

Evergreen Awards 2012

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.

Thank you to the Mountlake Terrace Garden Club for assisting with the Evergreen Award Event

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 after we show your home and pose for a photo. Then we’ll move to the next award to keep the program running.

For each HM home, we show one photo and for the winners we show multiple views. We have 16 HM’s this year.

Honorable Mention Recipients for Pride of the Neighborhood:

CASCADE VIEW

Tall Cedars - Best Maintained Multifamily Property (Cascade View)

Secluded and inviting, Tall Cedars is located on a dead end street in the northern part of Mountlake Terrace. Built in 1998, resident Mark Hopkins, who’s here tonight says the Tall Cedars residents come out once a year to help clean up “the field”, a part of the property that is allocated to rainwater run-off.

It's an expensive job to have someone maintain the field, so several years ago the residents took it upon themselves to get it to a higher level. This year, they planted flowers around their sign and some new Lilac trees. They try to keep the area as park-like as possible and they painted the sign this summer. General landscaping is done by Klausen's Landscape service once per week and local kids mow the 'field'. In the summer months, you’ll often encounter the friendly residents of Tall Cedars sitting outside and talking and welcoming those who come by. Let’s recognize Tall Cedars!

CEDAR TERRACE

Jim & Kathy Anderberg - Best Maintained Residence (Cedar Terrace)

Jim and Kathy moved to Mountlake Terrace in 1989. Their white 2-story home with green shutters is beautiful, both inside and out. Framed by a colorful, annual flowerbed of impatiens, the home has a new brick path from the driveway leading to the front door. A lovely covered porch with swing provides a sheltered area to sit and talk or just enjoy the yard.

Jim and Kathy built the walk path together with Jim using a jackhammer to remove the old handicap ramp. They both dug out the dirt for the new path and placed the bricks. The garden on the north side of the house is half flowers and half vegetables and fruit. They have 10 blueberry bushes, apples, raspberries, and strawberries. This year they planted a summer squash medley, but they tell us some of the squash were too scary looking to eat. The Anderbergs!

Dan Arntson - Best Maintained Residence (Cedar Terrace)

On an expansive corner lot in the Cedar Terrace neighborhood, Dan Arntson's teal rambler with white trim really stands out as you drive down 42nd Place. Dan purchased this home 10 years ago and when he first moved in the lawn was covered in dandelions. I bet his neighbors are pleased with his lawn maintenance. Each year, it catches our eye and this year we were able to get some photos with the azaleas still blooming.

This yard is huge and must be challenging to maintain, yet it always looks great. In addition to the American flag flying proudly in front, you can tell that this resident has a lot of pride in his property. The Arntson home!

Joe & Samantha Harasen - Best Maintained Residence (Cedar Terrace)

Joe and Samantha Harasen have lived in their Cedar Terrace home since January 2002. Brek Harasen, their 7-year-old son came along in 2005. Samantha said, "Maintaining the property is considered 'family service' and all participate in the upkeep and improvement of the residence and surrounding yard." This inviting rambler has great curb appeal with its long lines balanced with interesting landscaping. The trees and shrubs are trimmed to proper scale and there are a variety of plants that add year round colors and textures to the front yard.

The Harasens are currently in the process of replacing the roof and adding a covered patio at the back of the house. Siding on the back will be replaced and the whole house painted an exciting new color. We'll make sure to come back and visit next year, as they vie for winning status in 2013! The Harasens!

Jim & Jean Medlock - Best Maintained Residence (Cedar Terrace)

Jim and Jean have lived in their MLT home that they bought new for 47 years. This attractive white home, with blue shutters and matching blue flowerpots, is neat as a pin. Long clean lines and a backdrop of stately trees set this house apart. Jim has done most of the outside work. Jean takes care of the inside and their daughter Patty helps out. They hired a man named Dan Reed to mow and edge the lawn and trim the shrubs. We were told Dan gets angry if they don't water the lawn enough.

Jean told a story that she went out to move the sprinkler, thought she was in the clear, and got hit with the water making her hair, glasses and clothes wet. As she was cleaning up, she got a call that she was late for her pinochle game and the group was waiting for her. So she went to the pinochle game as she was, wet hair and all! Dedicated to watering and to pinochle, Jean Medlock and her husband, Jim!

Don & Judi Moore - Best Maintained Residence (Cedar Terrace)

Don and Judi purchased their home in 1973 when it was 8 years old. It was about 900 square feet and they added on 528 square feet for a rec room and half bath to make room for their two daughters. This yellow home with green shutters looks both inviting and very comfortable. They planted the birch tree in the front raised bed and have had it trimmed and shaped to provide shade. A ring of colorful impatiens, accent the raised bed. The backyard refuge includes a deck with planter boxes and flowers, and a berm and laurel hedge provide increased privacy. Don does the mowing and edging and Judi takes care of the flowers. The Moores!

