

**2008 First Quarter Residential Beautification Council Award Winner:
Francine Specht – 706 Avenue I NE**

The Beautification Council Residential Award was presented to Ms. Francine Specht for the first quarter of 2008 during the City of Winter Haven Commission meeting on January 14, 2008. Ms. Francine Specht has owned and maintained this property as her place of residence for 30 years. The replacement of the custom-made windows has been ongoing since the home was purchased, as it is a historic structure and every window is a different size. After the 2004 storms, Ms. Specht replaced her roof, soffits, and fascia boards. The remodeling phase continued to the landscaping and included the addition of a lighted sidewalk. Ms. Specht replaced the large oak tree and added a crape myrtle. Many small plants and shrubs were also replaced or added. The grounds now consist of many flowering plants.



Pictured above is Francine Specht.

**2008 First Quarter Commercial Beautification Council Award Winner:
Colonial Bank – 140 E. Central Avenue**

The improvement projects on the Colonial Bank building began in 2004. The projects included repainting the entire building, seal-coating and striping the parking lot, adding new stepping stones and decorative boulders, and re-landscaping. The tile roof was painted a terra cotta color to blend in with some of the newly designed downtown buildings in the Mediterranean Revival style. The majority of the plants were removed and replaced with 10 trees, 151 shrubs, and 31 flowers, all of which are native plants.



**Residential Beautification Spring Award Winner:
Wilma Buckle, 2310 Second Street, NW**



Ms. Wilma Buckle's parents purchased the original property in 1963 with its then existing frame structure. The frame structure was demolished for approximately \$4,000, and Ms. Buckle built a new block home in 2005 adding value to the surrounding area. The plants and shrubs include: Chinaberry hedge, petunia, periwinkle, crape myrtle, plumbago, juniper, canaille, heather, caladiums, oleanders, poinsettia and the lawn is St. Augustine grass. The flowering plants are a combination of Florida Native and Florida Friendly plants. Total cost for the project was \$125,000.

**Commercial Beautification Spring Award Winner:
Spring Haven Retirement Center, Havendale Boulevard**



Spring Haven Retirement Center has been a great example of an organization which keeps its beautiful landscaping year round. Improvements to the landscape include expansion of the garden/flower areas and redesigning the courtyard. Additional improvements were made to existing flower beds. Hundreds of native plants were used for these projects. It took three months to make these improvements, and the organization spent approximately \$ 2,100. Jubert Kerlew and the staff of Spring Haven work hard to maintain the beautiful landscape throughout the property.

Residential Beautification Summer Award Winner:
Emma Ely, 1912 3rd Street, NE



Ms. Emma Ely has owned and maintained this property as her place of residence for 50 years. Ms. Ely has always enjoyed working in her yard and planting annuals as the seasons change. However; since she retired there seems to be more work required in the yard. The yard includes several rose bushes, day lilies, azaleas, hibiscus, various annuals, and a bird bath. Ms. Ely estimates she spends about \$4,000 each year to maintain her beautiful yard, because she wants it to look nice and she enjoys the work.

Commercial Beautification Summer Award Winner:
First Missionary Baptist Church, 200 Avenue R, NW



First Missionary Baptist Church is a great example of an organization that continually makes improvements to its property year round and over the years. Improvements were made to existing flower beds and the building has recently been painted. The landscaping on the property consists of a mix of mature trees that include 5 Oak Trees, 15 Crape Myrtles, 6 Pine Trees, 3 Sago Palms, and 3 Washingtonia Palms. Additional plants include over 60 Holly shrubs, and most recently, over 100 red and white Impatiens were planted. Slow and continual improvements to the property over the eleven years of its existence have resulted in a beautiful showpiece for the neighborhood.

**Residential Beautification Fall Award Winner:
Jim and Carol Rabe, 1365 Avenue S NW**

Jim and Carol Rabe purchased this home in March 2008 and immediately began their beautification project. This project included new sod in the front and back yard installing the framed planter boxes, and the installation of solar lights. The plants selected include bird of paradise, ti plants, yellow shrimp plants, yellow crotons, queen palms, phoenix pigmy palms, impatiens, and two laurel oaks. This beautification project took two months to complete. The total beautification project cost about \$4,000.

