

GARDEN CLUB CHANGES STREET GARDEN PROGRAM

As we celebrate the tenth year of the **Asharoken Garden Club Street Garden Recognition Program**, we have changed the Program.. This year, for the first time, all entrants will receive an attractive, long-lasting polystyrene plaque to be hung on their mailbox or a garden stake, signifying their enthusiastic participation in this annual beautification event. Only three entrants—those judged to be the most outstanding—will receive a decorative wooden garden sign with artwork by artist Marilyn Chiodo.

Gardens will be judged in the same way they were in the past. Members of the Asharoken garden Club will act as judges, visiting all of the participating gardens between **June 22nd and June 29th**. Each will individually rate every garden. The results will then be computerized and tallied. On July 11, the three plaques will be delivered to the three most outstanding of the gardens they have viewed..

Says the Program's originator, Joan Hauser, "We have changed our approach as a result of comments by participants. We hope that by recognizing everyone with a permanent plaque and three as the most outstanding, we will encourage even more gardeners to beautify our community."

Residents can pick up an entry form at Northport Village Hall, Asharoken Village Hall, and the Northport Library or from the web site: <http://occunomix.com/garden.html>. Bookmarks describing the Program will be available at the Northport Library. **Those who agree to participate must send in their completed form by May 18th.**

Although the Program began nine years ago with a single street, Asharoken Avenue, it now includes the rest of Asharoken, Eatons Neck, and the incorporated Village of Northport. Those who participate must have created a street garden, defined as a "large or small garden containing living plants available to view from the street, although not necessarily seen from the homeowner's residence." It is a garden planned primarily for the pleasure of neighbors and passers-by.

Photographs of the most outstanding three gardens will appear in local newspapers and be displayed, as always, at the Northport Public Library. They will also appear on line at the web site.

To date, at least four Suffolk County garden clubs—the Three Village Garden Club, the Centerport Garden Club, the Suwasset Garden Club, and the Bellport Garden Club are participating in their own version of this Program. More are being informed of its existence through Federated Garden Clubs and the Cooperative Extension.



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