GATEWAY

Tom & Dayna Elledge - Best Maintained Residence (Gateway)

Tom and Dayna are the original owners of this beautiful split-level home in the Gateway neighborhood. They purchased their home 23 years ago. Tom is now retired so he does most of the work inside the home and all of the yard work while Dayna's still working full time. Their beige home with green trim sits atop a hill with a backdrop of handsome Evergreen trees. The front yard is landscaped with a variety of shrubs and grasses separated by beauty bark and brick edging along the driveway. Dayna tells us that a tree fell on the home during a November windstorm in the 90's, damaging the living room, dining room and kitchen. Fortunately, no one was injured, as the bedrooms are all located on the lower level. After the remodel was completed, they had five trees removed to prevent any future windstorm damage. The Elledge family!

Dona Nguyen -- Best Maintained Residence (Gateway)

Dona moved into her Mountlake Terrace home back in 1999. She has a son and daughter, who attend Brier-Terrace Middle School and Mountlake Terrace High School and they help her with the yard work. Dona has lots of flowers including roses, tulips and rhododendrons and several fruit trees that produce plums, peaches and cherries. If Dona achieves winner status next year, we'll show off photos of all the great fruit she grows. She works for Boeing in Everett and attends their toastmasters club. Dona was unable to attend tonight but sends her best. Dona Nguyen!

LAKE BALLINGER

Carol Peterson & daughter Donna DeQuillettes - Best Maintained Residence (Lake Ballinger)

As you drive south on 66th Avenue, you can't help but notice the Peterson home. The house is located on the highest part of the lot and slopes down toward the street. The beautiful manicured lawn is separated by terraced retaining walls to create the colorful flowerbeds. The gorgeous white rhododendrons break up the long lines of this rambler and draw your attention to the front entry. A simple trellis with climbing rose and flowerpots accent the white side door of another section of the home. The flowerbeds contain a wide variety of plants that provide numerous colors and textures, and the corner garden is updated with each season.

Carol has owned the home for over 20 years and her daughter Donna lives with her. Donna's father (Donald) converted the carport to extra living space. Donna said she always remembers how her dad took such good care of the yard and now she has followed in his footsteps with the same prideful care of their yard. Carol Peterson and Donna DeQuillettes !

Dorothy Selby-- Best Maintained Residence (Lake Ballinger)

Dorothy Selby has lived in her home on the fringe of MLT and Edmonds since January 1963 and she does all of the yard work herself. Dorothy recently purchased 20 yards of mulch and spread 10 yards of it alone. Then her daughter told her "you can't do all of this by yourself" and brought the family in to help move the other 10 yards.

Dorothy's yard resembles a mini arboretum and she used to watch garden shows to learn more about how to tend to her flowers. She enjoys the look of the English Cottage Garden but she can't manage that much work.

Dorothy likes to let things just happen in her gardens. She lets things "self seed" or what she refers to as "garden chaos". Her yard used to be a gravel pit and has lots of rocks and hardpan, which makes it difficult to plant things.

Dorothy said she had lots of poppies but didn't have enough room for the compost they created. In addition, she declared war on Forget-Me-Nots because of the seeds that stick to your gloves, pant legs and shoelaces. Now she focuses on her lavender, roses, hollyhocks, and rhododendrons. As you can see in the photo, this garden not only provides layers of beautiful colors and textures for the enjoyment of all who pass by, but for the birds and urban wildlife as well. Dorothy told us that she really enjoys all of the birds that visit her garden. Dorothy Selby!

Danny & Brynn Ward– Best Maintained Residence (Lake Ballinger)

This lovely gray-green rambler with red door and white trim is a welcome surprise in this Lake Ballinger neighborhood. The owners, Danny and Brynn, have lived here for 4 years come October. It is exceptionally well maintained and has great curb appeal. The trees and shrubs frame the house and highlight the front entry. The neatly mowed and edged lawn is maintained by Danny while Brynn does the flowers, weeding, pruning and fine-tuning. She said Danny likes to baby their rose bushes.

Both Danny and Brynn work in their backyard garden and they make yard work a fun, family affair by including their 3 1/2 year-old son, Cooper, their 1-year-old daughter, Stevie, and their Mastiff named Lola. The garden features lettuces, herbs, tomatoes and raspberries.

They make the kids' jobs fun so they really like to participate. Watering is their favorite activity, as it gives them an excuse to run through the sprinkler. The Ward family!

MELODY HILL

Ryan & Becky Mustoe – Best Maintained Residence (Melody Hill)

This lovely brown house with white trim and wide brick chimney is showcased by the beautiful front flowerbed and perfect green lawn. The front landscaping with all of its layers of colors and textures lead visitors to the front entrance of the home. The home is modernized with new windows and front door. Ryan and Becky have lived in their home for 5 years and they share landscaping duties.

The Mustoes weren't sure if they could come to the event, as they are expecting a baby. The Mustoe family!

Sandi Amos-Pitts - Best Maintained Residence (Melody Hill)

A lifelong gardener, Sandi has lived in her Mountlake Terrace home for 28 years. She does all of the yard work and has spent 20 years renovating the house and yard. She includes lots of textures, levels and colors to accent the home.

Sandi made her own view in her backyard so she can relax and enjoy the Zen of her garden. She has mums, a magnolia tree, roses, rhododendrons, azaleas, and lilies and she LOVES Flower World!

Sandi recently purchased a new tree that blooms all year round for her front yard. She wanted it in the front so everyone could enjoy it. Sandi had recent surgery, so if she's not able to attend, she said her son would accept on her behalf. The Sandi Amos-Pitts home.

