



Saturday, January 24, 2009

## Carie receives first 'City Beautification Award' from Tree Board

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Staff photo by Gayle R. Robbins: Mark Welte, left, president of the Vincennes Tree Board, presents Patrick Carie with the inaugural "City Beautification Award" in recognition of Carie's having spearheaded a project to create an urban garden on property he owns on Main Street. The award was presented Saturday at the Tree Board's "Spring is Coming" program at the Vincennes Fortnightly Club, 421 N. Sixth St.

Patrick Carie received the inaugural City Beautification Award in recognition of his work in creating an urban green space on Main Street.

The award was presented by Tree Board president Mark Welte during the "Spring is Coming" program Saturday at the Vincennes Fortnightly Club.

Welte stated it was easy to choose Carie for recognition.

"He's really added something to Main Street, something special," he said. "That could have just been another empty lot, but the work he's done there has made it a public place that's really beautiful, and that's what this award is about, to recognize people who make that extra effort."

Carie, along with Mayor Al Baldwin and crews from Landscapes by Dallas Foster, 3729 Camp Arthur Road, worked together to add a garden in the space between Baldwin's old business, Beards' Hardware & Supply Inc., 921 Main St., and the house at 913 Main St.

Almost two years ago Carie bought the property, on which then stood a dilapidated house, from Baldwin, who at the time was a candidate for mayor. But instead of just tearing down the house and leaving a yard, the two came up with the idea of putting in a sort of park.

"We didn't want to just leave it empty, so we talked with Bill Tennis, who works for Dallas Foster," Carie said. "At first, Bill just gave us ideas, but then he got really involved, and a lot of what you see there he's responsible for."

Carie wanted to make sure that the garden would meld into the city's historic aesthetic.

"Most of that came from Bill," he said. "We wanted something that fit into the historic ambiance of the city, that had a vintage look like it had been there a long time and had been part of the streetscape for years."

The garden includes a tulip poplar, an oak and a maple tree, plus butterfly bushes, hollies, hydrangea, lilies, day lilies, roses and a variety of perennials. A winding center path carries visitors into the grounds where there are benches on which to sit and admire the surroundings.

A period wrought-iron fence fronts Main Street.

"It was an expensive project, but it's been worth it," Carie said. "Hopefully, this will inspire others in the community to take similar steps."

Welte agreed.

"People don't have to go as far as (Carie) did, because there is a lot of money in his garden," he said.