

## Cutsforths awarded July yard of the month



Curtis and Kathy Cutsforth's home at 675 Hager Street has been recognized as the July Yard of the Month in Heppner. —Contributed photo

By Kay Proctor

Curtis and Kathy Cutsforth's home at 675 Hager Street has been recognized as the July Yard of the Month in Heppner.

The two-story Craftsman house was built in 1936 and is surrounded by a large span of well-kept, green lawn. Front and side beds contain colorful shrubbery. To keep the yard "easy to maintain," the only flowering plants are Kathy's roses. She has tried hanging baskets and pots of flowers, but visiting deer consider them dinner.

When the Cutsforths purchased their home in 1990, large elm trees lined the property front. Unfortunately, most of the elms in Heppner died off about that time from disease and/or insects. Attempts to save theirs failed and the Cutsforths had them removed, although a stump of one large elm in their side yard was kept.

A maple tree is thriving, but efforts to plant pines in the back of the property are struggling, probably

thanks to a porcupine's appetite for them. Other wildlife passing through are chukars, quail and even a momma skunk with her three babies.

Curtis is a Heppner native and Kathy is originally from Condon. They met when she spent a summer in Heppner with her sister and Kathy noticed "a really nice car" around town, and then wondered who drove it. Meeting because of Curtis' car led to celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. The couple feels fortunate to have their family living in the area—Mike Gorham, daughter Melissa Peterson and son Stanley. Five grandchildren continue their family's blessings.

Kathy has been employed with Morrow County School District since 1995 and currently does custodial work at Heppner Elementary. She very much enjoys the fun of "seeing the little ones," including children of those who were students when

she first began working at the school.

Curtis commutes to Boardman to work at the PGE coal-fired plant. A unique part of his work decorates their yard. In a 10' bed mulched with red rock along the front sidewalk, Curtis placed a row of what looks to be unusual rocks. Actually, they are a by-product of burnt coal, which is mostly ground up to use as gravel. Individually, they add interest to the landscaping.

Yard projects have included extensive terracing with large landscape blocks in the side yard and the back where the hillside rises to basalt outcrops. By terracing, Curtis was able to carve out some "easier to use" level areas. A nice, wide driveway was added. New siding was installed on the house.

A bright sun deck is Kathy's favorite spot in the yard. The back deck is Curtis's favorite place, where a nice breeze goes by as it follows the creek valley. The back deck is also barbecue territory and has a view of the old town water flume and canal that once diverted water from Willow Creek. Old, unused pipes from the canal are still in place and Curtis has discovered even more when digging.

While her roses are Kathy's favorite plant, Curtis claims that he doesn't have one because he seems to "kill anything he plants." He admits to being the lawn mower of "Kathy's yard." Kathy, however, hesitated to be interviewed because she stated that their well-tended property was "Curtis's yard." Judging from their laughter and good-natured outlook, teamwork has something to do with their recognition for "Yard of the Month."

Yard of the Month is co-sponsored by MCGG-Green Feed, the City of Heppner and the Heppner Volunteers.

## A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

On July 19, eight Willow Creek Terrace residents attended the memorial service for Bud and Harriet Batty, and they learned from a great-niece how important Bud's experiences at the Terrace had been to him. After the service that included military honors for Bud, they were impressed by another niece's giving to them the American flag presented by the military contingent to the family in honor of Bud's service in World War II.

Bud would have enjoyed the special designation on July 23 as "Tell a Clean Joke Day." A staff member searched the internet for house-cleaning jokes, because she thought that was a logical choice, but she had to admit to little success and settle with others on the exchange of simply clean humor.

On the 27<sup>th</sup>, five residents attended Music in the Park at the newly-shaped lower field/amphitheater below the tennis courts. Envoy entertained with easy-listening selections for two hours as the attendees from the Terrace enjoyed their front-row seats.

Velma Wight's birthday-lunch selection to share with family and neighbors today brings an end to special July days, but August promises many more significant days—both serious and humorous—so activities on the Hill will continue to entertain and inform.