Joseph & Judy Zettl — Best Maintained Residence (Melody Hill)

Not far from the northern border of Mountlake Terrace, you'll find Joseph and Judy Zettl's beautiful yellow, ranch-style home where they have lived for 46 years. Judy does much of the yard work. Over the years, they've removed many plants to improve the look of their home and make yard work easier. Judy spoke fondly of "Crazy George," a bright Red Rhododendron located by the front door. He got his name because he blooms 4 or 5 times per year, even at Christmas.

The Zettl property slopes down toward the street into a bank of Evergreen trees and the west side of the property is lined with an attractive wood fence and retaining wall. Unfortunately, Joseph and Judy were not able to attend tonight. The Zettl's!

TOWN CENTER

Cindy Anderson - Best Maintained Residence (Town Center)

Cindy Anderson has lived in her Town Center home for two and a half years. We had a tough time taking a front view due to the fence getting in the way, so we're showing the front as well as the side yard view taken over the fence. This little brown rambler with white trim includes a variety of landscaping features and new beauty bark. There is a wishing well, nice trellis with hanging baskets, garden art and tomato plants. Cindy said it continues to be a work in progress. She moved in at Christmas time 2009 and remembers that the yard was covered in more than 2 inches of maple leaves, pine needles and pinecones.

Cindy said the home needed a lot of work and she had heard the previous owners had raised 10 children in the house. She totally remodeled the inside of the house and now she continues to work on the yard. She says she's glad it's not any bigger than it is because she likes to have time to pursue other activities rather than just tending to the house and yard. You can tell that Cindy's efforts have paid off, as this home really caught our eye this year. Cindy Anderson!

Dean Zenk & Rochelle McKenzie - Best Maintained Residence (Town Center)

Dean Zenk and Rochelle McKenzie were recognized in 2010 for their beautiful home in the Cedar Terrace neighborhood. It took a little sleuthing, but eventually we found out that this Town Center home is owned by them and rented out. However, Dean still does all the property maintenance and I actually caught him edging the lawn when I took photos. Located across the street from Mountlake Terrace Elementary School on the corner of 52nd and 220th, and next door to a former Evergreen Award winner, the Zenk house is meticulously well-maintained. This lovely rambler has soothing green tones highlighted by white and red shrubs. The rock garden provides added interest to the front yard.

When you're at the stop sign waiting for kids to cross, you can't help but notice how the lawn's trimmed and edged to perfection. As you turn the corner, you'll see how clean and nicely maintained this home is from the top of the roof to the bottom of the street, including the sidewalks that are always swept clean. Dean Zenk and Rochelle McKenzie!

Winning Properties Title Slide: And NOW, the winners!

CASCADE VIEW

Edgar & Louise Hansen – Best Maintained Residence (Cascade View)

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 go there, lots of kids are running around the yard and it looks like the house on the block where everyone wants to be. Edgar said with the trampoline and tubular slide and other play equipment in the backyard, there's always something going on and that's why all the kids are there.

We asked about the anchor in the front flowerbed and Edgar said he's a Commercial Fisherman. He mentioned the Discovery Channel program the Deadliest Catch: He and his brother Captain Sig Hansen operate the crab-fishing vessel the Northwestern. Edgar is the Deckboss and Engineer. He said the anchor came from a boat in Ballard and is a constant reminder that his dad emigrated from Norway and moved to Ballard, started with nothing and left them a legacy with the fishing industry. Edgar said he recently added on to their home, doubling it in size. He added 1400 square feet and did most of the work himself. I guess now he's "fishing" for a new project. Great job! The Hansen family!

Vernon & Jennifer Winters – Best Maintained Residence (Cascade View)

Vernon and Jennifer have lived in their home for 14 years and it's one of the most elaborate winners you'll hear about tonight. They refer to their yard as their "Northwest Demonstration Garden" and it doesn't disappoint. Vernon does most of the yard work. He also came up with the design of zones, hardscaping, circle path, creek and bridge.

Jennifer chose a Northwest Native plant selection for each of the zones, considering sustainability, sun/shade tolerance and beneficial insect attractors. She also labeled the plants for identification to the public. Their garden has Hostas, Heuchra (also known as coral bells), Coral Bark Maples, Native long grasses, Heaths, Heathers, and Lavenders.

Flower plantings include Bleeding Hearts, Hardy Geraniums, Day lilies, Siberian Iris, Lupines, Ladies Mantel, Sweet Alyssum, and Yarrow.

The Winters also decided to include some garden art including large Volcanic rock boulders (Red lava, Obsidian, Pumice), River Boulders, and Rock figures (Inukshuks). They even have what looks like a miniature Stonehenge. Their yard features a dry streambed with a log bridge, Haida (Hida) Style Totem Pole, and wind bells.

If you look closely you'll notice a salmon appears to be swimming upstream at the edge of the yard. There are a couple of sitting areas, which are strategically placed for thoroughly contemplating all of the elements included in this demonstration garden.

