

Evergreen Awards 2010

Script

Mayor Pro Tem Laura Sonmore and Virginia Olsen, Community Relations Director welcomed those in attendance.

The Evergreen Program came to life because of a grant program offered by the Snohomish County-Camano Association of Realtors.

Nominees were judged in the following categories against properties within their neighborhood.

Category 1 – Pride of the Neighborhood

Awards go to property owners who have worked consistently to keep their homes looking their best. These properties shine with the efforts of the owners or occupants who take great pride in their property and whose high standards for building and yard maintenance contribute to the character of our neighborhoods and city.

Category 2 – Best Maintained Business

This category honors businesses that rate high in visual quality. Consideration is given to appropriate signage, building design, maintenance and landscaping. These award winners fit in and are recognized for their extra efforts to add positively to the character of the neighborhoods and city.

Category 3 – Best Maintained Multifamily Property

Awards go to property owners who have worked consistently to keep their multifamily properties looking their best. These properties shine with the efforts of the owners or occupants who take great pride in their property and whose high standards for building and yard maintenance contribute to the character of our neighborhoods and city.

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. Green features include things like solar heating, natural cooling, and native landscaping.

Jeff Crandall narrated the presentation.

Jeff is a 22-year resident of Mountlake Terrace. He has a degree in ecology and forest management but manages high-rise retirement communities in Seattle for Presbyterian Retirement Communities Northwest. He’s a past member of RPAC and of the Veterans Park Task Force. In 1990, he co-chaired a campaign to promote a Parks bond issue. He has a life-long interest in landscaping and has worked with professional landscape designers on a number of projects. Jeff is an officer of the Mountlake Terrace Garden Club.

4. Honorable Mention Title Slide: We wanted to recognize the property owners who came close, but just missed out this year.

Honorable Mention Pride of the Neighborhood:

5. Stacy & Patty Christenson: We kept driving by this nice, neat corner lot on the east side of 48th Avenue. Not surprisingly, the Christensons were working in the yard most of the time so we didn’t photograph it until later in the season. Although it was cloudy that day, the sharp edging and gorgeous green lawn shine through. The details of this home from the American Flag to the left of the entry to the curved walkway up to the front porch present a welcome and friendly atmosphere. The saw tooth edging along the front flowerbed to the right, the gravel buffer that accentuates the curved pathway to the front entry and the flower pots that greet visitors on the steps work together to invite people into this lovely home.

6. Barbara & James Enstrom: This charming lemon yellow home features lovely flowers around the stump of a giant tree that once covered the front yard. Majestic evergreens form a dark green backdrop that makes this home stand out. A variety of flowers, shrubs and garden art objects are placed strategically to add interest. The front lawn is neatly mowed and edged.

7. Don Ross: A prime example of being a role model in the neighborhood is Don Ross, a resident since 1963. Virginia met Mr. Ross while taking photos and he was outside mowing two lawns. She let him finish and returned later to talk to him

about out the program. As it turns out, Don Ross mows several yards in the neighborhood and he teaches some of the younger neighbors about lawn maintenance. He's lived in his home for 40 years and he's what the Evergreen Awards are all about: Pride in our Properties. Thank you to Don Ross for caring and being a positive example to others. Your home is lovely and although you received Honorable Mention status this year, you are eligible to win next year.

8. George & Jan Gunn: Also nominated last year, the Gunn property really stands out as one drives up or down 228th or the "K-Mart" Hill. Greeted by a nicely greened yard and colorful flowerbeds that line the walkway, the Gunn household presents a welcoming image to Mountlake Terrace.

9. Jean Dahlberg: Jean Dahlberg lives in the last house on 230th Street, next to the culvert and Ballinger Lakes Golf Course. It's tough to show her home in one photo because there is so much to see on this expansive lot, so we have numerous photos. Her neatly edged front yard features clean shrubbery, flowers and eye-catching statues up near the house and a flowering tree and sharp pink azalea in the center of the yard. The side yard includes a rock garden bordered by nice-trimmed shrubbery along with an adorable collection of animals and gnomes that make the Dahlberg home attractive and inviting. It was apparent the birds really enjoy Mrs. Dahlberg's home, because they were chirping like crazy and frolicking about when we drove by to take photos.

10. Mitzi Crosby: Sitting right next door to one of last year's winners in the Melody Hill neighborhood, Mitzi Crosby's home caught our eye with a number of color spots intermingled with shrubs, a windmill and knickknacks in the front yard. We photographed this home later in the season, so the lawn doesn't show up as green as it was on our first drive through, but it's clear that Mitzi loves to spend time in the garden. This colorful area along the left entry to the house has a beautiful array of flowers, shrubs and garden art including statuary, a windmill and gazing ball. It's all showcased at different levels separated by landscape timbers and stone. Ironically, when we asked if Mitzi was friends with her next-door neighbor, we discovered that they are sisters! This family definitely has a love and talent in gardening!

