

Evergreen Awards 2011 Script

Mayor Jerry Smith 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.

Transformation Theme

When we began checking out all of the nominees, we noticed a few nice transformations. But as we started to compare the photos from the Assessor's Office for confirmation, we were amazed at how many properties had been transformed. It is these types of transformation efforts that help our city's image, one property at a time. You set the bar for others to follow – thanks to everyone here for caring about your properties and your neighborhoods.

Jeff Crandall narrated the presentation.

Jeff is a 23-year resident of Mountlake Terrace. He has a degree in ecology and forest management. He recently retired from managing 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. Please come up and accept your honorable mention certificate when your name is called.

Honorable Mention Pride of the Neighborhood:

5. Edgar & Louise Hansen (Cascade View) Best Maintained Residence:

This charming 2-story Craftsman home with a contemporary touch looks both comfortable and inviting. Edgar and Louise Hansen have lived in their home since 1994. Louise said she does most of the yard work. On this house, you'll notice Gingerbread white trim, with a bay window, white trimmed porch with flower boxes attached and an old-fashioned decorative light pole. Every time we went by there were lots of kids running around the yard. It looks like the cool house on the block where everyone wants to be.

6. Art & Ludmila Bell (Cedar Terrace) Best Maintained Residence:

This lovely split-level home in the Cedar Terrace neighborhood provides a formal entry with stairs leading to the beautiful green doorway. The nice white garage doors and handrails make this home stand out in its neighborhood with flowerpots and nice bark material. Art and Ludmila Bell work hard to keep their house and yard looking nice and we were told that Art does most of the work. They've lived in their home for about 10 years.

7. DJ Jakala & Mitchell Givens (Cedar Terrace) Best Maintained Residence:

With its backdrop of stately Evergreen trees, this split-level home catches your eye in the Cedar Terrace neighborhood. The beautiful green lawn is always mowed and

edged and everything is neat as a pin. Ever since 9-year old Mitchell learned about the Evergreen Awards, he's been working hard at trying to attract attention. Good job, Mitchell for being a positive role model in our community. Make sure to go to school and tell your friends how to win an Evergreen Award!

8. Dihn & Coung Nguyen (Cedar Terrace) Best Maintained Residence:

Literally just around the corner from DJ and Mitchell and across the street from one of last year's winners is Dihn & Coung Nguyen's home. This wide, corner lot home had newly laid bark to accent their garden that includes roses, rhodies, a Japanese maple and in front stands a weeping cherry tree. We like the window box with red geraniums too. The green shutters match the front door. The nice white garage doors have wisteria growing over them.

9/10. Brad Bye (Cedar Terrace) - Best Transformation:

Brad was very modest about the transformation of his home. He's been there for about 10 years. When asked about what he did to make such a transformation, he mentioned that he just landscaped the front yard. He added that he also had new paint, new roof and has a lot more to go. Brad wishes his neighbors would do their yards too. This home has been dramatically improved with the addition of the curved walkway leading to the front door. The perfect green lawn and shrubs accentuate the new paint and trim on the house to give it a longer, more pleasing look.

11. Al & Donna Lima (Gateway) Best Maintained Residence:

This beautiful Gateway home is striking with its dark trim on white paint set off by red geraniums in window boxes. It's a little hard to see from straight on due to a fence and some privacy plantings but from the driveway, you can see how the landscape plantings make this home inviting to all who pass by. Not pictured here are some raised garden beds on the side yard. Al and Donna have lived in their home for 40 years. Donna tells us that she and Al planted all of the trees in the yard.

12. Lillian Watts (Gateway) Best Maintained Residence:

Lillian Watts does a wonderful job of maintaining her home and yard to be the gem in her Gateway neighborhood. Pretty daffodils and rhododendrons just starting to bloom greeted us when we visited last spring; the white fenced backyard and white rail fence on the side go nicely with the new windows.

13/14. Richard Ridgeway (Gateway) Best Transformation:

Richard Ridgeway's home has been improved with the addition of gravel to make the yard more level, along with a sprinkler system to keep the lawn green and flowerbeds to add color. He has lived there for 30 years and says he has a lot more work to do. Here's the "before" picture where you can see the attention he gives

his home. This is another example of the new standard for Mountlake Terrace neighborhoods.

