

August Yard of the Month co-winners, Carroll and Nairns



Bob and George Nairns in front of their home. -Photo by Kay Proctor.



A section of the Nairns yard. -Photo by Kay Proctor.

by Kay Proctor

Evelyn Carroll with next-door neighbors, Bob and George Nairns, shared Heppner's Yard of the Month recognition for August.

Evelyn Carrolls 1927 era home at 475 S. Court Street holds its nearly 100-year-old charm, and when she purchased the home a few years ago, Evelyn got busy enhancing it indoors and out. The spotless interior has been customized and coordinated throughout with a cottage feel, as the outdoors has been, too. Spotting a trailer in Western Washington along the highway, Evelyn contacted the owners asking what the color of it was. After getting the name, she bought paint that color and now enjoys it on her own house. Splashes of that color are also used inside her home. Surrounded and shaded by tall, older trees, the yard sloped and was hilly. Evelyn just recently accomplished her goal of flattening it out, carving out flower beds, creating a peaceful, elevated meditation corner in the backyard, and keeping a green, weed-free lawn in the back. She has also added river birch, Japanese maple, and aspen trees.

To cut back on maintenance, she just completed rocking and barking the front yard around brick pathways. A rustic bench was recently placed by the front walk and Evelyn has plans to burn, and then stain it. Doing her own weeding, landscaping, and digging resulted in finds of quite a few older marbles and broken bits of dishes. She credits having good help from good friends Melissa Martin and Paul Lauritsen when needed. Larry Kennedy completed the wood fence which she started in a corner with reclaimed wood.

She has brought plants along with her from previous yards and particularly likes a special Snowmound spirea and a twelve-year-old calla lily. Her favorite plant, Artemisia, will be planted in the front yard in barrels next year. Evelyn's favorite place in the yard is her shady patio with comfortable chairs around a table setting on pavers. Evelyn's birthplace was in southern Germany where her father was stationed as part of his military service and she was raised mostly in Oregon City, also residing in Arizona, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Prineville, and West Linn, Oregon. Retired now from being an x-ray technician for 45 years, Evelyn worked at Cal's Café for Rick and Joanie Smith and occasionally fills in at the laundry at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Husband Jerry Carroll lived in Heppner, too, but has passed on and she fond-



Evelyn Carrolls 1927 era home. -Photo by Kay Proctor.



Evelyn Carroll's yard. -Photo by Kay Proctor.

ly remembers how he thoroughly enjoyed mowing the lawn. Evelyn's daughter lives in Emmett Idaho and son, Jay, is in Molalla Oregon, so Heppner is conveniently between them both: she states that she is happy here; enjoying the people, her home, and her yard.

Mentioning that she has more time to garden now that she is retired, but she and Jerry always kept a nice yard. When asked if she has any advice for those wanting to garden, Evelyn says "might as well make their yard comfortable by making it whatever they want it to be"; plants, lawns, and trees can be healthy and help with air issues.

Sharing Heppner's August Yard of the Month recognition are Bob and George Nairns. Bob graduated from Mountain View High School in Bend and moved with his folks to Heppner in 1981 when his dad became US Postmas-

ter here. Starting out as a mechanic with Morrow County Public Works, he retired in 2015 as the Assistant Public Works Director. George graduated from Heppner High School and has been a friendly, familiar face at Central Market, operating a Day Care in their Gale Street home, at All Saints Episcopal Church as secretary, at Physical Therapy, and eighteen years as the Director of Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living. She is now at the Morrow County Juvenile Department and enjoys being able to walk to work. George also volunteers at Hopeful Saints Ministry and is on the board of the newly formed Suicide Prevention and Awareness Committee. Son Kiel is in The Dalles while daughter Krystal lives in Heppner. Bob and George have six grandchildren to keep up with and enjoy.

The Nairns family moved into their home at 435 S. Court Street in 1991. Surprisingly, the original house was built in the 1800s. In the late 1950s, the Meadors, owners at that time, added on the living room and the second floor.

The well-maintained home is surrounded by tall shade trees and a well-built wood privacy fence. A side yard has been turned into an oasis of colorful annuals and plantings, some even in containers vertically hung on the wood fence, with strings of light and yard art among it all. Raised beds here are filled with healthy vegetable plants: onions, strawberries, and tomatoes are seen, but George states the cucumbers have been a challenge this summer. A system of drip lines and hoses simplifies watering. Bob turned an awkward cement base for a long-gone furnace oil tank into a charming wood garden shed using leftover fencing material. This area has

become the favorite place in their yard for both Bob and George.

The two make good use of found objects, along with old and new items all over their yard. A previous owner left a large piece of a petrified tree planted partway in the backyard. A horse-shoe was found 2' into the soil and is now displayed on an older brick BBQ grill used as a warming fire pit now. A large tree stump has sedums planted on its top and is surrounded by lavender. An antique white chair holds a pot of bright annuals.

George's favorite plants are flowers, and she likes growing things she can eat. Bob's favorite plants are pickling cucumbers. During George's time at the Assisted Living, Bob volunteered and helped build a large garden area there, using Dallas Craber's tractor, a project fondly remembered by both Nairns. George was inspired by the residents who faithfully advised and/or worked in the garden: Dallas, Gordon, Bud, Dorothy, Lois, and others.

Time spent with George's Mee-maw years ago was often in her garden where she grew flowers. George states that she has always enjoyed playing in the dirt. Bob's Grammy had her own greenhouse and filled her home beautifully with indoor plants. Both Bob and George encourage others to try gardening; George laughs saying, "try it, buy plants, bury them, make mud, and squish your toes in it."

Yard of the Month is co-sponsored by the Heppner Volunteers, MCGG Green Feed & Seed Store, and the City of Heppner. Recipients of the recognition receive a certificate, a gold shamrock pin, and a \$10 credit to their water bill from the city.

The MC Republican Party to meet Sept. 17th

The Morrow County Republicans will meet at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 17th at the Bellamy House, Lexington, Oregon. Discussions will center around the general election, on November 5, 2024. The group will work on election mailing, sign placement, letter writing, and voter engagement. General election ballots will be out on October 15th. Precinct Committee Person, PCP, positions are open for Lexington, Heppner, Boardman, and

Irrigon. Individuals interested in one of these positions are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn about the positions. PCP appointments can be made during MCRP meetings. The Republican Party is open to individuals interested in conservative ideals and values. The Republican Party platform can be found at <https://oregon.gop/>. For more information on the Morrow County Republican Party, contact moreps@gmail.com.

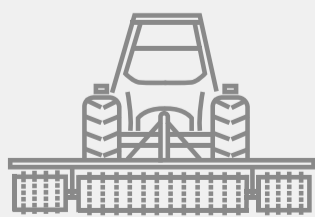
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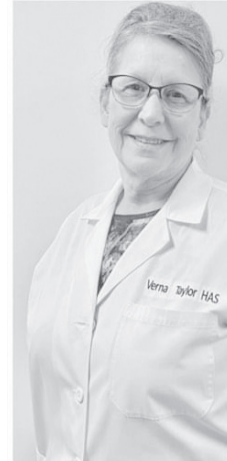
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