The Winters shared that their gardening activities have brought them closer to their neighbors with daily interaction through conversations about the garden and their experiences. They enjoy the kids from Mountlake Terrace Elementary walking back and forth daily watching changes in the lifecycle of plants, especially the strawberry and squash plants out by the road. Jennifer said, "It is a fun, long-term project that they contribute to together and collaborate on their ideas and knowledge." They enjoy the fact that they get to spend a lot of time together, planning, learning, creating and celebrating their accomplishments. The Winters family!

Walnut Grove Townhomes – Best Maintained Multifamily Property (Cascade View)

Stan Kuligoski of Port Gardner Property Management gives credit to Walnut Grove's Board for their attentiveness and excellent communication in finding out what homeowners want and need near their homes. The Port Gardner Property

Management team has spent the last couple of years making upgrades to meet the needs of the owners.

Built in 2003, this attractive townhome community, located not too far from the Albertsons and Mountlake Terrace High School, provides a variety of areas for gathering, strolling, climbing and playing, including a tot lot. Walnut Grove is a peaceful and park-like community set up for its residents to enjoy a high quality of life in a fantastic location. Walnut Grove Townhomes!

Stuart & Teri Thompson– Best Transformation (Cascade View)

The Thompson home stood out as a gem in their neighborhood when we visited last spring to take photos. Back at the office, we found an old photo on the County Assessor site and realized what a fine transformation Stuart and Teri have made. Stuart told us that he and Teri bought their home in 2002. They have painted their home, resurfaced the driveway and added a new roof in addition to the landscaping improvements. The next-door neighbors liked their roof so much they put on the same kind of roof.

Recently, the Thompsons changed some of the landscaping in the front yard that's not shown in our before and after shots. As you can see here, the pink rhododendron in the middle was removed, obviously the tulips were done blooming and removed, and a new bridge was added along with a dry river and new bark. I just missed the flowers in bloom but you can see that Teri has added cute little animal accents that she painted herself.

I'd also like to introduce Patches the Cat who so kindly greeted me last week when I drove over to the Thompson home. Patches' former family had their home foreclosed on and instead of going back to PAWS, the Thompson's took him in and built a kitty condo complete with skylights.

Even with Patches' kitty condo located next to the front door, the Thompson's house is so welcoming, that they have 15-20 hummingbirds that regularly visit their feeders in front. Great transformation, Stuart and Teri Thompson!

CEDAR TERRACE

Bob & Connie Humphreys - Best Maintained Residence (Cedar Terrace)

This elegant blue Rambler with white trim, framed by a pretty white picket fence is located in the Cedar Terrace neighborhood. A beautiful expanse of lawn is surrounded by a wide variety of grasses, flowers and shrubs to create a delightful outdoor tapestry. Connie and Bob Humphreys have lived in this lovely home since 1985.

Connie cares for the flowers and Bob does the mowing. Their garden is filled with tomatoes, garlic, peas, broccoli, and carrots. Japanese maples, roses, geraniums, Bee Balm, and hydrangea are part of the design in the front. A new driveway was added three years ago and the 4-inch concrete strips by the garden were installed this year.

The Humphreys were not able to attend tonight but they expressed their appreciation for this award. The Humphreys!

Dave and Bonnie Mercer - Best Maintained Residence (Cedar Terrace)

This is the first year Bonnie hasn't been working at this event as a member of the MLT Garden Club. We actually had to force Bonnie to sit down and relax tonight as she's been a tireless volunteer for the city for several years now.

Bonnie and Dave purchased their Cedar Terrace home that's near Cedar Plaza in the infamous Christmas Light neighborhood back in 1977. Dave is a construction guy so he's made a lot of improvements and Bonnie is President of the MLT Garden Club so she obviously loves gardening. Dave is also a member of the Garden Club but he's been on the road a lot lately, and somehow, they still manage to maintain their home very nicely.

Bonnie said Dave worked for a brick master so he added the brick on the house to make it easier to maintain and he added some to the driveway too. Dave also installed a brick planter along the driveway, which includes the light atop the planter that reminds us of a lighthouse beacon welcoming travelers home from a long voyage. Bonnie planted red tulips in the spring as a cheerful accent to the entry.

Dave put a shop and garage in the back and concrete on the side and there's a planter across the back fence.

One of the unique items you'll see at the Mercer's and it's also one of their inside jokes is the "family heirloom", the weathervane out front that Dave's parents made. Bonnie said they don't really care for it but since Dave's folks made it, they're stuck with it.

The Mercer home is spic and span and highlighted with petunias in the brick planting areas and impatiens by the front door. Their home is cheerful and welcoming to the neighborhood. The Mercer family!

Dorian Kelley - Best Maintained Residence (Cedar Terrace)

Right next door to the Mercer's is Dorian Kelley and every time we drove by this year, he was outside tinkering with something. Dorian is Mountlake Terrace's version of the Energizer Bunny with remodels and improvements inside and out.

This eye-catching maple Rambler with white trim has matching natural rockwork both under the front window and on the chimney. The unique chimney cap tops off this elegant house in the warm color palette that makes this home so alluring. Dorian said he moved to MLT from Seattle in 1994 because of our convenient location and easy commute to Boeing.

Where do we start? Dorian has done almost ALL of the work himself including a new fence, the roof, the inside remodel and the yard maintenance. As you can see from the yard waste container, he was outside working when we dropped by unannounced to take photos.