15. Troy & Kristy Christianson (Lake Ballinger) Best Maintained Residence:

A hidden gem in the Lake Ballinger neighborhood, the Christianson home stands out on their block. The lush green lawn, rockery and bushes trimmed to proper scale show off the clean lines of this rambler. Hard to photograph since it's so wide, the Christianson home has a newer roof and windows. Colorful flowers create a sitting area near the front entry.

16. Nancy Eddy & Robert Petry (Town Center) Best Maintained Residence:

Nancy Eddy and Robert Petry take meticulous care of their home. 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 nicely maintained and shows the love and care of its owners. Even the firewood in the garage is perfectly stacked. Robert Petry not only takes pride in his own property but he helps out the neighbor next door.

17. Claudia Clough (Town Center) Best Maintained Residence:

Claudia has been working toward a newer look to her yard. She's lived there for 49 years and says there's always something to do. There used to be bushes straight across the yard that needed to be trimmed every other week. Those have been pulled out and replaced with smaller plants for a cleaner look and less labor. Her lawn is nicely mowed and edged and she's always sweeping up. Claudia and several of you tonight make our "Main Street" a source of pride in our community.

18. Brandon & Jori Laverne (Town Center) Best Maintained Residence:

Brandon and Jori Laverne have lived in their Town Center home for 3 years. They rented out the home for several years and when they moved back in, Brandon completely renovated the inside of the home. Jori says the backyard is the real winner. The white picket fence and detail on the posts match the detail on the house. We love the curvy path to the front door, color plantings and we look forward to being invited to see that backyard next year!

19. Steve & Marsha Forsythe (Town Center) Best Maintained Residence:

Steve is a lifelong Mountlake Terrace resident. He is a 1973 graduate of MLT High School. He and Marsha bought the house from Steve's parents in 1996. Marsha says she does the yard work. We overheard Steve comment in the background that he built the arbors. When asked about Steve's talent for building, we learned that he remodeled the inside of the house and built the deck as well. They are best friends with next-door neighbors, Luc and Becky Boileau, who also purchased their house from Luc's parents. Interesting story... Their parents were best friends and now the next generation is continuing the friendship.

20. Ken & Jackie Bottman (Town Center) Best Transformation:

Whimsical and interesting come to mind when passing by the Bottman home. Affectionately nicknamed by the judges, the “crooked flower pot home,” creativity was clearly displayed here. Besides the obvious flower pots stacked in alternating positions, 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. Rumor has it, the best part is the back yard. We hope to be invited back to take pictures there next year!

21. Quan Mach (Town Center) Most Sustainable:

Quan's lived in this home on 56th Avenue for 4 years. He said he enjoys fixing up the house and yard and confessed that he has more to do to finish the windows. The cheerful gladiolas and sweet peas that peek through the white picket fence provide joy for those who travel through our downtown on 56th Avenue.

22. Richard & Mary Ellen Jones (Town Center) Best Maintained Residence:

Remember that old line about keeping up with the Joneses? Well, the Joneses have kept up with neighbor and last year's winner, Sharon Redden, who nominated them this year. Richard and Mary Ellen have lived in their Mountlake Terrace home since 1992. They share the work and enjoy keeping their house and yard nice. The Joneses recently cut down Holly trees that were planted in the 1960's. Mary Ellen commented, “Boy, are they hard to handle.” Everything about this house and yard is wonderfully maintained. Mary Ellen says that Richard does a great job of cleaning the roof. If you look closely, you can see how the rain gutters are angled toward a flowerbed to make good use of rainfall.

23. Jerry & Linda Huber (Town Center) Best Maintained Residence:

We found the Huber home tucked away in a less travelled part of the Town Center. Linda said she loves to garden but her husband Jerry doesn't. She added that he's in servitude. Unfortunately, Linda is in Hawaii tonight and couldn't be here but her husband Jerry did join us. The Hubers decided that they were tired of the large broken asphalt area, so they designed a beautiful pathway leading to their door. Linda said they “made it like the yellow brick road.” They have crushed rock and lighting lining the walkway, fencing on both sides and a landscaped planting area with bulbs and perennials. Linda and Jerry have lived in Mountlake Terrace for 23 years.