11. Aaron & Michelle Keller: Aaron and Michelle Keller's home is one of the block homes along 56th Avenue in the Gateway neighborhood, just south of the Town Center. Although it's not the newest home, the Keller's house shines with love and attention. The home sits about six feet above the busy traffic along 56th with a nice retaining wall lined with colorful flowers that change from season to

season. The beautiful landscaping with bushes and flowers make a dramatic statement in the city's gateway. No matter what time of year we drive by Mr. Keller's house, it is in bloom! The side yard looks intriguing and we were unable to see in without being invited, but there appears to be a garden on the side and perhaps in the back yard. We'd love to find out, because this home is a potential winner in 2011!

12. Ben & Edith Lange: The Lange home is another standout on 56th Avenue. It has a crisp, green lawn and the home is outlined with impatiens and hydrangeas, under the shade of a large fir tree. Accent lighting along the walkway and the garden goose welcome visitors to their front door. The retaining wall and planted area that border 56th, provide a friendly view for passers-by on the city's main street. The Lange family's efforts contribute to the positive image of our revitalizing downtown.

13. Nancy Eddy: Yet another shining example of the positive changes on 56th Avenue is the Eddy/Petry home. Robert Petry not only takes pride in his own property but he helps out the neighbor next door. The neighbor is one of our winners tonight, so you might say that he helped play a role in that accomplishment. The Eddy/Petry home has new beauty bark, very clean planting areas, and a crisp, angular walkway. Purple flowers draw attention to the pagoda and Japanese maple between the carport and front entry. The yard is very nicely maintained, even during the hot spell, and shows the love and care of its owners.

14. Jeff & Eilene Werner: Off the beaten track of the Town Center neighborhood, you'll find Jeff and Eilene Werner's home. A sweeping frontage with colorful flowers and bedding plants flowing over a beautiful three-level rockery, this home lights up the neighborhood and brings a smile to your face. On a large corner lot, this property also has a nice mosaic stairway leading to a well kept home with a large fir tree trimmed up to showcase the beautiful planting area. The Werner home is a hidden gem in our downtown.

15. Jacqueline Bottman: Whimsical and interesting come to mind when passing by the Bottman home. Affectionately nicknamed, the "crooked flower pot home", creativity was clearly displayed here. Besides the obvious flower pots stacked in alternating positions and a tinier version hanging from the eave, this lovely yellow rambler has a beautiful mowed and trimmed lawn and interesting flowerbeds. Roses and hanging flower baskets complete the design of this home.

Honorable Mention: Sustainability:

16. James Ito & Melody Granfors (Town Center): This next home, owned by Jim Ito and Melanie Granfors, was nominated in two categories – Most Sustainable and Best Transformation. Here’s a before picture of the front yard that was totally redesigned in the past year. When considering both categories, the committee felt that the transformation of the yard was fantastic but since the house stayed the same, the Ito/Granfors home was most worthy to receive recognition in the Most Sustainable category. Their new yard has no lawn to mow. The garden beds and a rock path enhance the beauty of their yard creating an interesting patchwork of colors and textures. They have more plants, bushes, trees and ground cover as well as vegetables to reduce water consumption and eliminate the use of fertilizer and weed killer.

The committee felt that these new plantings will mature a lot in the next year and this property will likely contend for a Most Sustainable winner in 2011.

17. Patricia Romero (East Terrace): Located on a large corner lot in East Mountlake Terrace, we found Patricia Romero’s property. A tidy, clean rambler, the front and side yards have sustainable features including scalloped lined red rock pathways, gravel accent, no turf to water or mow, drip irrigation to a variety of interesting drought tolerant plants, grasses and shrubs.

Honorable Mention: Multifamily Properties:

18. Hillcrest Village (North Terrace): Tucked away on the north side of 220th are the Hillcrest Village Apartments. This multifamily winner is very clean and well-maintained and we were impressed by the inviting tot lot near 58th Avenue. Surrounded by an attractive fence for safety, we noticed a number of families using the tot lot when driving by on several occasions. There are attractive lawn areas and neatly trimmed shrubs setting up an area that could be called “The Village Green.”

19. Transformation Civic Campus Before and After

We considered an honorable mention transformation for the Civic Campus but since it is city owned property, we decided it was ineligible.

