

bcsem

June 2013

# Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

The **ISA Nominations** deadline has been extended to July 31, 2013. Mail nomination forms you can find on the BCSEM website to Leonard Hopkins at 3430 Fourth Street, Trenton, Mich., 48183-2949. Contact Leonard at 734-675-1566.

The next BCSEM meeting will be given by Sterling Heights, Shelby, and Utica. The Date is Thursday, September 19. Details to follow.

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

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## *Greetings From Your President by Jerry Stone*

It is with pleasure that I review the recent accomplishments of so many people in preparation for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. We have successfully presented to our members, friends, and neighbors, a unique and wonderful tribute to B.C.S.E.M. in it's 50 years of service to our area of Michigan.

The affair at Plum Hollow Country club this past Sunday was an unqualified success. There were close to 100 attendees who enjoyed a champagne reception with hors d'oeuvres in the Club Room prior to going into the main dining room for the banquet.

At least eight Mayors and Supervisors were present to receive their cities 50 year anniversary membership awards. The attractive cobalt blue plate with gold edging surrounding a symbolic scene of S.E. Michigan was also presented to sixteen communities of long-standing membership.

We gave a large wine goblet containing "gold" coins and a super LED flashlight to each guest. The major gift to everyone was an updated pictorial history of B.C.S.E.M. over the past 50 years. With 28 pages and 120 colored pictures, this History Book will remain a valued keepsake for members. In the next newsletter, we hope to include pictures of the event to share the celebration with you.

Please note: We did limit the cost of the banquet to \$25.00, a unique, low price because it is the same price as our 40th Anniversary ten years ago at the St. Clair Inn. B.C.S.E.M. provided complementary:

- Valet parking
- Champagne Reception
- Table Favors
- Anniversary Cakes for Dessert
- Lovely Floral Centerpieces

We have a limited number of 50th anniversary items left. Not so much to gain revenue, but to control inventory, we are making these items available as follows:  
Silver 50th Anniversary pens – \$1.00 each  
50th Anniversary Award Plates – \$50.00 each  
50th Anniversary History Books – \$5.00 each  
Please contact me, Jerry Stone, for sale or delivery information.

Our next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, jointly sponsored by Sterling Heights, Utica, and Shelby Township. We are in urgent need of a sponsor for the December 2013 meeting, and also sponsoring communities for Quarterly Meetings in 2014/15. Please contact me, or any other Board member for information about hosting a meeting.

The ISA award applications are due very soon. Please submit your entry to Leonard Hopkins, Trenton, as soon as possible.

In closing, we have an active and vibrant Council, with good leadership and willing workers. Thank you for your support during the 50th Anniversary year. We are looking forward to exciting times in the future!

Sincerely,

*Jerry Stone*



## Chesterfield Township Becomes a *Tree City USA* Community- *by Tom Yaschen*

Chesterfield Township, and its nine-member Beautification Committee, have worked over the last five years to become a Tree City USA. This became a reality on April 16th, when Chesterfield was certified as a first time Tree City USA Community by the Department of Natural Resources. We started this project to help replace the large number of Ash Trees infected and killed by the emerald ash bore (EAB). Over the last five years our efforts, combined with citizens, has resulted in replacing over 1800 trees. This effort has helped promote our community to take down dead ash trees and replace them with trees that are native to Michigan. Some examples of those trees would be Pin, Red and Burr Oak, Red, Silver, and Sugar Maple, White and Yellow Birch, Catalpa, Beech, Aspen, White Pine, and Black Spruce. To qualify as a Tree City USA community, a town or city must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation, and the National Association of State Foresters.

The standards are as follows:

1. Establish a Tree Board, or a Beautification Committee that also acts as a Tree Board is required.
2. A Tree Care Ordinance must be established.
3. A Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per Capita is required.
4. You must hold an Arbor Day observance and have a Proclamation in writing.

We have a long ways to go to replace all of the dead Ash trees in the township. We estimate another 2500 to 3000 trees that must be removed and replaced. This will take another five to eight years of work. Whether you plant large or small, fruit or ornamental trees, you will be helping the environment. More information on the Tree City USA program can be found at: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

NOTE: The state tree of Michigan is White Pine



Tree City USA Plaque Acceptance

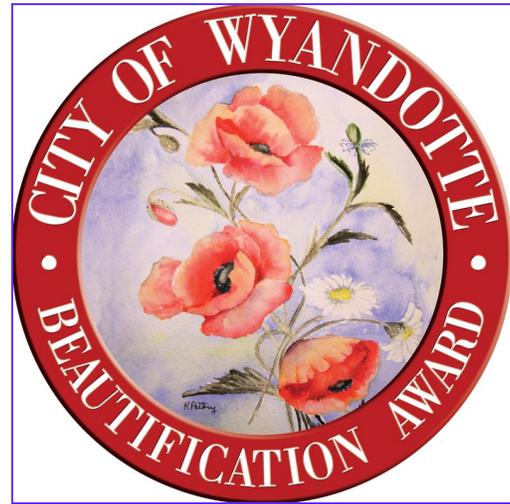
From Left: Michael Lovelock, Chesterfield Twp. Supervisor, Marlene Herzog, Beautification Committee Member Kevin Sayers, Urban Forestry Program Coordinator (DNR) John Herzog, Beautification Committee Secretary



*We inspire people to plant, nurture,  
and celebrate trees.*

## Wyandotte's Annual Beautification Awards for Homes and Businesses—by John Darin

The seeds of the Wyandotte Beautification Commission's Annual Home and Business Beautification Awards were planted in 2007. That year, driving the new awards effort were then Chairperson and Commissioner Carol Resto, Natalie Rankine, former Commissioner and now Downtown Development Authority Director, and Alice Ugljesa, current Commissioner and Beautification Awards Coordinator. Their vision was to recognize those residents of Wyandotte who have succeeded in displaying special care and beauty in their landscaping and in their home's appearance. It was decided that this would be an annual award event, and that nomination applications and specific criteria would be developed. The awards are presented annually at a September meeting of the Wyandotte City Council.



