though their work is not yet completed, we knew it was worthy of an Evergreen Award because their beautiful home really stands apart in their neighborhood. The neighbors have noticed too telling them that they're making them look bad.

Congratulations to Danielle and Aaron Malins! Best Transformation, Cascade View neighborhood!

## **Andrew & Ramona McBeth**

Best Transformation, Cascade View

Just north of 220<sup>th</sup> Street on 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue, you'll see a newer home built in 2014 and owned by Andrew and Ramona McBeth. As I walked up to the cheerful red front door, I was greeted by their cat, and unfortunately, I didn't get a photo so we are sticking with the dog theme tonight.

Ramona stopped for a second but was in a rush with three kids in tow heading to the car. One of the lovely young girls said to me, "It was my birthday yesterday!"

Having purchased their brand new home in 2014, it appeared that their landscaping needed some attention as shown in the "before" photo. Those sad arborvitae shrubs soon gave way to a rounded garden that features a number of plants, flowers, young trees and beauty bark.

The clean driveway is flanked by brick pavers and the stacked stone facade give the neighborhood a much needed modern look. I tried to reach the McBeths for more information but I wasn't able to but we congratulate them on a nice transformation in their Cascade View neighborhood! The McBeths!

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

## Safeway

4301 212<sup>th</sup> Street SW

Best Transformation, Cascade View

Last June, the City of Mountlake Terrace joined hundreds of customers, employees and officials for the grand re-opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Mountlake Terrace Safeway located at 4301 212<sup>th</sup> Street SW. The store employs about 100 people and the transition is a result of the grocery chain merger between Albertsons and Safeway. Store Manager Mike Speed is with us tonight.

The transformation includes upgrades both inside and out. On the outside, you'll notice new signage, paint and a restriped parking lot. The entrance is clean and uncluttered.

The 50,000 square foot store has a new design with upgraded specialty departments and exciting new features including an expanded produce department with a variety of organic and locally-grown produce and a fresh cut fruit and vegetable center, a deluxe deli, and a full-service enhanced meat and seafood department. Here you can see the impressive visual display of produce that makes it fun to shop there! And a second photo of the amazing produce display!

A fun and creative feature that gives this Safeway store a local flair is the signage above the aisles. Each aisle has a number and a name that corresponds to local streets, parks and facilities as Safeway really works hard to localize the store and be relatable to the customer. In the current photo you can see LaPierre Drive, Jack Long Park and Evergreen Playfield. In this photo, you can see Hawk Way, Scriber Creek, and Lyon Creek.

At the Evergreen Awards, we try and shop locally as much as possible and tonight's cake came from Safeway. We like to buy photo cakes for special events and this is the third one we've ordered since June and the customer service we receive at Safeway's bakery department is outstanding. We highly recommend them for your next event!

Safeway has been a good community partner as well. During their ribbon cutting ceremony, Store Manager Mike Speed presented a check for \$5,000 to the Concern for Neighbors Food Bank in Mountlake Terrace and there were several \$300 gift cards and free bags of groceries given away. Mayor Pro Tem McCardle addressed the large crowd of people that were there in hopes of winning one of the giveaways.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

We are pleased to welcome Safeway to Mountlake Terrace. Your remodel looks terrific and we appreciate your investment in our people and in our community.

## Town Center (4)

### **Mike & Kelly Toohey & Rian Hayward, Builder**

Best Transformation, Town Center

Mike and Kelly Toohey are here tonight with their newborn baby in recognition of a Best Transformation Award in the Town Center neighborhood. Their two-story, five bedroom home was constructed in 2015-2016 and built by Rian Hayward of Cascade General Contracting. It's located on 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 228<sup>th</sup> Street SW.

Although it's a relatively new house, the Tooheys have maintained it at a high level which is terrific considering they have a brand new baby. The Toohey family is new to Mountlake Terrace having met on the East Coast in school and located in Washington since Kelly grew up here. Mike said they wanted to be somewhere between work in Seattle and family in Snohomish, and Mountlake Terrace is a nice suburban type of place.