Dorian's yard features precisely trimmed shrubs that reveal his newer windows (yes he installed those too) and he has white and purple hibiscus near the front door. His yard also has heather, a gorgeous lavender shrub that was in bloom here in the photos, lilies by the back fence, and a hydrangea.

Inside, Dorian has completely remodeled the bathroom with marble flooring and shower and suede paint that he sealed to keep the moisture out. Other features include patterned tiles in the shower and heated flooring. If he had a housekeeper, you'd think you were in a luxury hotel.

The kitchen remodel, still in progress, includes a Wolf gas range, new cabinets, countertops, and appliances. He added French doors to separate the smaller dining area from the living room. Dorian said he enjoys finding old windows and adding mirrors where the glass panes were to use as accents and make the living space appear larger. The Kelley home!

Olga Lindbloom - Best Transformation (Cedar Terrace)

Olga said her husband purchased their home in about 1969. Located on a corner lot just east of 44th Avenue W in the Cedar Terrace neighborhood, you can tell that Olga has made some upgrades that really caught our attention.

Although her husband has passed away, Olga's working hard to keep her home clean and tidy. Her transformation includes a new driveway with pavers along the side, a brand new roof, new windows, and a nice retaining wall that fronts along 225th Street. The fresh blue paint and white trim make her home shine in her neighborhood and this is yet another transformation in the makeover of Mountlake Terrace. Great job, Olga Lindbloom.

GATEWAY

Mark & Carla Haney – Best Maintained Residence (Gateway)

Tucked away in the southeast corner of the Gateway neighborhood, up the hill from Cedar Way, Mark and Carla bought their home in 1993 when it was about two years old. This contemporary 2-story home with brick accent and its beautiful bay window sits proudly at the top of the lot with grand Douglas firs as a backdrop.

The yard is very well maintained and includes a variety of features such as rocks with low purple ground cover, a carpet of lush green turf rising to meet a burst of white flowers and nicely trimmed trees and shrubs. Carla said she's responsible for the pots and planting beds. Their teenage son handles mowing responsibilities and Mark handles the rest. The Haney family!

Al & Donna Lima - Best Maintained Residence (Gateway)

This beautiful Gateway home is striking with its dark trim and shutters 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. There are a variety of features including concrete planters, rocks and an assortment of trees and shrubs. A gorgeous Japanese maple is strategically placed to soften the corner of the split-level. Both the home and yard are very well maintained.

Al and Donna have lived in their home for 40 years and they won an honorable mention award last year. Donna tells us that she and Al planted all of the trees in the yard and although they've battled illness this past year, they've worked hard to keep it up. The Lima family!

Joann Minnis – Best Maintained Residence (Gateway)

A resident since 1961, Joann has one of the most unique lots in the city and quite a history behind it. Situated on $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre tucked away in the southern end of the city just blocks from the county line, Joann's property is a former mink farm. She told us they actually butchered horses on site to feed the mink and when she moved in there was still a walk-in deep freeze in the back part of the property. The mink sheds had burned down before she bought the place.

Joann says she's "addicted to lilies" and no matter the season, she has plenty of cheerful flowers on display. In the spring she has daffodils, tulips, rhodies, glads and lilies and in the summer she adds dahlias, calla-lilies, and a fabulous hibiscus as well as a perennial fuchsia among others.

In addition to her nicely weeded flower garden where she spends much of her time, Joann has “Rose of Sharon” bushes and the side yard boasts fruit trees including pear, apple and cherry varieties.

This pretty pink house was originally a two-bedroom home with a basement and was added onto many years ago. Looking back toward the street from the front door, you’ll see Joann’s collection of angels and ducks and other cute ornaments in the garden.

To maintain the yard, Joann says she gets help from her friends, family and neighbors, some of whom are here tonight. She’s an active member of Bethesda Lutheran Church in downtown MLT and there’s no doubt, the church gets to share some of the bounty of flowers that Joann grows. Joann Minnis!

Studio 6 Hotel– Best Business Transformation (Gateway)

Another great example of the city’s transformation is the major remodel undertaken by the city’s only hotel, Studio 6, located at Gateway Place. General Manager, Ayesha Sheik who serves on the city’s Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and is the current President of the Mountlake Terrace Business Association returns from vacation tomorrow. Unfortunately, it’s Operations Manager Laura Peckinpaugh’s birthday today so she was also unable to attend and accept their award. They did express their appreciation of the award and asked that guests come and visit their hotel.

In 2011, the extended stay hotel spent almost five months transforming their facility both inside and out. On the exterior, the hotel parking lot was resurfaced and repainted and the building got a new paint job.

Inside, guests are welcomed by updated paint and furnishings including new flat screen televisions. About 70% of the kitchens were remodeled and received updated cabinets and countertops. All of the carpets were replaced with wood laminate, and each unit has a new bed, and new heating and AC units. Great job on a great transformation. Studio 6 Hotel!

Steve & Corinna Enge – Best Transformation (Gateway)

This original Mountlake Terrace block house painted in beige with white shutters has been brought up to date and then some. The landscaping with rock retaining walls and shapely shrubs puts this lovely home in the 21st century. It is super clean and modern both inside and out – unfortunately we didn’t take photos of the interior.