### The City of Wyandotte's Beautification Awards began.....

The original concept of home beautification awards soon blossomed into home and business beautification awards, with a number of wonderful entries over the years. Anecdotally, my wife and I were recipients of an award in the inaugural year of 2007. This became the hook to get me, also a Master Gardener, recruited to apply for a vacant position on the Beautification Commission, and I was appointed soon thereafter! Residential and business properties are rated on a scale of 1 to 5 on color, texture, and creative design. Attention is paid to planning, variety, hardscape elements, and maintenance during the growing season. The Commissioners review photographs of each property, and apply their ratings to the subject properties. The ratings are then tallied and scored, and the award winners recognized. The Commission applies little exclusion, and those few have been related to nominees previously winning this award in the recent past. Property owners may submit an application for an award for their properties, or an individual may nominate other properties.

The applications are simple, requesting the name of a property owner, their address, and contact information. Many homes and businesses are nominated by the commissioners themselves, as we travel throughout our beautiful city. All applications and nomination forms are now found on-line at the Wyandotte Beautifi-

cation Commission's Awards webpage at the following address: <http://www.wyandotte.net/Community/HomeAndBusinessAwards.asp>. Applications must be submitted with non-returnable photographs of the nominated property. Digital photos are also helpful. The photos of award-winning properties are posted on the Commission's on-line gallery. All award-winning properties from 2007-2012 are currently displayed on the photo gallery on the Home and Business Awards web page. There are some very beautiful properties displayed!

The winning property owners are notified by mail. Over the past few years, 10-15 properties have been selected for recognition each year. The beautification Award winners are sent a congratulatory letter inviting them to the awards presentation at an upcoming City Council meeting. To maintain their privacy, the names of the property owners and the addresses of the properties are not published in print or on-line without their permission. Those persons who do not wish their property to be identified or posted at all are considered to have declined the award. After all, the major purpose of this award is to publicly promote the beautiful properties, and provide incentives for others to follow suit, and beautify their own property.



Beautification Council of  
Southeastern Michigan  
Dorothy Wood, Treasurer  
30126 Adams  
Gibraltar, Mi. 48173

Susan Keehn,  
Newsletter Editor  
Cell Phone: 586-242-3868  
E-Mail :  
keehns@wowway.com

Phone Pres. Jerald Stone  
248-559-0904  
E-mail Pres. Jerald Stone  
stonegoblue@comcast.net

WWW.BCSEM.ORG

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#### Wyandotte's Annual Beautification Awards...*continued from page 3*

The actual Beautification Award was initially a colorful static cling decal, suitable for posting proudly on your front window or door. The awards have evolved and grown over the past six years. Now, in addition to the original static cling decal, the Beautification Commission presents a potted hardy mum at the October awards presentation, as well as a framed Beautification Award Certificate to the winning home owners and business owners. But something was missing. No one could see the award decal from the street! Perhaps it should be a stake or a sign. What should it look like? It needed to be classy, with a gardening theme. Then, one day, my wife and I went to Farmington Hills to watch our granddaughter's swim meet. I spotted a Farmington Hills Beautification Award 2011 lawn sign in one of the entry beds to the swim club. I instantly fell in love with it. Well, that solved that!

The next step was working with a local sign maker, who scoured the internet for a suitable floral design, but was not satisfied with what he found online. He accessed some alternative sources of artwork and sent me a photo of his sign design. The sign was a circular design, and incorporated a wonderful piece of artwork—a very colorful and detailed poppy. The work, "Poppy", was an

instant hit with the Commission.

This lawn sign journey took another twist when we learned that the artist, whose origin work "Poppy" was so perfect for this award sign was none other than the printer's mother, Mrs. Karen Petry! She is a member of a Downriver group of artists called Art Ambience. She also attends class at the Downriver Council of the Arts. Mrs. Petry was thrilled to be a part of this project, as much as the Beautification Commission was honored to have her original artwork grace our awards sign. The awards signs were first presented this past October to two businesses and twelve residences!

The Wyandotte Beautification Commission is working very hard, spearheaded by the efforts of Alice Ugljesa as Beautification Awards Coordinator, to spread the "beautiful city" message throughout Wyandotte. Currently, the Commission's activities are funded by the city budget through the DDA, but we are also endeavoring to network with and engage local businesses and organizations with similar missions to collaborate on projects of mutual interest and benefit. Contact the Wyandotte Beautification Commission through our hotline at 734-324-7293, or by e-mail at [beautification@wyan.org](mailto:beautification@wyan.org). Our website is <http://www.wayndotte.net/Government/Boards/BeautificationCommission.asp>