

Lamplighter article Aug. 2016
Cooper Young Garden Club Hard at Work
by Kim Halyak

After the success of our 1st Annual Garden Walk, the club took a small breather before diving back into beautification projects. First, we replaced the mulch beds of the Cooper Ginkgo Trees with river rock instead. This gives a neater appearance and shouldn't wash away in heavy rains. This was a small appreciation to all the businesses that supported our garden walk with ads and materials. Thank you. Kudos to Jim Wilson for spearheading the river rock project, and putting the rock down along with other club members: Rex + Sharron Johnson and Judi Shellabarger.

June and July saw several club members assisting with the Yard of the Month cleanup crew. A big shout out to Mike Larrivee, Robbie Dixon, John Browning, Judi Shellabarger and Kim Halyak. It was a lot of fun helping our neighbors in need. No doubt you will see more garden club members at future cleanup crews.

Judi Shellabarger deserves special recognition for singlehandedly working to ensure that Cooper Young gets level 2, if not level 3, arboretum status in the future. She has located over 80 different tree varieties to get labeled. If you receive a letter asking for permission to use your yard tree, I hope you'll say yes!. Won't this be a wonderful opportunity for everyone, especially our school children at Peabody and Natural School to take nature walks and learn their tree names?

To help pay for the Arboretum Signage, Judi's son, Adam Shellabarger, designed a "Come fall in Love with Cooper Young" t-shirt. It comes in brown with green lettering or green with dark green lettering and is printed by our own "Karen Capps". The shirts are only \$15 and going fast. See Judi if you want to get one, or more:)

The ioby grant money we raised in March bought the huge planters you see at Young and Bruce (CYCA office) and Cooper and Southern. Kudos to Robbie Dixon, Jim Wilson, and Randle Witherington for the striking plant designs. Hats off to Judy, Kim, Jim Wilson and John Browning for the sweat work of getting the pots placed and filled with dirt. Now we have great looking gateways into our neighborhood. Down the road, we hope to do more gateway plantings when time and money permit.

With the 1st garden walk behind us, we are looking for new gardens to highlight for next year's walk. If we approach you to be on the tour, please say yes. While it may seem premature, this gives you a whole year to beautify your garden. If you're interested in being on the tour, please contact Kim Halyak or Judi Shellabarger. We have some exciting ideas for next year's walk. Details to follow later.

Finally, consider joining the garden club. We are a fun loving group, happy to share garden plants and advice, and committed to beautifying our neighborhood, one project at a time. We meet the 3rd Wed. of each month, starting with potluck and socialization at 6pm.