

# Eton wins landscaping award with brilliant displays

By **JULIE HULLETT**

WOODMERE — The landscaping design at Eton Chagrin Boulevard took home the project of the year award from the 46th Annual Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association Awards. Eton's entry in the seasonal color category wowed judges with the vibrant display of colors over three seasons, according to ONLA officials.

ONLA Membership and Certification Manager Roni Petersen said seasonal color entries were required to include images depicting a progression of seasonal color. She said that the seasonal color or container garden entries could include window boxes, patio planters, street planters and other types of planters. The landscaping may include the use of annuals, perennials, bulbs and more. Perennial garden entries must feature the predominant use of perennials or grasses, she said.

Woodmere Mayor Ben Holbert said that he is thrilled with Eton's award. Exterior Services Ltd. of Rocky River is the landscaper for Eton.

"I am elated because they do such a great job. You always look forward to when they start to plant those flowers," Mayor Holbert said. "It looks good and smells good. You can tell that they put a lot of effort into it."

Krista Schill of Stark Enterprises, Eton's property management company, said that there is a focus on place making at Eton. Vignettes and sitting areas are important at the shopping center, she added.

"We want to keep shoppers there as long as possible, and create a warm and carefree environment where people enjoy the gardens," Ms. Schill said.

Ms. Schill said that the specific color selections for the landscaping are based on general colors of the storefronts. Sometimes the landscaper will come up with a theme and carry that blend of colors throughout the entire property, she said.

Mayor Holbert said that Eton surely had stiff competition, and he is glad that the winner of the award is in the Village of Woodmere.

Ms. Petersen said that the project of the year award winner has the highest score out of all entries. Even though Eton's display was entered in the category for seasonal color, it was compared with



Photos courtesy of Shannon Powell Rodocker  
**Eton Chagrin Boulevard in Woodmere received the project of the year award from the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association for its vibrant and unique display of colors over three seasons.**

high-scoring projects from other categories to win the project of the year award, including residential, commercial and educational projects, she said.

Mayor Holbert said Eton is visionary and attractive. You can sit down in the chairs and it's a nice visual experience.

"As a business owner, Mr. Stark could have some hardscape there but he invests in beauty and architecture," he said. "He makes it an experience for when people come to Eton, and I'm excited about it."

Mayor Holbert said that he would like the garden to attract visitors to Eton, and he hopes they'll also stay for a burger and an afternoon of shopping.

In addition to winning the project of the year award, Eton also won a grand award for the seasonal color category.

# Local resources available during federal shutdown

Local businesses and organizations are demonstrating the power of community during the federal shutdown, with several offering free meals and recreation and resources to furloughed workers.

Cleveland Cinemas theaters, including Chagrin Cinemas at 8200 E. Washington St. in Bainbridge, is offering federal employees and their families free movie screenings on Jan. 29. Federal employees must present their federal employment ID card at the box office and the theater will admit the employee and up to three additional family members to see a film of their choice.

Burntwood Tavern, M Italian and Rose Italian Kitchen are offering federal government employees a complimentary meal every Tuesday until the shutdown ends.

Rescue Village, 15463 Chillicothe Road in Russell is also offering to help those affected by the shutdown who are struggling to provide food for their pets. Proof of eligibility is not required, and cat and dog food are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Food pickup is available 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Fridays. To arrange a pickup, call 440-338-4819, ext. 13 or email intake@rescuevillage.org.

The USO of Northern Ohio is collecting non-perishable items like baby diapers, laundry soap, cleaning products, gas cards and grocery cards for Coast Guard members waiting on their checks. One collection sites is at the Highway Garage, 8410 E. Washington St. in Bainbridge.

The Geauga Hunger Task Force and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank are also offering to help people find food and other resources during the government shutdown and are seeking donations. For information on the Cleveland Food Bank, call 216-738-2067. To contact the Geauga task force, visit www.geaugahungertaskforce.org.

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