24. June Smith (Town Center) Best Maintained Residence:

On the eastern edge of the Town Center, approaching the trees of Terrace Creek Park we found June Smith's cute little block home with the big green yard. Neatly trimmed with circular garden on each side of the path, June's home is inviting and it stands out among the neighbors.

We had some trouble getting a hold of June, but we found her mother, who actually has owned the home for 35 years. Her mom commented how proud she was of June for all of the improvements she's made. June has rented the home she grew up in for about 8 years.

25/26. Windshield Repair Network (Town Center) Best Business

Transformation: Mike Lavigne, owner of the Windshield Repair Network, likes the new location in Mountlake Terrace because it fits his personality. Mike says, "It was pretty rough before the remodel." The business has been there for one year and was completely remodeled inside. The blacktop was removed and Mike added turf and plants to create an inviting space. This is yet another example of the great transformation taking place in our downtown and our city as a whole.

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

This year we thought we'd start with some of the winners in the business category.

28/38. Sound Transit for the Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station (Town Center) – Best Transformation

What an investment Sound Transit has made in our community! Mountlake Terrace is known in the Puget Sound region for its convenient location along I-5, and the Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station project has literally put us on the map. It has non-stop service to downtown Seattle and University of Washington and a future light rail station will be built nearby. Sound Transit's project serves as a catalyst for job creation, economic development and it goes hand in hand with the city's revitalization efforts by providing convenient transit options to those who live and work here. Here are some photos from the beginning to end of the project. As you can see, it is quite a positive transformation and a benefit for our community. Thank you, Sound Transit!

39/41. AFCO & Sons (Town Center) Best Maintained Business:

Yuko Abe's project was the first major redevelopment in the Town Center, with an opening of April 2007. She relocated her business to Mountlake Terrace from Seattle because of its convenient location in the Puget Sound area. Her development has 3,000 SF of office space to support her commercial fishing business and 18 multifamily residential units. What a great addition to our community and be on the lookout for her next project, Arbor Village, on the corner of 236th and 56th Avenue in the near future.

42/44. Mountlake Terrace Eye Care – (Town Center) Best Maintained

Business: Mary Betts is here with her son Michael. Mary and her husband relocated their business into the downtown about six years ago. Constructed with the new design standards adopted as part of the Town Center planning process, you

can't miss this gorgeous building with flowers, professional signage, and updated street furnishings.

After about 20 years in their former downtown location, Mountlake Terrace Eye Care is a mainstay in our community having served a huge number of our residents for years and years. This business is really visible in its location just kitty corner from Rogers Market or the "Super Block"/Town Square area in the city's Town Center Plan. It's a perfect example of how redevelopment will give our community a fresh, clean, and updated look!

CASCADE VIEW

46/48. Veronica Rios (Cascade View) Best Maintained Residence:

Located along 48th Avenue, Veronica Rios' cheerful yellow house with the wrought iron fence was nominated both by city employees and a citizen who's an avid walker in our community. This home is a winner in the Best Maintained Residence category, however when checking the County Assessor records, we noticed a major transformation that we just had to show you.

The old wood fence was removed and replaced with a decorative iron fence. The house with a clipped gable roof has new yellow paint with white trim, black shutters for contrast, and red porches. A nice little retaining wall outlines a fountain and planting area. For those travelling down 48th Avenue, colorful spring flowers show off the nicely maintained yard. We apologize for taking this photo early in the season while Veronica was replanting her yard but we couldn't resist the bulbs in bloom and didn't want to miss them.

49/51. David & Cheryl Mestl (Cascade View) Best Maintained Residence:

A previous Honorable Mention winner, the Mestl's home is a little misleading at first glance. This tranquil looking home in soft gray with white trim presents itself as a nicely groomed bi-level home in one of our nicer cul-de-sacs. However, upon closer review, there's a green arbor and gate leading to the front door.

Behind the gateway we found a peaceful, little sanctuary featuring a sitting area under the shade of the lace leaf maple tree with concrete bench, hostas, hanging flower baskets and wind chimes that greet the homeowner as they return from a busy day. The purple accent adds to the zen feeling created in this outdoor room.

