



JULY 2011 MGC COMMUNITY PRIDE AWARD WINNERS

Business

Many of you are familiar with the house located at the intersection of Canal and Stewart Streets. This historic cottage at 5165 Canal St. has been home to a counseling center for children and a consignment store. If you drive by today you will see remarkable changes. The building and landscape look better than ever. The large familiar palms that have grown in that spot for decades, still sit as sentinels on either side of the entry path. However, all the overgrown bushes have been replaced with more appropriate sized shrubs along with trees, perennials, annuals and roses. No one can miss the super lush green sod, the new picket fence and the rocking chairs that grace the front porch.

Who accomplished this and what will become of the building? The cottage was purchased by one of the Milton Garden Club's own members, Becky Majors Smith. Becky worked with Milton's historic preservation board, keeping the building in line with its historic roots. The cottage will become home for a shop called Simply Southern. When Simply Southern opens you will be able to purchase home and garden accessories, antiques, and gifts.

The newly renovated outside is lovely but you will want to see the inside as well. Becky assures us, "the inside is as beautiful as the outside." Becky has skillfully sanded floors, sprayed ceilings, refinished woodwork and much more, all on her own. She has a lot of effort invested in her new shop. You can clearly see the pride of ownership there. Milton is fortunate to have this lovely property in its downtown. The Milton Garden Club is happy to present Becky Majors Smith with its Community Pride Award.

When will Simply Southern open its doors to the public? "Very soon," says Becky, "When the last coat of paint dries!"

Residence

Long time residents Archie and Bessy Smith also received Milton's Community Pride Award. The Smith's have lived at 6436 Magnolia Street for 56 years and Mrs. Smith has been a gardener each one of those years.

Bessy Smith has grown many types of ferns and showed off her unusual squirrel-foot fern, which is similar to but not identical to a rabbits-foot fern.

Plants have come and gone through the years but the huge cypress tree in front has been present for the duration. They remember their son Pete jumping over that tree when he and the cypress were small.

Archie and Bessy are in their 90's so gardening has slowed, but not stopped. Their son Pete built a clever a 20 foot long wooden fence that has two rows of window boxes attached to it. The raised window boxes make it easy to garden standing up and it looks great. Pete calls it his "horse trough." The flower boxes are planted with so many different kinds of colorful flowers, even a tomato plant is growing successfully.

Besides being long-time gardeners the Smiths are good, kind people. One time a passer by told Bessy how she envied their comfortable front porch. Bessy insisted that the passer by sit and visit. She said, "Come any time."

It is good to be reminded once again of the wonderful people that live in our city.