

Ten years ago, our former Building Official, Paul Delisle, had an idea. He noticed we were spending a lot of time addressing blight notices and cleanup requests, but we weren't celebrating the residents who took pride in their homes and businesses. He felt it was important to recognize those who make our community a beautiful place to live, and that's how Project Beautification was born.

Over the last decade, this project has become one of the most enjoyable parts of our jobs. It gives us a chance to meet so many of you—longtime residents and new neighbors alike—and hear the stories behind your families and homes. This year was especially wonderful, and I'd like to extend a huge thank you to the Board members who helped judge the contest.

Our first award goes to **Mr. Harry Gonyea**, the winner of the **Farm category**. Harry has lived on his family's farm on Dixie Highway his entire life, in a home that dates back to the 1800s. He and his wife, Linda, raised their family there, continuing the deep roots his family has in Berlin Township. When I visited, we spent time talking about the history of the property, and it was clear how much pride he takes in his land. Thank you for keeping your farm so beautifully maintained!

The winner of our **Commercial category** is **North Elementary School**. The campus on Dixie Highway is already so well-kept, especially the beautifully landscaped "North" sign at the entrance. But we were pleasantly surprised to discover something even more special—a student-led garden by the school entrance that was so incredible, we took our picture there instead. It's a wonderful example of students learning to take pride in their environment. Congratulations, North Elementary School!

The award for the **Mobile Home category** goes to **Ken and Phillis Snyder** of Newport Farms. Ken and Phillis have been a part of our township for 25 years, and the landscape and decorations at their home are always stunning. It was a true pleasure to visit them. Their pride in their home is an inspiration to all of us. Thank you, Ken and Phillis!

The winner of the **Residential category** is **Danny and Janet Spence**. They built their home in Pheasant Run in 1997, and its exterior is simply impeccable. Their property is in the very first phase of the subdivision, and it makes such a wonderful impression on everyone who enters and exits. Congratulations, Danny and Janet!

Finally, our **Rural Residential category** winner is **Michael and Dawn Kuzia**, located on Dixie Highway. They only purchased their home in April of 2023, but they have already completely transformed the front and back yards. I think Dawn deserves a special shout-out for the amazing work she did on the pool, which had trees growing in it and is now a beautiful space for their family to enjoy. Congratulations on the incredible transformation, Michael and Dawn!

On behalf of myself and the Township Board, thank you all for participating in the 2025 Project Beautification. Your commitment to maintaining beautiful properties is truly appreciated in Berlin Township.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo
Gedelian
Supervisor



Project
Beautification
2025