Participants in morning discussions will, surely, have plenty to say on Aug. 3 when "Sisters Day" and "Forgiveness Day" are the topics. Aug. 4 marks the beginning of "Smile Week," so residents and staff will have daily reminders to smile, and discussions will include the sharing of "smile" poems. One particular favorite that ends with a suggestion follows:

*"Smiling is infectious: you catch it like the flu. When someone smiled at me today, I started*

*smiling too.*

*"I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin.*

*"When he smiled, I realized I'd passed it on to him.*

*"I thought about that smile, then I realized its worth.*

*"A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.*

*"So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.*

*"Let's start an epidemic quick and get the earth infected!"*

On "Lighthouse Day," Aug. 7, thoughts will turn to times at the coast, and then, on Aug. 9, a lively chat might result because that is designated "Middle Child's Day." Aug. 10 celebrates "Families," so important to the Terrace Residents.

"Relaxation Day," Aug. 15, may stimulate discussion of how individuals relax, and it will be an opportunity for the exercise group to try a few additional moves. Two volunteers now lead some of the exercise sessions on the Hill. Young Natalie Rauch is sharing part of her summer Monday mornings as exercise leader, and Krysti Taylor is leading the group on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She also leads the Brain Games sessions on Fridays, and she finds her three mornings at the Terrace as important to herself as they are to the residents.

"Aviation Week," Aug. 17-23, will challenge the residents who want to participate in the paper-airplane competitions that will fill the halls with laughter and surprises. And "Poets Day" on the 21<sup>st</sup> will be a great time for individuals to share some favorite poems with their neighbors. News to some residents and readers is the fact that Aug. 23 is designated as "Plumbers Day," so everyone will want to take time to appreciate those people who have the skills and knowledge to fix the problems most

individuals hope they never have.

One problem on the Hill this year is that the deer are the only beneficiaries of the Terrace garden, so fresh produce on the tables this season has to come from friends who share their bounties. The deer seem to view the Terrace garden as theirs, sometimes only reluctantly backing away when challenged, and they have even discovered how to dig for the beets instead of settling for the above-ground greens.

This situation will not interfere, however, with the special foods days that will be celebrated in August. The month begins with a tribute to "Raspberry Pie," so it will be served, for sure, and the very next day celebrates the "Ice Cream Sandwich," so dessert will be that tasty, familiar treat. Even zucchini has its own designated day in August, the 8<sup>th</sup>, so maybe some kind gardener will share the versatile veggie with this Community. On "Lemonade's Birthday," the 20<sup>th</sup>, at least one resident will appreciate more than one glass of the fresh-squeezed drink. "Peach Pie Day" is on Aug. 24, so fresh peach pie will be a must at the tables, and on "Toasted Marshmallow Day," Aug. 30, the residents might have an opportunity to toast some marshmallows over a fire pit, if someone shares a portable pit with them and if the weather is not too dry for an open fire.

Volunteers always have opportunities at the Terrace, and the Morrow County Fair next month provides one such opportunity: Residents will attend the fair on Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, or on Thursday, and volunteers are needed as escorts for individuals wishing to attend. To accompany a resident, who will treat for lunch, one needs to call Willow Creek Terrace, 676-0004.

Other volunteer opportunities arise at the Terrace, so individuals are encouraged to call and discuss these with Manager George Nairns.

the  
Morrow  
Pacific  
project

SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE MORROW PACIFIC PROJECT: IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

JOIN US FOR A BBQ ON THE PATIO AND STAY

for the DEQ public hearing from 6 – 9 p.m. This permit will take the project one step closer to breaking ground.

Morrow Pacific is a coal export project that sets new standards for protecting the environment while supporting the economy. Morrow Pacific will invest in rural Oregon by creating thousands of family-wage jobs and voluntarily contributing \$800,000 each year to schools in both Morrow and Columbia counties.

All of us need to join together to push back against those who are opposed to new industrial port projects that create family-wage jobs and generate local revenue. You can help by joining us on August 12 to bring jobs and opportunity to Oregon.

LEARN MORE AT  
[www.morrowpacific.com](http://www.morrowpacific.com)

ambreenery

JOIN US  
FOR A  
BBQ  
AUGUST 12  
5 - 7:30 P.M.

PORT OF MORROW  
2 MARINE DRIVE  
BOARDMAN, OREGON