Winning Properties Title Slide: And NOW, the winners! –

EAST MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

20. (3 slides) **Joe Muller** (East Terrace): This beautiful, well-maintained home is nicely framed by Evergreen trees behind the residence. Yellow and blue-green

hostas accentuate the soft yellow color of the house with blue shutters. The lawn is neatly edged and trimmed and flowerbeds break up the long lines of this lovely split-level in East Mountlake Terrace.

21. (4 slides) **Dean Zenk & Rochelle McKenzie** (East Terrace): A variety of textures and different shades of green enhance this beautiful Rambler in East Terrace. Beauty-bark and color spots highlight the precisely edged and trimmed lawn. Shrubs are trimmed to perfect scale to draw the eye to the horizontal white fence that frames the front entry. The landscape is finished by interesting features like the birdbath, rocks, lights, and stepping-stones to create the pleasing feel to this home.

GATEWAY

22. (3 slides) **Viol & Rose Hirsch** (Gateway): Viol and Rose Hirsch's home really stands out in the Gateway neighborhood. The only Gateway winner this year, this home has perhaps the longest angled walkway in the city with stepping stones that are both attractive and fun. This Gateway Neighborhood home is on a large corner lot creating challenges and opportunities for landscaping. The sidewalk provides a sweeping curve used to highlight this home. The rockery creates a nice buffer from the street and adds the dimension of layers to the yard. A variety of plants and color spots add interest. Viol and Rose have lived here since 1955.

LAKE BALLINGER

23. (3 slides) **Peter and Andrea Gradwohl** (Lake Ballinger): Simple elegance are the words I'd use to define this lovely home. A circular driveway leads to the grand front entry of this beautiful Lake Ballinger neighborhood home where Peter grew up. The backyard that adjoins Ballinger Playfield is near the golf course and features a round brick fire pit next to a unique checkerboard square patio with turf and flowerpot accents that look like giant golf balls cut in two. Peter mentioned that his father added on to the back part of the home as you can see in the photo.

24. (3 slides) **Dale & Helen Jeremiah** (Lake Ballinger): A secret garden lies just behind a brick wall leading to the entry of this beautiful home. The Jeremiah's lived next door to their current home from 1986 to 2002. Then they bought the home next door and created a beautiful and relaxing environment in which to live. The interesting brick pattern of the house is framed with scalloped trim. The variety of plants and the scale and placement lead your eyes to the front entry where visitors are pleasantly surprised by a secret garden. It's a miniature garden with a unique and relaxing handmade waterfall surrounded by rocks, ferns, a Japanese maple, mosses and several types of grass. The backyard adjoins the

Ballinger Lake Golf Course. Dale and Helen Jeremiah's home is one of the nicest in the Lake Ballinger neighborhood. A neighbor told us that Dale must be out there manicuring the lawn with tweezers, it looks so nice. The back yard, as you can see is actually greener than the golf course that it borders. (We photographed the home in August.) Helen spends a lot of time in the Green house addition during the winter months. The beautiful landscape beds in the back yard provide both a buffer from and an enhancement to the golf course. A sitting area is positioned carefully behind a tree to protect from stray golf balls.

MELODY HILL

25. (3 slides) **Arthur & Sarah Clark** (Melody Hill): This lovely Melody Hill Rambler provides privacy for the residents, nice appearance for passersby, with its beautiful landscaped beds that offer an oasis for urban wildlife and birds. A gorgeous maple tree that is nicely contained is highlighted in one bed and flowering shrubs in the other. An interesting walkway brings visitors up to the main entryway from the driveway along with a shortcut of steppingstones to another walk around the landscaped bed. A stamped concrete driveway connects the driveway with the brick lined flowerbeds to complete the picture. Shrubs are neatly trimmed and shaped to a compact size to fit under the windows allowing light into the residence.

26. (3 slides) **Harriett Miller** (Melody Hill): This Melody Hill winner has a beautiful maple tree in the right side of the front yard, positioned to show off the house and provide shade on hot sunny days. There is a variety of neatly trimmed flowering shrubs to grace the front of the home. The lawn areas are beautifully mowed and edged. As you go around the house, there is an espalier of camellias along the side of the garage. The backyard has a nicely shaped walk and patio with beautiful flowerbeds providing interesting shapes, colors and textures. The whole house is immaculate. Harriett has lived in the home since 1963.

