



County names Neighborhood of the Year winners

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FOR RELEASE AT WILL

In the attached pictures, representatives from each of this year's Neighborhood of the Year communities accept plaques from York County Board of Supervisors Chairman Walt Zaremba recognizing their accomplishments.

Max White was on-hand to accept The Greenlands Homeowners' Association award for Beautification. White is chairman of The Greenlands' Enhancement Committee, a group tasked with developing plans for yearly plantings and creating designs for updating plant and flower beds.

In addition to updating their landscaping, The Greenlands recently installed new signage and upgraded their sprinkler system. The community has also planted additional crepe myrtles and road-front areas have been refurbished with topsoil and seed.

Denise Taylor, Kim Graham and Lynn Mills (as pictured from left) accepted the McDonald Bluffs Homeowners' Association award for Neighborhood Cooperation and Spirit. In McDonald Bluffs, neighbors welcome new homeowners with a personal visit from a welcoming committee bearing goodies and a telephone roster to help new residents reach out to their neighbors with questions or concerns.

The community also produces a newsletter to keep residents informed of upcoming events. This newsletter also includes helpful information on safety, pets and more, and even updates neighbors on the achievements of the school-aged residents of McDonald Bluffs.

Cliff and Mary Lou Zapt accepted the Heron's Walk Homeowners' Association award for Safety. Though they already experience very little crime, Heron's Walk recently initiated a Neighborhood Crime Watch Program with the help of the York Poquoson Sheriff's Office. Neighborhood Watch guidelines were developed, and two volunteer block captains were trained on the best methods of keeping neighbors informed of any suspicious or criminal activity.

A fourth award, new this year, was given to Creekside Landing in the category of Environmental Awareness. Creekside Landing residents maintain a walking trail in their community, and opted not to develop their community's pier area into boat slips, preferring to preserve its pristine natural beauty.

In addition, neighbors are encouraged to plant trees and discouraged from removing trees already growing in the neighborhood. An active Grounds Committee monitors tree health and the need for additional mulching. No representative from Creekside Landing was able to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting to accept their award.

The Neighborhood of the Year awards program was initiated in 2002 following a request by several homeowner associations to recognize and highlight the efforts of the county's homeowners to improve their communities. Larger files of the attached pictures are available upon request.