The Tooheys like the large number of park properties here and Mike said the city seems to be growing. Since moving here, Mike added that they realize how lucky they are being so close to the school track, Double DD Meats and Diamond Knot brewpub (and don't forget our brand new Hemlock State Brewing Company), the Cinebarre theatre, and library (just to name a few of their favorites)! Mike said they especially love Tour de Terrace and look forward to it all year!

Here are two before photos – one of the old house in 2011 and one showing the new house under construction in 2015. Since this is the first lawn they've had to take care of, Mike said they had a lot of trouble with weeds at first but TruGreen has helped them manage it.

This before photo shows the old foundation of that blue house you just saw complete with weeds as Mike mentioned. And the current photo shows how great that Tru Green is working and their gorgeous fire pit complete with flagstone pad and steps to the back of the house.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Although they don't spend too much time on the front porch, I took a photo of Kelly's craft work. She took some old bottles and a table with chairs, cleaned them up and added new paint to create a cute little sitting area.

Out front is a Japanese cherry tree. Mike said it was so hot the first summer they moved in, they were worried it wouldn't take. But they are very pleased that it is growing so quickly!

I was unable to get any more details from the builder about the transformation but there are a lot of new investors looking to take advantage of the city's close proximity to Seattle and future light rail station.

Congratulations to the Toohey family and Builder Rian Hayward for another successful transformation in Mountlake Terrace. We are glad you enjoy this community!

## **Chris & Cory Bottman**

Best Maintained Residence, Town Center

I met Chris and Cory Bottman along with their dog Maia last spring. Maia met me when I knocked on the door of their mint green home in the Town Center neighborhood. Unfortunately, I didn't get a photo of her for the Dogs of Evergreen slide shown earlier. The Bottmans are located on the one-way street between 52<sup>nd</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenues on 221<sup>st</sup> Street.

The Bottman home is a 1960 rambler located in one of the older areas of the city that formed during the boom after incorporation. It's a simple house that is kept very well maintained with a crisp cut green lawn, edged carefully, with shrubs and flowers pruned appropriately under the front windows.

Over the past few years, you can see that they put in a new driveway and fence shown in this photo as well as a new roof and fresh paint. In the next slide, you'll see a lovely Capistrano Rhododendron in a soft yellow shade and further up the tidy walkway, you'll see an assortment of azaleas that add color and curb appeal.

Chris's mom Jacqueline owns the house that he and Cory reside in and maintain. If the name Bottman rings a bell, I suspect they are likely members of the Roger Bottman family. Roger owned the iconic Rogers Market in the Town Center and

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

after he passed away, the family ended up selling the property. But the family store they ran for years was beloved by many Town Center residents.

I didn't hear back from Chris and Cory, so I'm assuming they are not here tonight. Congratulations on a Best Maintained Award and taking pride in your property. The Bottmans!

## **Jeff Hixson**

Best Maintained Residence, Town Center

Just before you reach the Bottman home on the north side of 221<sup>st</sup>, you'll find Jeff Hixson's house. The friendly blue door stands out against the lighter blue shade and crisp white trim and it looks very welcoming.

The front yard mowing lines looks as if it's being maintained by the ground crew at T-Mobile Park! I spotted Jeff's home last year after we had chosen the winners for 2018 and put him on the watch list for this year. He had just finished mowing which was no surprise!

Jeff's home is simple with a focus on keeping his lawn green and clean! The front deck, steps and walkway are super tidy and it appears from this older photo found on Google that some shrubs were removed, the porch was enclosed and the house was painted in a fresh blue hue. These improvements really leave a positive impression as you drive or walk past.

Here you can see the transformation from a little higher vantage point.

It's clear that Jeff takes a lot of pride in his Town Center rambler and tonight we congratulate you on a job well done! Jeff Hixson!