Steve and Corinna have lived in this home since 1986. Corinna started laughing when we asked if she had any good before photos of the house. She said you

wouldn't believe it when Steve first started working on it. You can see from the "before" photo, they've come along way in transforming this house.

Recent improvements include taking out the old retaining wall 3 or 4 years ago, and relocating the bricks to other parts of the yard. They painted the shutters and redid the landscaping, adding the Japanese maple, rhodies and grasses out front.

Corinna said Steve does the shopping and she does most of the yard work. Steve picked up a fireplace on sale for the backyard, making it an extension of the house out back. They plan to add a retaining wall on the side yard to expand it but said that's a work in progress. The Enge's!

LAKE BALLINGER

Troy & Kristy Christianson – Best Maintained Residence (Lake Ballinger)

A hidden gem in the Lake Ballinger neighborhood, the Christianson home is very noticeable 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.

Troy says he and Kristy have lived in their home for 15 years and he does most of the yard work. You can tell by the lawn that Troy has a thing about going after moles to keep them away from his beautiful turf. He told us some of his friends played a joke on him once by setting out 15 piles of dirt on his lawn to make it look like the moles had taken over his lawn. I asked how he tries to discourage the moles. He says he pours a bit of white vinegar down the holes and that seems to make them go away. The Christiansons!

"Mort" & "Chickie" Willits – Best Maintained Residence (Lake Ballinger)

Mort and Chickie were the 13th family to move into one of the block houses in Mountlake Terrace in November 1949. They moved into their current home located on 66th Avenue, just north of 236th in 1964. Mort and Chickie's yard sits below street level and has a pleasant park-like feeling.

The Willits share the yard work and they redid their lawn about 4 years ago. Early on, Chickie got some small plants from a neighbor that looked like they'd be nice in her yard. Well, those ended up growing into six-foot tall bushes. Then she realized that the neighbor had the plants in the shade. Now she and Mort keep things trimmed.

Chickie shared that she did a lot of volunteer work when her kids were in school. Her girls were in the first class of the old Mountlake Terrace High School, one of

her sons attended the old Edmonds High School and one went to Catholic School. The Willits family!

John & Laurel Starkweather – Best Transformation (Lake Ballinger)

John and Laurel purchased their Lake Ballinger home in 2002. Laurel said it had great bones but needed some TLC. The Starkweathers began remodeling the inside, one project per year. They moved to Asia for several years and rented out their home here. The Starkweathers were mortified when they began receiving letters from the city about the need to cut down all of the weeds in the yard while they were away.

In 2008, Laurel and John moved back and the yard became their top priority. They tilled the entire front yard and covered it with black plastic to kill all of the weed seeds. Laurel said they felt sorry for the neighbors having to look at the yard covered in black plastic. She said they probably wondered when these people would move away. Eventually, the plastic was removed, a sprinkler system installed, and turf and fun bright plants that would do well in this climate were added.

Laurel said they wanted the yard to look like a happy place. At first, the plants they added looked a bit meager, but this year things have matured to make their yard look spectacular. They have a dry river bed leading diagonally to two lovely hydrangeas, grasses, trees and garden art that work together to indeed make the yard a happy place. Great transformation, the Starkweathers!

MELODY HILL

Danielle and Jeff Rice - Best Maintained Residence (Melody Hill)

Danielle and Jeff Rice's home is tucked away in the gully next to the 228th bridge overpass on the west side of I-5. The Rice family purchased the property in the 1990's and completely remodeled it. The remodel was necessary, well because Danielle said... "it was a dump". She and Jeff share the yard work with Jeff handling the mowing and edging duties and Danielle managing the weeds and plantings.

They take great care to pressure wash and maintain the exposed aggregate parking area with a brick pathway to their front door. They have nice pavers leading to the front entry, newer front porch/steps and a bay window. You can really see how nicely maintained it is when you step down from the street and look back from the front door. Here you'll see the nice retaining wall and careful edging that makes this property really stand out and shine in this Melody Hill neighborhood. In fact, Danielle grew up two houses away where her parents still live. It appears that good

habits passed from mom to daughter as her mom, Mary Lou Neff, won an Evergreen Award in 2009.

The most recent transformation of this property that caught our eye was the new plants, re-landscaped yard, new retaining wall, and they added two maples that were starts from their neighbors. The Rice family!

Giang & Kim Pham - Best Maintained Residence (Melody Hill)

Giang and Kim weren't able to be here tonight, but they shared with me that they've lived in their home located just north of our Interim City Hall up the hill from the turn off at 212th and 61st Place for almost five years. Giang was very modest when I asked him about all the lovely flowers out front that include lilies, dahlias, and brown-eyed Susans to name a few. He said they have a few vegetables mixed in there and for the most part, they keep to themselves. It appears the children enjoy playing outside though as we noticed their bicycles out front.

Since we drive by the Pham house frequently, we've noticed how well maintained it is, particularly given the difficult topography with the steep sloping hill and rockery. Their flower garden is prominent out front and the vibrant colors add cheer to our city. Great job, Giang and Kim Pham!

