

Can Flowers Increase the Value of a Home?

With the recent rise of real estate prices you might be thinking about the value of your home. Can simply planting some more flowers or mowing your lawn really increase the value of your home? The Village of Menands thinks so!

This year the Village started a new program called Grow Menands which celebrates how flowers and property maintenance can improve the value of commercial and residential property. As part of the program Menands hosted a contest for the Most Colorful Home and the Most Colorful Business. A distinguished panel of judges visited the homes and businesses of finalists and ranked each property based on certain criteria such as color, balance, creativity and maintenance. Among the judges was Village Mayor Megan Grenier, County Executive Dan McCoy, Village Gardener Dianne MacFarland, Ned Chapman of New York Flower Power, Lisa Godlewski the Executive Director of the Albany Office for Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Bill Brizzell of the Capital District Farmers Market.

With so many residents and businesses taking that extra step to improve the face of Menands it was hard for the judges to declare the winners. The 2013 Most Colorful Business award went to News Channels 13 at 715 North Pearl Street. If you get a chance to see their property you might notice the unique stone beds which the judges especially enjoyed. One of our judges, Lisa Godlewski, explains “stone beds can help keep maintenance down.” Patricia Brundage, the winner of this year’s “Most Beautiful Home” award does not take any shortcuts when it comes to maintaining her property. Drive by her home at 24 Hutton Street to see the results of Patricia’s countless hours in the garden planting a beautiful mix of different flowers and greenery. As experts in horticulture, several of the judges noted how Patricia’s use of annuals really makes a difference. Annuals are all-stars in the garden. They use their limited time wisely by filling it with vigorous growth and outstanding blooms.

The Village of Menands knows how contagious flowers can be. Once you see your neighbors planting flowers, it makes you want to do a little more with your own home. Imagine how nice it would be to come home to a bright and colorful neighborhood where every lawn is mowed and flowers are blooming left and right. Michael Jacobson understands just how much neighboring properties can affect one another, “properties within 1,000 feet of abandoned or boarded-up buildings see a suppression of 7 to 14 percent” of their value. On the other hand, James Ader, CEO of the Greater Capital Region Association of Realtors explains how... “[quote].” Whether you are a residence or business nothing improves curb appeal faster than landscaping, and curb appeal truly increases property value.