## **Beate Brownell**

Most Sustainable Property, Town Center

I spoke to Beate's son Tommy when I was by there in the spring, admiring these gorgeous tulips. Beate is here tonight with her son Tommy. Tommy said his mom does all the work and while I was there, one of their chihuahuas, either Lilly or Bunny came out. I don't know which one it was.

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Beate Brownell moved to Seattle from Las Vegas in 2015 to start work as a nurse at Children's Hospital. She said she stayed in an AirBnB for five weeks until she got an apartment at Arbor Village. As it turned out, she only rented there a month because her offer on this home was accepted. She moved in four years ago in July.

Beate chose Mountlake Terrace because of the close proximity to the ice skating rinks in the area, and it appeared to be an easy commute to work. Then she added, "And it is!" Beate's a recreational hockey player and for those that don't know it, our city has an Olympic-sized ice rink!

Beate said no one had lived in this house for over a year when she moved in. The house was in great shape, but the yard was a disaster. Over the next year, she excavated the weeds and overgrown plants, discovered buried flagstone paths, made new paths, uncovered hidden rose bushes among the weeds, and much more.

Surprisingly, Beate said she had no gardening experience. She explained the learning process has been a lot of fun as she figures out gardening principles and how nature works. She said she usually buys sad looking plants from the clearance shelf because it gives her such joy to rehabilitate a plant and watch it thrive. She added that it's also extremely therapeutic for her when she's not at work. Beate said she likes to spend as much of her free time as possible 'playing in the dirt', thinking and praying for those she has cared for at work and for her family and friends.

Her goals for the garden are to transform it into a Food Forest consisting of different layers of annual and perennial food producing plants from fruit trees, to bushes, to ground cover plants and then root vegetables. Among these plants are existing flowers and other growth to attract pollinators in the summer.

Beate said it will take years for these plants to mature, but she will be patient. She uses homemade compost and free woodchips to improve the quality of the soil. She plans to install rain barrels this winter; she just needs to buy them! She said she's learned that less is more, and that all she needs to do is provide a natural, nutrient-rich environment where the soil is covered, and the worms and other microbial life in the soil will do the work for her.

Beate loves her garden because it provides so much more than just pretty flowers and food. She loves saying hi to her neighbors as they walk by and she enjoys this community of people that look out for each other. Beate said she's so happy to call

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

this neighborhood her home and we are so glad you are here! Congratulations on your Most Sustainable Property Award!

## Cedar Terrace (5)

### Pat Eckternkamp

Best Maintained Residence, Cedar Terrace

Pat Eckternkamp has lived in her Cedar Terrace home for 55 years! Located on 226<sup>th</sup> Street, just a little east of 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pat said with a laugh that “She’s the old broad on her street.” Last year Pat nominated her neighbors Terry and Betty Baker and attended this event when they won. This year, they are attending with her and Pat’s daughter Amy.

Pat said when they bought their new house in 1964, you had to plant your own lawn. Back then she said the children roamed the streets and were in and out of each others’ homes visiting friends and neighbors. It was a very family-oriented place to raise your family, she added.

Pat has a nicely trimmed and maintained front yard with a rocked in planted area in the front and back yards. The stately green maple tree out front is called a Coral Branch Maple and Pat said it turns a wonderful yellow in October that only lasts a couple of weeks. Here’s a photo of it turning color last week.

Inside the divider, she has a semi-private seating area near the front porch where she enjoys sitting outside to eat or enjoy a glass of wine with the Bakers. She said they come over if they see her outside.

On the side yard, Pat has two rain barrels that she purchased for \$25 each at a special event at McCollum Park. The back yard includes a Japanese maple tree and a number of rhodies that create a park-like feel. In addition, she’s got a large deck with privacy lattice and a brick walkway to her shed.

I noticed that Pat’s roof looks really clean and asked her if it was new. She responded that it was new when she retired which was 15 years ago. Pat said that her dearly departed husband jokingly said he would come and hit her if she didn’t maintain it, so she ensures her home is well-taken care of. She takes great care to

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

make sure the roof is cleaned, the vinyl siding is kept up and the lawn is trimmed and edged.