52/55. Don & Kathie Kennedy (Cascade View) Most Sustainable:

In our third year, this is the first nomination for indoor sustainable features. Don and Kathie Kennedy's home could have been nominated for a Best Maintained Award as the yard and front porch area are always tidy. The seating area in front of the home invites neighbors and passersby to stop over for a visit.

Don and Kathie have been working toward creating a more sustainable home. They've added energy efficient furnace and appliances, upgraded the outside of the home with the tri vex paper and hardy plank concrete siding and new insulation. Double thermo pane windows and custom doors round out the new features to lower heating costs and reduce energy use.

56/61. Monterra Townhomes (Cascade View) Best Transformation of a Multifamily Property:

This may be the most impressive transformation in city history and you'll understand why in a moment. All of our honorees tonight take pride in their properties. Some live among other nice properties and some live next to, shall we say, the ones that would win the "needs improvement" award.

The fabulous Monterra townhome project, getting closer to completion, features 53 units with a central courtyard for residents to use. It also has a rain garden to manage stormwater through special landscaping. This development has transformed a property that was considered not just a neighborhood eyesore but a citywide eyesore. In other words, it was frequently on the Code Enforcement Department's "to do" list. It's really quite miraculous that the "Old Nelson Property" was transformed from these junk vehicles, hazardous materials, and even a chicken in an old truck and a poor little chained up doggie.

Monterra reminds us of San Francisco with the colorful, striking town homes adjoined and warm red brick walkways. A beautiful lattice covered arbor gateway leads homeowners to their residences. Lovely plantings of grasses and flowers soften the edges and create a pleasing look. Drainage from impervious surfaces is directed to the beautiful bio-swales creating habitat for urban wildlife and birds.

CEDAR TERRACE

62/64. Don Ross (Cedar Terrace) Best Maintained Residence:

Cedar Terrace neighborhood has been one of the most competitive neighborhoods since we started the Evergreen Awards. The residents there can be very helpful too. A shining example of a neighborhood role model is Don Ross, a resident since 1963. Virginia met Don while taking photos and he was outside mowing two lawns. She let him finish and returned later to talk to him about 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 for caring and being a positive example to others.

65/67. 36-year residents Norman & Sandi Pistole (Cedar Terrace) Best Maintained Residence:

Unfortunately, Sandi is out of town but we have Norman here who somehow got out of his night job to join us. He may have some guests with him tonight.

For the past decade and until recently, Sandi was the Neighborhood Park Improvement Subcommittee Representative for Terrace Creek Park. She and her husband love working on their home that they bought new in 1993. Prior to that, they lived in a Mountlake Terrace block home for 18 years.

Sandi reported that Norman is responsible for the lawn and he takes great pride in making patterns when mowing. One time she said she challenged him to make it look like Safeco Field and he took her seriously. If you look closely, you can see Ichiro behind the tree. Norman only allows Sandi to mow the back yard.

Pictured here are very large barked in planting areas among the immaculately groomed yard. The edging is crisp, and although unseen in these photos, there are flowers adorning the entrance area. A bench sits nearby to give the Pistole residence a real park-like feeling.

68/71. Terry & Linda McCann (Cedar Terrace) Best Maintained Residence:

Terry and Linda McCann bought their home new nearly 35 years ago. The McCann's lovely split-level home in beige with white trim sits atop a sloped lot and uses the layers to create that beautiful Home and Garden look.

A striking border of colorful impatiens leads your eye up the front walk to the doorway. The gorgeous trees provide both a home for birds and shade for the residents. Linda said Terry is her digger whenever there are plants to move but gardening is her passion. Linda went through the Master Gardener program a few years back.

She grows all kinds of things in her greenhouse, but currently she has tomatoes and she stores her geraniums and fuchsias and keeps them for years. It's a big money saver too!

72/74. Stacy and Patty Christenson (Cedar Terrace) Best Maintained Business:

30-year residents, Stacy and Patty Christenson, have lived in their current home on 48th for 24 years. Nominated as a Best Maintained Residence and honorable mention recipient last year, they've won this year for Best Maintained Business after we discovered this immaculate home is...wait for it...a daycare and preschool. Yes, Kangaroo Korner Daycare & Preschool is so well kept, you'd never know that behind the finely manicured front yard and fencing, there are lots of children there each day.

