

# Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan

## Greetings From Your President by Jerry Stone

### POINTS OF INTEREST:

The December meeting will be hosted by Lathrup Village on December 12.

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! SIGN UP TO HOST A MEETING TODAY!



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The KMB Annual Conference on October 17th and 18th at Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor, featured a lively Annual Meeting on Thursday, and an engaging Awards Program on Friday. It was filled with interesting beautification and civic improvement projects. Many volunteers were rewarded with attractive plaques for their hard work.

Contrast this to a recent article in the *Weekly Standard*:

While not exactly a national monument, the north entrance to the Dupont Circle Metro stop in downtown Washington, D.C., is a pretty impressive edifice. A large, circular granite wall is inscribed with a portion of Walt Whitman's poem "The Wound Dresser," which you can ponder as you slowly descend the 188-foot escalator which takes you to the train underground. The escalators are encased on both sides by sloping concrete blocks with planters interspersed. Until recently, those 176 planters were just boxes filled with dirt. Then, a local resident took it upon himself to utilize the flower boxes as had been intended, and surreptitiously filled them with more than 1,000 morning glories, cardinal flowers, and cypress vines. "The flowers would have bloomed from August to October in a patriotic display of red, white, and blue," according to the Washington Post. Local residents were delighted by what had happened and the anonymous citizen responsible was dubbed the "Phantom Planter".

Eventually the Phantom Planter was unmasked as professional gardener Henry Doctor. Rather than being grateful for Doctor's thoughtful efforts as civic beautification, the notoriously corrupt, and inefficient Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority immediately threatened Doctor with "arrest, fines, and imprisonment" for his reckless act of gardening without a permit. However,

the public outcry in support of Doctor was so strong that Metro Authorities promised to meet with community leaders, and "move forward with their wishes, as long as they are reasonable, sustainable, and safe."

Metro scheduled no meetings with community leaders, and last week sent workers to rip the flowers out of all 176 boxes without notifying anyone. There has been considerable outrage, and negative press, since Metro undid the work of the Phantom Planter, but it's not like Washington's local authorities have ever shied away from being openly scornful of their local constituents.

I'm sure that all of us are fed up with such acts that are so completely opposite from the good work that BCSEM and KMB promote. Now on the bright side:

Held on a warm and beautiful September day, the BCSEM Quarterly Meeting was informative and well-attended. It was sponsored by the Beautification Committees of Sterling Heights, Shelby Township, and Utica. Among other speakers, Macomb County Executive, Mark Hackel, and Land and Water Resource Manager, Gerry Santoro, offered an interesting update on the Blue Water Initiative. The 2013 Individual Service Award was presented to Tom R. Yaschen of Chesterfield Township.

On a sad note, we mourn the passing of Leonard Hopkins, Jr. of Trenton. Leonard was helpful on the I.S.A. award program, the Travel Trophy, and other support for BCSEM and KMB. Both groups jointly sent a lovely spray of red and white carnations on an easel stand to the funeral home in tribute to Leonard.

The last quarterly Meeting of the year is scheduled for December 12, in the Community Room of the Lathrup Village Municipal Building. We are planning to have a timely program presented by SOCRRA – Southeastern Oakland County Resource and Recycling Authority. (Continued on Page 2)

*Greetings From Your President—by Jerry Stone (Continued from Page 1)*

The Election of Officers and Board Members will also be held. The festive time of year will soon be here, so please join us for some holiday cheer!

We are in serious need of Quarterly Meeting sponsors in 2014. We have a pending offer for a host for the Third Quarterly Meeting in September of 2014, but that still leaves the need for meeting hosts for March, June, and December to cover.

Please contact a board member for more information. We're here to help you.

Enjoy a pleasant fall, with Michigan's colorful leaves, and a blessed Thanksgiving. See you in Lathrup Village for our December 12th meeting!

*Sincerely,*

*Jerry Stone, President*

*The 2013 Individual Services Award goes to...Tom Yaschen! by Sue Keehn*

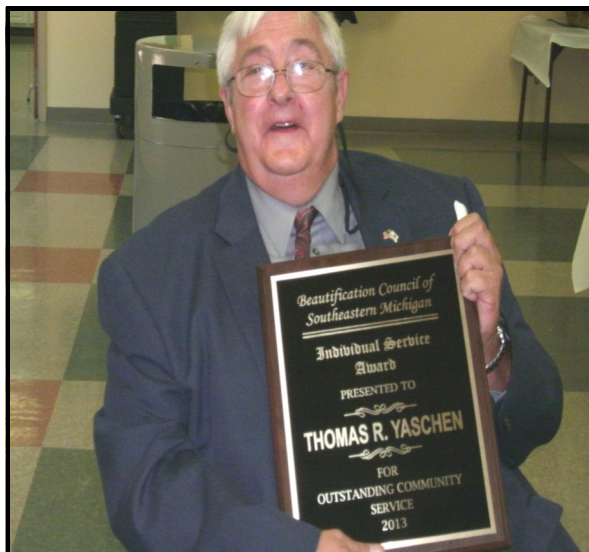
Congratulations to Tom Yaschen of Chesterfield Township for being this year's recipient of the BCSEM Individual Service Award!