Pat, your hubby would be proud of the job you've done to maintain the home you enjoyed together for so many years! Congratulations on your Best Maintained property! Pat Eckternkamp!

## **Dick & Tami McKinley**

Best Maintained Residence, Cedar Terrace

Dick and Tami McKinley have lived in their Cedar Terrace home for 15 years. You might know their neighborhood as the Christmas lights neighborhood just east of 42<sup>nd</sup> Place on 227<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Place.

Their home and yard maintenance is a team effort. Tami does most of the inside work with Dick maintaining the outside. According to Tami, their dog Sasha oversees everything and here you see her patrolling the property! The McKinleys have a cute front porch adorned with a red bench, red chairs and lovely flowers.

Most of the plants in the McKinley's yard were purchased from Sunnyside Nursery in Lake Stevens which must be good because I've heard about it from previous winners. Tami said they offer a free landscaping consultation when you purchase a certain number of plants. The McKinleys have three berry bushes and have dabbled in green beans, tomatoes and zucchini in the past. This year they tried sweet peas and they looked cute when I visited.

This big tree was there when they moved in and Tami said Dick has a bittersweet relationship with it. The tree is pretty and provides nice shade but it grows like a weed so to keep it from being huge he has to prune it back every year. Tami added that she LOVES their rose bush called Knockout Rose. She said it blooms like crazy! They also have pretty orange day lilies.

A true story... You might notice that Dick McKinley bears a strong resemblance to a certain somebody who lives at the North Pole. So much so, he helps out Mr. Claus during the holidays.

Since they live in the Christmas lights neighborhood, they hand out candy canes on Halloween to the kids and discreetly give business cards for Dick's side job to the parents. The expressions on the kids' faces are priceless as they are shocked to see

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Santa sitting in the red chairs. Tami said they love watching the parents at the end of the driveway just cracking up and then sneaking up to ask if they can have a family picture with Santa.

The McKinleys love the tradition and look forward to it every year. They are very popular on the Trick or Treating map. Last year they had over 60 kids visit while their neighbor got fewer than 10 kids. You can find Dick and Tami on Facebook at SantaMac.

Besides having such a lovely house, we appreciate how you make the community fun! Congratulations to the McKinley family! Best Maintained Residence, Cedar Terrace.

## **Benjamin Johnson**

Best Transformation, Cedar Terrace

Located across Cedar Way from the shopping center on a sloped lot on 229<sup>th</sup> Place, you'll find Benjamin Johnson's immaculate house. A daylight Rambler with five bedrooms, the home also features a double garage door at the top of the property. We did not hear back from Ben, so we don't expect him here tonight. However, we have discerned from the photos that he is a Seahawks fan due to the large 12 flag hanging proudly over the garage.

The red front door and house number sign catch your attention and are one of the updates over the last couple of years as well as fresh paint and a large tree pruned way back, weeded flower beds, and pruned shrubbery. Here's the "before" photo.

You'll notice how nicely maintained the flower beds are in this "after" photo. This area includes a variety of tulips, azaleas and rhododendrons and other online images showed pretty pink roses and dahlias in summer.

We would have loved to have learned more about this wonderful home that's undergone some great improvements the last two years but we are happy to share what we do know with everyone here tonight.

Congratulations to Benjamin Johnson!

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

## Sharon Knudsen

Best Maintained Residence, Cedar Terrace

Sharon Knudsen lives in this Cedar Terrace home located on 222<sup>nd</sup> Street about midway between 48<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> with her son Keith. A number of seasonal color spots out front caught my attention when I drove by so I doubled back. Sharon has been renting this home for the past four years and she's here tonight with son, Keith, her other son Ken, his wife Sheila and their landlords, the Faheys.