Terrace Village Shopping Center - Best Maintained Business (Melody Hill)

Terrace Village is the neat-as-a-pin, shopping center located on 220th Street between 64th and 66th Avenues. Some of their main tenants are the Azteca Restaurant, Crazy Moose Casino, HomeStreet Bank and Edward Jones Financial Advisors. The shopping center has five buildings of retail and office space and has great access to I-5 and Highway 99. Quinn Chinn has owned the complex since the mid-1980's and takes a lot of pride in his property as does Property Manager Lynn Radke who are in attendance tonight.

When you drive on 220th, Terrace Village really stands out. They have attractive edging along the sidewalks, handsome flowerbeds and clear signage that make this shopping center a winner. Those of us at City Hall visit there often, and we can attest that the parking lot is always well maintained and the business owners are friendly – probably because they like working in this lovely shopping center. Terrace Village Shopping Center!

Lakeside Apartments - Best Maintained Multifamily Property (Melody Hill)

Wow, this complex is not only a best maintained multifamily property but they invested in a major remodel this past year. We didn't give them a transformation award because it looked nice before as you can see from the nice, clean signage and the huge American flag that stands in front of the leasing office.

Being located next to our Interim City Hall, we saw Lakeside repave and repaint the parking lot, paint all the exteriors, add another fountain to the lake and reroof the entire complex. Lakeside Apartments boasts 320 units and looking at these photos, you'd have no clue that they've been around since 1969.

Here you can see a poolside oasis with palm trees and lounge chairs. How relaxing!

This is a very nicely maintained multifamily property and we are happy to present them with an Evergreen Award this year. Accepting for Lakeside is Nikki Cruz, Assistant Community Director. Lakeside Apartments!

TOWN CENTER

Patrick & Carol McMahan – Best Maintained Residence (Town Center)

An original resident of the city and some call him “The Father of Mountlake Terrace”, Patrick McMahan bought his Town Center home on 61st Avenue in 1986 just before he married his bride Carol back in 1987. It's located just north on 61st when you drive over the I-5/228th Street Overpass heading east.

Their son, Patrick Jr., and his wife help out with yard maintenance. The McMahan's stately blue house, with white trimmed windows and spic and span driveway and walkway, is a positive example in the very competitive Town Center neighborhood.

In the front yard, a beautiful maple tree stands guard, although Carol shared that PUD recently came and did a poor job trimming it around the power lines. She said the leaves turn into a lovely orange/red color in the fall. When I visited this summer, Pat and Carol showed me their huge tomato plants on the south side of the house that were loaded with tomatoes just beginning to ripen. Pat and Carol have done a lot of remodeling over the years including an expansion, hardwood floors, new windows and more. The McMahan Family!

Richard & Kathy Rossi – Best Maintained Residence (Town Center)

The Rossi's won an honorable mention back in 2009 and this year, we've selected them as a Town Center winner. We love the Rossi's, well because they're just a lot of fun to talk to. Kathy said they moved into their Town Center home on the corner of 222nd Place and 56th on December 1, 1980. She handles the money because she says Richard can't, and he mows the lawn and washes the car. They keep their driveway nice and clean and their old garage was converted some years ago into extra living space including a rec room, laundry room and extra bathroom.

As you drive south down 56th, you'll view a colorful, park-like setting of baby azaleas and rhodies with an inviting park bench, levels of colorful plantings and new beauty bark. What you can't see in the photos is how their plantings are terraced so they can enjoy them from the low deck that was newly painted along with the fence this past year.

The Rossi's wanted to recognize neighbor Rob Petry for helping them with all the painting. Additionally, since these photos were taken, the Rossi's had new windows installed by Polar Bear Energy Solutions, a Mountlake Terrace business. Kathy provided an "after" photo here showing the new grey paint and white trim and new windows that was done this summer. And last but not least, Heidi, their 2 year-old Dachshund, really enjoys their home and yard. You can see here how content she is. The Rossi family...Richard, Kathy and Heidi!

Ric & Mary Ellen Jones – Best Maintained Residence (Town Center)

The Jones family moved to their Mountlake Terrace home from a Lynnwood condo in 1992. Their house is just west of the Civic Center on 232nd just before the road curves into 61st towards the 228th Street freeway overpass.

One of the things Mary Ellen said she likes about Mountlake Terrace is the small town feel and knowing all her neighbors. Ric keeps the almost new, 2 year-old roof clean, and Mary Ellen manages the flowers and a side yard vegetable garden that includes tomatoes, green beans, zucchini and rhubarb.

Keeping up with the Joneses may not be easy. They cut down a huge holly tree last year, as it grew as high as the roof, and they've put in a rockery and flowers all around the back yard. To top it off, they have a fountain, a swing and beautiful rhododendrons. Mary Ellen sent us some photos of their flowers and the fountain in the back yard.

In addition to providing a home to several birds including a woodpecker, juncos, flickers and chickadees, other wildlife have found the Jones' home very alluring as well. A raccoon family comes to drink from the fountain and on a hot summer night this past summer, Mary Ellen heard some noise and found a possum had come to visit. In case you ever encounter a possum in your home, do not make any sudden movements. Back away slowly, as Mary Ellen did, and hopefully you won't be the object of their sharp teeth and skunk-like odor. She survived the unannounced visit unscathed and passed along her advice to us as well.

