

Greenlaws awarded Yard of the Month



Ray and Fran Greenlaw received the Sept. 2014 Yard of the Month award for their home on Barratt Blvd. -Contributed photo

By Kay Proctor

The last 2014 Yard of the Month recognition, for September, was awarded to Ray and Fran Greenlaw for their home at 360 Barratt Boulevard.

The Greenlaws moved to Heppner in 1997 for Ray's employment at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. There he did computer maintenance, from which he is now retired. Earlier in his life, he worked 20+ years as a timber faller, and then returned to school to study electronics. His work has taken them from their native state of Maine to Arizona, California, Idaho and Oregon.

Fran worked for schools in Heppner for three years and is retired now, too. Their 61-year marriage has blessed them with four children, eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A priority for the couple is spending time with their family now instead of being

Trees and shrubs are fertilized and watered to keep fire hazard low. The two very much enjoy the contributions, such as plantings and cement leaf art, made to their yard by neighbors, Les and Janice Paustain. The Greenlaws' sense of humor shows with the placement of two lifelike meerkat statues among the rocks to keep watch over their place.

Their hillside home has a peaceful view of the town, hills and Willow Creek Valley, but the sloped lot made mowing the lawn difficult for Fran. So the couple undertook a major project to correct that. They used 12 pallets of large landscape blocks for terracing along their lot and back terrace. That involved digging out a base and new terrace, laser leveling, adding steps, cementing, moving and placing each of those 90-pound landscape blocks...more 600 in the front terrace alone. An original terrace made of volcanic rocks was left in place. The two styles complement each other and greatly simplified mowing.

Like most homes in town, deer visit, looking to graze. By spraying deer repellent diligently, they have been able to grow Golden Delicious apples in an unfenced area.

Ray volunteers at their church and likes to "fix things." Fran mentions reading, church and walking as activities, but is modest about her snow-skiing abilities. Others let it be

known that she is an accomplished skier who has taught her family the winter sport. Both enjoy family time and "helping out" their kids. Ray and Fran appreciate the Willow Creek Water Park, so great-grandkids are taken there for swim lessons during summer visits. Also for the kids, a path in the Greenlaws' side yard was made of red and gray pavers in a hopscotch pattern to play on.

When asked if they have any advice for others, Fran says "...not really," but for herself she "...likes things to be neat. It doesn't matter what you do (to your yard), it will always look nice if it is neat."

In keeping with their gardening style, that is simply and neatly said.

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

Contact Kay Proctor if you would like to be a part of the Heppner Volunteers.



A meerkat statue keeps watch and adds a touch of whimsy to the Greenlaws' yard. -Contributed photo

Bikeway ride sees successful third year



A group of bicyclists celebrates conquering one of the bikeway's toughest obstacles, Franklin Hill. -Contributed photo

It was a great weekend for the third annual Blue Mountain Century Scenic Bikeway ride Sept. 20-21. Twenty-nine riders from all over Oregon and Washington, as well as local bicycle enthusiasts, participated in the ride this year.

Sheryll Bates, Executive Director for the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, reported that participants had "great weather, great food, great friends who returned for another year and new friends who will be back to ride our bikeway again."

Because the bikeway is rated difficult and is recommended to be ridden in two days, several support vehicles followed the riders, setting up rest and lunch stops, making sure the riders had everything they needed for a successful ride.

Several out-of-town participants raved about the experience, not only the

scenery but also the warm welcome they received in Heppner and Ukiah.

"I came home Sunday night feeling so tired/gratified because my weekend was so full of smiles and miles and friends! You rock!" exclaimed participant Beth Whittaker. "I just want to come back next year and bring some friends to let them experience the same thing."

"Well done, and a ride through some of the most beautiful country anywhere," added another rider, David Fritz.

"The Heppner community is lucky to be able to host these rides, and all of the riders fell in love with our community and the beauty that surrounds us," said Bates. "We know if we can just get them here, they will come back, it may be by bike or it may be by car, but we look forward to their visit again."

GEODC seeks local input on economic development goals

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) will host a meeting in Boardman Oct. 21 as it continues its economic development planning process. GEODC is seeking local input on the draft goals and strategies for economic development in the region.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDSS) is a grassroots level planning effort that brings together citizens and business, government and community interests to identify the economic development issues of the region and develop strate-

gies for sustainable and resilient economic growth and development.

Community meetings are one of the fundamental elements of the planning process. The discussion will focus on gathering local input about the strategic goals, objective and actions needed to achieve the goals. Meetings will be held in several locations in Octo-

ber, including a meeting at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21, in Boardman at the Port of Morrow Riverfront Center.

If your organization is interested in hosting a local input meeting in your community or have any questions about the economic development planning process, please contact Judy Moore, GEODC, at 541-612-7142.

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DINNER 6:30 AUCTION: 7:30

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