As I approached, I noticed that in addition to lots of beautiful flowers, there are lots of garden gnomes and a few banners next to the neatly cut and attractive lawn. The decorative gnomes are made by Sharon's talented son, Keith. This area represents a dry waterfall that they light with blue and white lights during the holidays to resemble water.

At the front door you'll find a lovely sign with the Knudsen's name and a photo of Foxy, their happy little Pomeranian Chihuahua.

Sharon was kind enough to take me on a tour of the backyard where a wonderful transformation is happening. Sharon has planted a number of beautiful flowers as you'll see in the upcoming photos as well as these two amazing hanging baskets over the back porch to the lovely rose bushes along the side fence.

In one of the back corners, she cleaned out all the blackberries and a giant dirt pile and created this garden.

You may not be surprised to learn that Sharon was a florist at one time and it shows. Here are some close ups of a pink peony, purple clematis, orange canna, a calypso rose, and a rose called "peace".

Sharon and her family and friends spend a lot of time on the back deck where they get a tremendous amount of sun and privacy from the arborvitae along the back fence. She said her other son Ken plans to redo the deck next spring.

Foxy enjoys the expansive back yard where she loves to run around while mom tends to the yard. If you ever thought renters do not take care of their properties, think again because Sharon is yet another shining example of someone who takes great pride in their home even if they do not own it! And the landlords are pretty happy with Sharon and Keith too! Thank you to the Knudsens for your best maintained home in the Cedar Terrace neighborhood!

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

## Domingo & Maria Garcia

Las Espuelas Family Mexican Restaurant  
4306 228<sup>th</sup> Street SW #9  
Best Maintained Business

How many of you know Las Espuelas Family Mexican Restaurant in the Cedar Plaza Shopping Center at 228<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Way? Well Domingo and Maria have more than 25 years of experience in the food industry and in 2011, they opened a restaurant in Mountlake Terrace.

The Garcias have raised their three children nearby with one graduating from Boston University, one currently at the University of Washington and one at Mountlake Terrace High School. The restaurant exterior has excellent professional signage and some nice design touches including this bench and chair that reflect their western theme.

Their name, Las Espuelas, means "the spurs," which is inspired by their love of horses and the west. They have authentic Mexican food as well as Columbian and Puerto Rican meals and Domingo added that they have a great kids' menu too. In these photos, you can see how they playfully decorate with saddles in the skylights to complement their western theme.

Throughout the restaurant you'll see Domingo's love of horses that shines through in their cheerful dining area and in the bar. Domingo said his grandfather was a horseman who owned a ranch in Mexico. On a nice day, Las Espuelas also offers covered outdoor seating where you can enjoy the wonderful weather of the northwest.

What you may not know about Las Espuelas is what a terrific community partner they are. For the past four years, Domingo has had probably the most impressive entry in the Tour de Terrace parade spending \$5,000 to bring this show stopper to Mountlake Terrace and celebrate Seafair as shown in these next photos. They also donate \$2,000 worth of gift certificates to their restaurant in the parade!

The first part of the show includes rope tricks ahead of the banner, followed by amazing Latino dancers in absolutely stunning costumes.

Here's another photo featuring more than a dozen of these beautiful dancers followed behind by a terrific mariachi band that's a crowd favorite!

# 2019 Evergreen Awards Script

Finally they have numerous dancing horses ridden by Domingo's family members. Each year this parade entry has grown in popularity and no one dares leave early for fear of missing Las Espuelas.

Las Espuelas' parade banner says "It's a pleasure to be in the neighborhood," but Domingo and Maria Garcia, the pleasure is all ours!

If you haven't eaten the wonderful food served at Las Espuelas, or you're looking for a fun and festive place to go have a drink, make sure you stop in and visit. And while you're there, thank Domingo and Maria for their wonderful contributions to Tour de Terrace and the Mountlake Terrace community!

CLOSE:

That's the end of our presentation. Thank you all for maintaining your properties and investing in our community! If you'd come to the front, we'll arrange for the group photo that we'll use in our city newsletter.