We especially like the Jones' red rhododendrons and strategically placed flowerpots. Mary Ellen and Ric are joined by former Evergreen Award winner and neighbor Sharon Redden tonight. The Jones family!

Mountlake Terrace Plaza Merrill Gardens (Town Center) Best Maintained Business

Mountlake Terrace Plaza Merrill Gardens is an assisted and independent living facility that has 80 apartments and 84 residents. Located across the street from the library and Veterans Memorial Park, Merrill Gardens catches your attention with the lovely hanging baskets that greet you along the entrance to their building. Well, those baskets were purchased from none other than the Mountlake Terrace Garden Club and this business is very involved in our community, having hosted a number of city events as well.

Marilyn Johnson, the General Manager, is here tonight along with receptionist Nancy Fontaine who had the idea of forming their own garden club for residents. So this past year, residents also became involved in maintaining the flowers and grounds and they enjoy working outdoors to make their home beautiful. Rick Croft is their maintenance guy who keeps things tidy, particularly the pressure washing, and the landscaping is done by NW Landscape Services.

A formal yet relaxing sitting room is located just off the lobby where residents can talk, read and greet their visitors. This private patio provides sun and shade for residents and raised flowerbeds for guest to enjoy.

With the downtown revitalization happening now, it's important that our businesses put their best foot forward to attract more quality businesses and shoppers to our Town Center. The Mountlake Terrace Plaza is doing just that and more. Congratulations!

Linda Huber – Best Transformation (Town Center)

We found the Huber home tucked away in a less travelled part of the Town Center. Linda was unable to be here tonight but she sent her son Scott Gippert and his friend to accept the award on her behalf.

Linda stated this transformation is a work in progress. She said she had grown tired of the large broken asphalt area, so a beautiful pathway was designed that leads to the front door. Linda said, "It was made like the yellow brick road". The Huber home has crushed rock and lighting lining the walkway, fencing on both sides and a landscaped planting area with bulbs and perennials, including dusty miller, pink and purple tulips, lilacs and a nice maple tree. Linda has lived in Mountlake Terrace for 24 years. The Huber family!

Brandon & Jori Laverne (Town Center) - Best Transformation

Brandon and Jori Laverne have lived in their Town Center home for 4 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. Brandon spent lots of time fixing a patio roof that was in disrepair in the back, getting the lawn back to a luscious green and adding a fire pit for family gatherings. The white picket fence and detail on the posts match the detail on the lovely stucco house. We love the curvy path to the front door, bay window and color plantings.

We weren't able to obtain interior and backyard photos, but you can tell from this beautiful front yard, that this is a great transformation! The Laverne family!

West Plaza, LLC - Best Business Transformation (Town Center)

Kirk Ishizaki, owner of West Plaza, purchased this prime piece of property in the Super Block area of the Town Center in March of 2011. He saw a lot of potential with the Town Center Plan in effect, nearby transit facilities where people can walk to downtown, and the Civic Center next door.

West Plaza is the shopping area that includes D&D Meats, Prime Pizza, Queen's Dry Cleaners and a space currently available that many knew as Richie D's and Neal's Nightcap. Kirk said he loves the small town feel of Mountlake Terrace, where it's easy to get to know the residents and the city employees who he's come to know since purchasing and updating this property.

Improvements made at West Plaza include replacing the cedar shake roof with an updated and distinctive metal mansard roof, attractive and classic signage, gooseneck lighting, and a resurfaced parking lot. There used to be some large potholes in that lot, so thank you very much for that improvement.

Kirk said the upgrades were in alignment with the city's new Town Center design standards so you can get a glimpse of how our downtown will look more modernized as redevelopment and new development occurs. Great job, Kirk Ishizaki and West Plaza, LLC!

Double DD Meats - Best Business Transformation (Town Center)

Double D Meats is a family owned business that was established in 1955 and still stands in its original downtown location, in the heart of Mountlake Terrace. D&D stands for Dan Murray and John Dallas, the original owners, and current owners Les Palaniuk and his daughter Kim Nygard are here tonight. Les started working for D&D when they opened as a 17-year-old. Daughter Kim also started working there at 17 and they have made Double D an icon of Mountlake Terrace, as people

travel from all over Puget Sound to visit this old fashioned meat market that carries 100% natural meats and hundreds of unique hot sauces and novelty items.

The shop is so popular, they have been in need of more room and that finally came to fruition with an expansion and remodel that began late last year. Double D added 1800 square feet this year to accommodate 12 more feet of meat cases and a new deli cheese case. Their transformation included gutting the old freezers and coolers and replacing them with new ones as well as all new meat cases.

Double D Meats has won the Best Butcher Award by Evening Magazine's Best of Western Washington competition for the last three years running. You just need to step inside to see why.

Their meats are beautifully displayed and not only are they beautiful to look at, they are delicious to eat. They also have a large assortment of cold cuts and cheeses. Double D features the northwest's largest selection of hot sauces, BBQ sauces, steak sauce, marinades, dry rubs and jellies. They provide custom meat cutting, game processing, in house smoking of pork chops, ham, jerky, pepperoni, chicken, summer sausage and more.

If you're new to MLT, you'll have to check out D&D. If you've lived here very long, no doubt you've heard about it and made a purchase for a special occasion meal. Great transformation, Double DD!

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.

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!