

Berlin Economic Development Commission Beautification Award
Presented on April 2, 2014 by Mayor Rachel Rochette

Berlin residents recognize that the quality of public spaces and development projects reflects favorably on the attractiveness of the community and that we need to continue to strive to make improvements in this area. Today we have the privilege of recognizing an organization that pioneered and continually championed the cause of beautification of the community, the Kensington Garden Club.

In 1955 a group of local woman formed the Kensington and Berlin Garden Clubs and in 1957 the group became part of the Federated Garden Club of Connecticut. Over its 59 years the Kensington Garden Club has beautified our community and educated our citizens on garden techniques, preservation and conservation. Among its notable community service projects are:

- Planting flowers at the Soldiers Monument, and planting and maintaining gardens at the Berlin Post Office and Volunteer Park.
- Planting and maintaining planters at the East Berlin Post Office and the Senior Center.
- Developing and implementing a monthly Garden Therapy program for the residents at Ledgecrest Health Care Center
- Rehabilitating the Marjorie Moore Bird Sanctuary which they continue to maintain
- Assisting at the Natural Resources Conservation Project at Carriage Drive
- Creation and sale of arrangements at the Berlin Fair to fund annual scholarship for students graduating from Berlin High School

As we all look forward to the end of a long hard winter and the arrival of spring we know that we'll soon be seeing the beautiful flowers and plantings of the Kensington Garden Club that will brighten our days.

As a testament to the enthusiasm of the members of the Kensington Garden Club we are delighted to be joined by a large contingent of their members today. Accepting the 2014 Town of Berlin Beautification Award on behalf of the Kensington Garden Club is its President Debbi Wright.