27. (3 slides) **Redstone Corporate Center II 6100 219th St SW: Unico Properties LLC Brenda Kipling, Property Manager**, Business: This attractive commercial building is always well maintained as we've seen first hand over the past year. From the nicely edged and trimmed frontage on the north side of the building, professional signage, bedding plants, and the clean parking lot and lobby entrance, the Redstone Building reflects a positive image for other businesses in Mountlake Terrace. Everything inside and outside of this building is clean and tidy at all times.

28. (3 slides) **Margie and (Curt) Metzler** (Melody Hill): Transformation. Hanging baskets, trellis, new fencing, colorful flowers, new paint and a bright, new curved walkway invite you to visit this home on a deceptively large ½ acre lot. Margie bought the house in 1973 but renters lived here for the past several years and let it go downhill. Margie said it was well-known by our code enforcement officers.

She finally retired and they moved back home just this past October. Their contractor who did the wonderful walkway is a Mountlake Terrace resident and is present tonight. They added the nasturtium-lined walkway and new fencing. Margie selected the nice green paint and the house numbers, added a variety of flowers, hanging baskets and tomato plants. Curt is working on the lawn, which was looking quite green in September and they are now back enjoying the quality of life in Mountlake Terrace. The hummingbirds visit the Metzler home and we were told that their neighbors are happy they moved back!

TOWN CENTER

29. (3 slides) **Stephen & Toni Hunt** (Town Center): This is a long house which seems to have been designed for a very long lot making landscaping a challenge. Beautifully framed by Evergreens in the back and a variety of shrubs strategically positioned in the front, this house has great curb appeal. It has all sorts of nooks, pockets and outdoor rooms to break up the long space. It even has an alcove for trashcans. The front sitting area is buffered by natural vegetation to screen the patio/play area from the street and the neighboring property. The arbor on the right side of the house creates the perfect vanish point as it makes yet another outdoor room for this yard. The lawn is neatly mowed and edged. The textures and colors of both landscape materials and the house combine to make a very pleasing scene.

30. (3 slides) **Steve & Veronica Hurt** (Town Center): The Hurt's have lived in their home for the past 7 years. Steve admits that Veronica does most of the gardening. You've seen and heard this before. This is a huge corner lot. If you took away the flowerbeds, this house would be just another average Rambler. The creative scalloped brick-lined landscaping beds add a lot of interest to this Town Center Home. A beautiful green, nicely mowed and trimmed lawn is accented by a variety of plants and shrubs. The various heights and placement of the plants and flowers balance out the different views one can appreciate when passing this residence. The flower garden to the side of the home is not only lovely to look at but attracts birds, butterflies and bees. Even the far corner of the yard has received a special treatment with the elevated brick-lined bed accentuating this beautiful tree.

31. (4 slides) **Sharon Redden** (Town Center: Sharon has lived in her Mountlake Terrace home for over 50 years. (1962) It's located across 60th Avenue from Fire Station 19. She received an honorable mention last year and is a winner this year. Her house and yard are perfect as she takes care of every detail. She explained how she goes out to pick up every leaf from her neighbors trees. The beautiful sculptured bushes near the driveway angle left to lead the eye diagonally across this large corner lot to place focus on the residence and yet lead the viewer around to the side yard to show off the rest of the house and gardens. The backyard is a place for Sharon to relax and enjoy the fruits of her labor. Beautiful raised flowerbeds offer relaxing color spots for Sharon and her family and friends to enjoy. Bird feeders, birdbaths and birdhouses provide habitat for Sharon's feathered friends. Varied textures, heights and color spots work in harmony to make this property the gem of its neighborhood.

32. (5 slides) **Delores Teller** (Town Center): Delores has lived in her Town Center home since 1952. She received an honorable mention last year and has stepped up to become a winner. A wide variety of plants and shrubs in green accent the brick work in the front of her home. The shiny brick red pots planted with a palm and other types of grasses and plants add a solid accent near the entry. She planted a new lawn this year. And with a little help from her friends, her neighbor Ron keeps it perfectly mowed and edged. You could say it's a family affair too. Her son-in-law built a new walkway. She added the pots with help from her daughter and son-in-law. She has a gorgeous back yard. Everything is clean and neat from the little picket fence in front to the weather vane on top of the house.

33. (4 slides) **The Red Onion** (Town Center) Shaun & LaRae Richards 23209 56th Ave W: Transformation. The Red Onion replaced "Good Neighbor Philly's and Burgers" and they keep making improvements. The new deck, colorful signage, tables, red umbrellas, and hanging flower baskets beckon hungry folks to stop in, relax, and enjoy a meal. It reminds us of a sidewalk café. Shaun and LaRae purchased what is now the Red Onion only two years ago and jumped right into transforming it to fit better into the Town Center area. Shaun and LaRae had just bought flowers at the farmers market to spiff up their entrances when we stopped in to take photos. Their other flower baskets were purchased from the Garden Club. When we visited, there were 3 families enjoying dinner outside and said they said they were thrilled with the new deck and how well maintained the Red Onion is. You can see how the deck has ADA access and new beauty bark. Congratulations Red Onion for a wonderful transformation.