The individual Service Award is given to a person who has shown exemplary dedication in time and service to their community in the areas promoted by BCSEM. The picture below is of Tom after receiving the I.S.A. Award at the BCSEM meeting on September 26th at the Sterling Heights Senior Activity Center.

Tom has had an interest in gardening and serving

his community for many years. He has been a member of the Chesterfield Beautification Committee from 2005 to the present, and has inspired and led them in new directions. Tom has also been a member of the Chesterfield Zoning Board, and the Chesterfield Historical Committee, both from 2008 to the present.

Tom served his country in the Army for a total of 32 years, both active and reserve. He actually gained some experience in the army by landscaping on-site homes and barracks. He certainly had the desire to improve his neighborhood and surrounding areas, when he took on the challenge in 2008 to make Chesterfield Twp. a Tree City USA. This was accomplished in 2012. He worked with the Chesterfield DPW to remove and replace over 250 dead or dying Ash trees in Chesterfield parks. In 2012, he worked to receive a grant from ICC to replace 75 trees, and private donations for another 10. Plans are in place in 2013/2014 to remove and replace another 100 trees. He donates 10 trees per year himself. Tom started Beautification Week in Chesterfield Twp. to develop community awareness, during which 1000 trees were given out to residents, along with many beautification activities. Tom persists in managing maintenance of the public gardens in Chesterfield Twp. He had a contest to name the Chesterfield flower, started an Adopt-A-Spot garden program, and the Chesterfield Partners in Progress Award to improve community landscaping.





The Lathrup Village  
Municipal Building

### *The History of Lathrup Village—by Jerry Stone*

The City of Lathrup Village is a predominately residential community located along Southfield Road between 10-1/2 and 12 Mile Roads in Oakland County. It covers 1-1/2 square miles in area and has a population of about 5,000 residents. The history of this land is very interesting, and rich in lore. Regarded as undesirable because of its swampy nature, this area was inhabited by the Chippewa, Pottawatomi, and Ojibwa Indians, whose camps surrounded the river trading town of Detroit.

However, early settlers began to arrive and started small family farms. In 1830, the whole area of Southfield, of which Lathrup was a part, became a separate township. This area continued to be used primarily for farming through the years that followed.

In the early 1920's, Louise Lathrup and her mother, Annie Lathrup, began extensive land purchases in the area designated to become Lathrup Townsite. Land valued at \$2.00 per acre in 1836 was purchased by the Lathrups for \$30.00 per acre. By the mid 1920's, they had acquired a total of 1,000 acres.

Engineers planned curvilinear roads with oversized entrances to main thoroughfares. Water lines and sewers were installed, and trees and sidewalks were added to entice city dwellers to enjoy the beauties of suburban living. Louise published a book entitled the "Gateways To Happiness", which contained the designs for 125

homes. This was her vision of a planned community, and it remains an example of far-sighted planning regarding the location and features of her "California Bungalow Subdivisions". Lathrup became a unique model for such a building project.

In 1953, the entire Lathrup Townsite area was incorporated as a home rule city, the City of Lathrup Village. An unusually appropriate name for a city, "La Trup" in olde English designates a group of country homes, or a hamlet. How can a city be a village, or a village a city? The most accepted answer seems to be that its residents wanted to keep a village type community when they decided to become an independent and incorporated city.

Lathrup has a history of beautification. From the beginning, tree-lined streets were planned and planted, and each home had a fruit tree and flowering crabapple tree. This tree has become known as the city's official tree. As a Council/Manager city, Lathrup Village was a charter member of BCSEM when it was organized on November, 22, 1963. Ironically, this was the day President Kennedy was shot and killed in Dallas. Lathrup Village has been a continuous member since that day. J.D. Stone, then Lathrup City Administrator, was chosen as the group's charter Treasurer, and has been at that position a long time. At present, he is the President. (continued on page 4)



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**CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:**

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Treasurer: Dorothy Wood	Immediate Past Pres: Robert Ramsey

*The History of Lathrup Village—by Jerry Stone (Continued from Page 3)*

Lathrup has been active in many beautification programs, and in the sixties began winning Keep America Beautiful’s “National Cleanest Town” awards. These awards were presented in 1967 and 1968 in Washington, D.C. Since that time, Many KMB awards have been given to Lathrup Village.

Over the years, the Lathrup Beautiful Committee was a loosely organized group of many volunteers who saw needs and took care of them. However, members have aged, moved, or been unable to serve as actively as they once did. It has been our good fortune to have our new, younger residents form “The Village Gardeners”, who have a full array of activities, speakers, and

programs. They currently plant all of the city flower beds located throughout the city, and they provide many volunteers for various projects. Along with the Village Historical Society and the Lathrup Homeowner’s Association, the Gardeners place great emphasis upon the beautification of individual homes and our entire neighborhood. Garden and Home tours and sales, and Yard and Garden contests are two successful, annual programs of the many that have been sponsored by these groups. The Lathrup Lions Club also conducts an Adopt-A-Highway program along I-696. All of these activities certainly add to the city’s lovely heritage and will Keep Lathrup Beautiful well into the next decade.

*Blessings to you and your families this Thanksgiving and Christmas.  
Enjoy the colors of the Season.*