What's the secret? Patty's love for gardening and a "designated play area" for the children. The saw tooth edging along the front flowerbed, the gravel buffer that

accentuates the curved pathway, and flower pots work together to invite people into this lovely home.

Behind the 48th Avenue gate, parents drop off and pick up their children and are greeted by a large fountain. This was Stacy's concept and Patty added the Buddha Frog accent piece. Patty said you do these things for yourself, but it's so nice when others take a moment during their busy day and smile. Driving by this busy Daycare and Preschool, one can't help but admire their home and smile.

75/77. Markland Woods (Cedar Terrace) Best Maintained Multifamily Property:

Markland Woods greets Cedar Way travelers with bright color spots and a shiny sign across the red brick wall. As you drive inside this park like complex, everything is very neat and clean and there are colorful spots of flowers to brighten up your day. All of the lawns are mowed and edged and landscaping is neatly trimmed. The Recreational Center – that serves as the entrance to the outdoor pool- looks like a tropical cabana. There is a nice basketball court tucked into a landscaped area to allow active play without disturbing the quiet, peaceful setting. Even the garbage containers are tucked away behind attractive screens.

Markland Woods was purchased by the Snohomish County Housing Authority in 2001. It was formerly an apartment complex and was converted to condominiums, which helped the city and its residents by generating more tax income to pay for services. Those who live at Markland Woods speak highly of the property and it is another great example of a successful transformation in our community.

GATEWAY

78/80. Aaron & Michelle Keller (Gateway) Best Maintained Residence:

Michelle and Aaron Keller have lived in their home on 56th Avenue for six years. They received Honorable Mention recognition last year. Just south of the Town Center neighborhood, this block home stands out in the Gateway neighborhood with its gorgeous retaining wall constructed by the Kellers. The wall leads the eye to a variety of bedding plants that accent their well-maintained home.

There is a changing variety of colors, depending on the season. Rhodies and bulbs start in the spring, followed by an array of petunias, and this season they have yellow and orange marigolds. In the side and backyards, we hear the Kellers grow pole beans, green beans, beets, carrots, cucumbers and rhubarb in the family vegetable garden.

81/83. Roy Johnson (Gateway) Best Maintained Residence:

A veteran and charter member of the American Legion Post #234 in Mountlake Terrace, Roy Johnson moved into Mountlake Terrace before it was a city --back in 1950. He bought that home for \$6,000 and it included all the appliances! Roy

purchased his current home in the Gateway neighborhood brand new in 1959 and he's made all the improvements himself.

The pictures do not do this home justice. You've got to see it in person. Until last year, his wife Marillyn helped him with the gardening and now Roy's doing a tremendous job maintaining this beautiful home himself since Marillyn's unable to. It's a big job with rain barrels that collect rain from the roof and gutters to water all types of flowers including roses, azaleas, petunias, marigolds, just to name a few. He added the flower boxes on his "shop" where Marillyn likes her geraniums. Roy also built the retaining wall that borders his back yard. I don't know how much extra time he has, but we heard Roy is a volunteer with the local Food Bank.

84/86. Al & Judy Barnes (Gateway) Best Maintained Residence:

44-year residents, Al and Judy are travelling around Germany tonight, and here to accept on their behalf are daughters Shelley and Shawna. The Barnes property has interesting features including wagon wheel accents and a zigzag split rail fence that provides a stunning location for beautiful flowerbeds with roses, purple and white petunias, and pink peonies among the selection.

Judy told us that Al does about 80% of the work at their house. A good Samaritan, Al also maintains their neighbor Mabel's home, and he mows many of the parking strips in the neighborhood. The Barnes are a great example of taking pride not only in their own property but in their neighborhood as well. They said they have noticed the city changing for the better in recent years.

LAKE BALLINGER

87/89. Jean Dahlberg (Lake Ballinger) Best Maintained Residence:

Jean Dahlberg lives in the last house on 230th Street, next to the Hall Creek Culvert and Ballinger Lake Golf Course. Jean's 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.

