Goleta honors its beauty and urban forests

By Martha Lannan, Voice Community Editor

Goleta Valley Beautiful celebrated a very successful year of community enhancement by honoring individuals and businesses that contribute to the beauty of the Goleta area on Saturday at a banquet at the Holiday Inn.

"This is the 28th year of recognizing the best that the Goleta Valley has to offer," said Sam S. Alfano, president of Goleta Valley Beautiful. "We are extremely pleased to see the amount of interest Goletans are taking in maintaining and improving the beautification values we enjoy in our community."

The nonprofit organization presented Honor Tree awards to 13 residents and businesses. Ken Knight, executive director, explained that Honor Tree awards were presented from the Goleta Valley Beautiful executive board to "members of the community that have helped further the mission of Goleta Valley Beautiful, which is to ensure and improve the beauty of the Goleta Valley and to meet one of its five goals concerning supporting and enhancing a healthy and expanding urban forest."

Thirteen Brisbane Box trees have been planted along Cathedral Oaks Road between Glen Annie Road and King Daniel Road with a plaque at the base of each one honoring one of the following honorees: Councilmembers Jean Blois and Cynthia Brock, the Camino Real Marketplace, Councilmember Margaret Connell, Jim and Doreen Farr, Ed Graper, Mayor Jack Hawxhurst, Mark Ingalls, Randy Rosness, Art Flores, Al Turnbull, Venoco Inc. and Councilmember Jonny Wallis.

Each month Goleta Valley Beautiful highlights a single-family residence and business for its attractive qualities and what it adds visually to the community. Annual winners in the two categories were selected from those honored throughout the year, and six other businesses or families were honored in annual categories.

The eight categories and the winners included: Single-family Residential Property – the McBride home on North San Marcos Road, Commercial Property – Heritage House on Hollister Avenue, Preservation of Goleta Valley’s Heritage – Fairview Garden Farms, Commercial Property Renovation – Turnpike Shopping Center, Public Space Improvement – the Calle Real Median from Kellogg Avenue to Patterson Avenue, Residential Property Renovation – the Richards family home on Via Lara Lane, Sustainable Development – the Bren School of Environmental Science at UCSB and Multi-family Residential Development – Mountain View Ranch.

The Golden Shovel award was presented by Ken Knight, executive director, to Doug Winter of the organization’s board of directors. The golden garden tool is awarded annually to the person in the organization who most epitomizes the mission and goals of Goleta Valley Beautiful.

Photo caption: Bren Hall, which houses the Bren School of Environmental Science at UCSB, took top honors in the Sustainable Development category at the annual awards event of Goleta Valley Beautiful.