Side Story on the Red Onion

On July 15 while taking photos, we asked a woman named Eva if Shaun was there. She was sweeping the walkway by the entrance. LaRae came outside and told us that Eva had worked for them for 16 years and if she finishes working inside, she goes outside and cleans up without being asked. We took pictures on the other side of the building and when we returned to the other side, Eva was sweeping the parking lot with a small broom, collecting leaves and placing them in a bag. She continued to the back of the parking lot and it looked incredible! Shaun arrived and told me that Eva will go outside in the rain and pull weeds and bus tables for the other employees. We'd like to thank Eva for taking pride in the property where she works and for serving as a role model to others!

34. (3 slides) **Alicia Hanson** (Town Center): One of our two most sustainable landscape winners, the Hanson property has so much to show. Tucked in the Evergreens and surrounded by natural landscape, this town center home is a contrast to the hustle and bustle of activity that encircles it. If you talk to Alicia, you'll discover that she has a fig tree, vegetable garden, columnar apple trees, and a silver leaf weeping pear tree. The variety of colors and textures create an interesting habitat to attract birds and urban wildlife. While you're standing there, talking you'll see or maybe just hear humming birds dart around to the wide variety of flowers. She hasn't officially applied yet, but Alicia's property is considered a wildlife sanctuary, which requires food, water and shelter for birds and wildlife. The secret to her gardening success is trial and error. Alicia has lived there 15 years.

35. (3 slides) **Health and Wellness Institute** Dr. John Catanzaro and his wife and office manager, Annamaria: Our other Sustainable winner is also a business. Their professional signage makes it easy for visitors to find them. The natural landscaping calms and soothes patients as they enter and exit the Health and Wellness Institute. It also creates a pleasing atmosphere for travelers to the Town Center. It has an abundance of trees, shrubs and flowers that are pleasing to the eye and habitat for urban wildlife and birds. The perfumed scent of lavender greets those walking over the wooden bridge to the Institute. Stone-lined pathways lead visitors around the gardens while creating separate beds for plant materials.

NORTH TERRACE

36. (3 slides) **Eddie & Lucy Much** (North Terrace): This darling white home with yellow trim is gem in its North Mountlake Terrace neighborhood. Alternating shrubs in different shades of green, nice colors and interesting features add variety and interest to this yard. We loved the flowers that ring the beautiful tree on the

right side of the house. The white arbor gate invites a glimpse of the back yard. Eddie says that Lucy does most of the work.

37. **Starlight Condos** (North Terrace): They go to a lot of work to keep the grounds and buildings nice looking. The owners take a lot of pride in their gardens and flowers and the details. Red gum trees are a perfect color accent and the nicely landscape bio-swale adds to the drama of these condos. When we stopped to take photographs, one of the condos was getting a new roof that was just added proof that these owners are serious about maintenance.

38. (3 slides) **Lance & Margaret Kenison** (North Terrace): This house is really tucked away and not visible from the street. It is definitely the hidden gem in its neighborhood and perhaps the whole city. The first time we looked for it to take photos for judging we had to call the neighbor who nominated it, for directions. This house is unbelievable. Everything is well designed and maintained. Purchased in 1987, many little details add to the intrigue at this residence. Your eyes catch the zigzag of the stairway leading up the lawn to an adventure that includes birdbaths, birdhouses, potting shed, sitting areas, garden art, potted plants, plants of all sizes and shapes and colors. Oh yes and let's not forget Koi in the fish pond and a waterfall. It's picture perfect and should be on a tour of homes.

39. (6 slides) **Mountlake Terrace Garden Club:**

These beautiful flowers were planted in front of the Mountlake Terrace Library by the Mountlake Terrace Garden Club. Some of the Garden Club members volunteered to help us with this event.

For those of you who may be interested, the Garden Club plants the flowers by the library as well as other prominent city entryways such as Evergreen Playfield, Ballinger Playfield, 48th and 244th, and 236th by the Transit Center among others. If you're interested in meeting new people and volunteering on the Garden Club, please leave us your name and number.

That concludes our program. Congratulations to all of our winners and honorable mention recipients. Your pride in your properties has been contagious and more property owners are following your lead each day. Thank you!