Jean said she has lived in her home for 50 years and it was the first home built in that development. She LOVES gardening but recently she was on a walk with her puppy and her foot was run over by a car, so she's unable to work outside right now.

90/92. Flora Wade (Lake Ballinger) Best Maintained Residence:

Flora Wade's lovely split-level home in the Lake Ballinger neighborhood is on a large corner lot. A lovely and fragrant rose garden curves up to the front entry. A

large expanse of green lawn wraps around the corner to the back of the house. She has honeysuckle and wisteria in the back yard.

Flora and her husband moved into their Lake Ballinger home in 1963 as part of the Good, Knight and Hildenbrandt development of 57 homes. She and her neighbors got an attorney to ensure the apartments across from Lake Ballinger weren't built too high. They were also instrumental in getting the Ballinger Playfield built for their neighborhood to use.

Her daughter, Barbara, is here tonight and she helps Flora with the roses. Flora used to maintain the yard but she has some help to maintain that gorgeous and meticulous corner lot.

MELODY HILL

93/95. Kevin & Karen Merriam (Melody Hill) Best Maintained Residence:

This house is very welcoming with a wide variety of green tones and textures including grasses, shrubs, and hydrangeas.

Karen said they bought their house in July of 1998 when she was 7 months pregnant with their daughter who's now at Brier Terrace Middle School. Originally, the property was over 16,000 square feet until they sold the backyard, enabling them to finally have a workable sized yard instead of the football field they had.

Karen said her husband, Keith, manicures it with his riding mower, and they love having a more normal sized yard to plant in. One of the Merriams' favorite plants is their very big and old Japanese maple outside the front window.

96/98. Jerry & Linda Watkins (Melody Hill) Best Maintained Residence:

The Watkins' are unavailable to make it tonight but fortunately, they were here last year with their neighbor who won an award and were able to experience the event.

Jerry and Linda Watkins' pale yellow home with brown accents is warm and attractive. The beautiful green lawn is perfectly mowed and edged. A gorgeous magnolia tree sits off to the left and a scalloped brick border lines the walkway to their door and continues around the house. We also noticed interesting rocks and small plants between the rhododendrons. There are many details such as planter barrels with flowers, hanging baskets, and the corner garden between the garage and front entry. They even have a white lattice panel to screen the garbage cans.

99/100. Jon & Donna Gabler (Melody Hill) Best Maintained Residence:

Unfortunately, 10-year residents, Jon and Donna Gabler, are attending their son's football game tonight and couldn't be present. Donna gave credit to her husband, Jon, whom she said does all the outside work while she maintains the inside of

their home. A beautiful split-level in monochromatic colors, this home has a nicely manicured lawn with shrubs including rhododendrons, lilacs and a large Japanese maple. It also has a dramatic backdrop of Evergreen trees.

102/103. Elvis & Senada Hajric (Melody Hill) Best Transformation:

Yet another transformation this year (do you sense a theme?), is the Hajric home. The diamond shape of the decorative concrete driveway immediately catches your attention when you drive down 65th Avenue in Melody Hill. Elvis is the son of a general contractor and has done all of the work on their house himself. Senada said they had a great time remodeling the house and they have lots of great stories too! They painted their fence since we took these photos, and the front tree has grown out quite a bit. She said they will continue to make improvements to their yard and inside of the house.

The transformation we discovered on this home is certainly impressive. The sloped yard was replaced with a wonderful bi-level retaining wall with a planted area. The overgrown shrubbery next to the house was removed to present a very clean image and a cute little park bench resides there as well. On the house, you can see new windows, a new front door, and an appealing new coat of paint. A new fence to the north, another retaining wall on the south border, and a festive red maple tree make the property look sharp. What a fabulous transformation!

103/106. Kelli Hord & Stoney Hughes Melody Hill Best Transformation:

This property was nominated by a neighbor who said it used to be a drug house. Kelli and Stoney's lovely transformation includes a new white picket fence, rain barrels, a green house and a garden of artichokes, strawberries, broccoli, sprouts, beans, and more.

