Several Barrington area businesses were recognized for their gardening efforts.

Business Beautification Award Winners

LAST FALL the Council of Barrington Garden Clubs awarded several businesses in the surrounding Barringtons for their excellence in plantings around and near their business entrances. Nine businesses were chosen in various categories. The project's purpose is to keep the Barringtons beautiful for those who shop or do business in our area. When you approach a business, notice their beautiful gardens and how this may bring you back there.

The project starts in July of each year when photos are taken. Winners are then chosen in August. Plantings should be done earlier in the year, so the plants are in bloom at the time of viewing. If your company wishes to be viewed for this project, contact Lauren at 847-502-3174.

The 2019 Barrington business winners are: Skin Wellness by Renee for Annual Plantings; Southern Belle's, Excellence in New Design; Saint Anne Catholic Church, Excellence in Renewed Design; Good Shepherd Hospital, Hardscape/Hardscape Improvement; Ice House Mall, Container Gardening; The Garlands of Barrington, Integration of Native Materials; Cook Street Plaza, Maintenance of Design; Innovative Dental Professionals, Honorable Mention; and the Village of Barrington/Public Works Department, Special Recognition. Congratulations and thank you to all who participated.

Members of the Council of Barrington Garden Clubs are (from left) Sam Oliver, CFC; Mary Huggins, Joanne Larson, Jean Doyle, Anita Bierbaum, Nancy Ebner, Susan Slapke, Joan Davies, Marilyn Lageschulte, president, and Ellyn Young.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL OF BARRINGTON GARDEN CLUBS

The Council of Barrington Garden Clubs was founded in 1959 to serve as a coordinating body that works together to provide service to community issues, and projects at the direction of member clubs. The member clubs are Country Home & Garden Club; Field and Flower Garden Club; Gardeners of the Shores Garden Club; Green Thumbs Garden; Little Garden Club of Barrington; and The South Barrington Garden Club. Each member has its own character and focus.

These six clubs work together to bring awareness to the community of special dates, such as Arbor Day, when members visit elementary schools in the area informing 4th graders the meaning of the day and handing out small trees for planting. For National Garden Week, small plants are given to the public at the Library and Langendorf Park. Their "Beautification Project" awards several businesses each year that exhibit outstanding garden and landscape displays in hopes it will bring business into the area. Members visit various businesses taking photos and voting on their separate categories. An ongoing project is maintaining the Blue Star Marker Memorial located in Barrington Hills on Dundee Road that honors residents in the area who enlisted to serve the Union Army during the Civil War. This marker was dedicated over 80 years ago honoring 91 persons that enlisted at the site.

Council of Garden Club and South Barrington Garden Club member Susan Slapke may be reached at smslapke@comcast.net.