A nice flagstone walkway with Corsican mint stands out. She noted that this is their third summer in this home and they had to rip out sod and weeds when they moved in. Their home also features a number of pots and little touches like this bejeweled slug. Kelli is a member of the Mountlake Terrace Garden Club and she actually volunteered to help them with the food tonight. We told her to relax for a change and enjoy this recognition. This effort shows how taking pride in your property can improve a neighborhood one house at a time.

The most competitive neighborhood this year with 8 winners was:

TOWN CENTER

107/109. Terrill & Linda Herberg (Town Center) Most Sustainable:

Terrill & Linda have lived in their home for 8 years and when they bought it, there was ONE plant in the yard. Now look at it. Terrill says he's a former landscaper turned stay at home dad and he LOVES to garden. He and his wife have passed along their passion to their sons, Trevor and Travis, who each have their own garden plots in the side yard. 5-year old Trevor is growing his favorites – rainbow

carrots, cherry tomatoes and beets while 3-year old Travis wants less plantings to accommodate his dump trucks. The white clematis by the front door grows like crazy. They have squash, lettuces, strawberries and lots of other veggies.

110/113. Jeff & Eilene Werner (Town Center) Best Maintained Residence:

Jeff and Eilene Werner's home is a little hard to find, off the beaten track in the western portion of the downtown, near I-5. 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, accented with flowerpots, with a large fir tree trimmed up to showcase the beautiful planting area. Last year the Werner's received honorable mention recognition, and we are pleased to invite them back again this year as a Town Center winner!

113/115. Ben & Edith Lange (Town Center) Best Maintained Residence:

Edith mentioned that she and Ben have lived in Mountlake Terrace for over 40 years. They liked the home back in 1963, because the back yard was small and easy to maintain and they had the use of the old Mountlake Terrace Junior High football field, now know as Terrace Park School.

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 welcomes visitors to their front door.

As many of you may have experienced, Edith said moles were a major challenge this year. She said they tried just about everything from traps, to water, to sonic sound but the moles just kept coming back. The lawn looked nice when we visited and we note that the retaining wall and flowerbeds provide a friendly view as you head down the city's main street. The Lange family's efforts contribute to the positive image of our revitalizing downtown.

116/118. Gary & Julie Silva (Town Center) Best Transformation:

The Silvas are one of our transformation success stories and we love this one because they started out as renters in Mountlake Terrace, moving here in 1999. The yard was just dirt and maple tree leaves. They purchased the home about 5 years ago and when the city started the 230th Street project, and they had a new roof installed at that time.

Gary and Julie take great care and pride in their yard; he does the mowing, she trims and adds all the interesting accent pieces. We noticed a bear, a horse, a pelican, and windmills in addition to adorable benches and lovely flowers. The yard has a nice 3-foot black fence that blends well with the large corner lot. Gary

told us that next year they plan to replace the siding. Thank you for transforming your property and setting down roots in Mountlake Terrace.

119/122. Luc & Becky Boileau (Town Center) Best Maintained Residence:

This home has a fairy tale or magical feel. Luc added the stately white pillars with rock accents that match the chimney and make this house unique. The details on the single garage door make it look like old fashion barn doors.

Becky does the flowers that line the walkways and adorn the house including the lavender plants where birds, bees and butterflies hover. The shutters and window boxes add to the nice style of their home.

The garden shed matches the house and garage. The yard wraps around this corner lot with a gazing ball and a flying witch weathervane appearing out of the middle of the landscaping.

If you remember earlier, we spoke about how the Boileau's and Forsythe's ended up buying their parents' homes. It's an interesting trend that we're finding as we continue the Evergreen Awards. Many of our award recipients are lifelong residents or they return to their childhood homes and stay. It shows how special our Mountlake Terrace community is.

Mountlake Terrace Garden Club:

These beautiful flowers were planted in front of the Mountlake Terrace Library by the Mountlake Terrace Garden Club. Thank you to our Garden Club members who volunteered to help us tonight.

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 with the Garden Club, please leave us your name and number.

That concludes our program, however we have two requests. Go out and nominate! Winners are not eligible to win in the same category but you may participate by nominating others. Honorable mention winners, we expect you will go for the win and be nominated again next year.

Will all the winning property owners now please bring your awards to the back for a couple of quick photos before you leave? 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!