



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Council Session

Item C1

**Presentation of Certificate of Merit to Bill and Betty James for
Efforts to Clean up Indian Acres**

Staff Contact: Mayor Vavricek

On Saturday October 21st, 2006 the City of Grand Island, Clean Community System and the Grand Island Police Department held a Community Clean Up at the Indian Acres Subdivision. Letters were sent out a week in advance to help the residents prepare. We had two locations for disposal, one of which had a container for the disposal of White Goods. From the two locations, we disposed of 12,000 lbs of garbage and over 10,000 lbs of White Goods. Though not as much as last years clean up which netted over 50,000 lbs of debris removed, still a good effort on behalf of the residents. Many of the residents lent a helping hand. They helped their neighbors unload, and in turn their neighbors did the same. Bill and Betty James, however, went above and beyond.

Bill and Betty James are exemplary examples for their community. They have a property that shines above all others in the area. They are very happy to lend a helping hand to their neighbors and to the organizers of the clean up, for whom they provided coffee, donuts, and they opened their home for what ever our needs were.

Bill and Betty, who reside at 207 Arapahoe, purchased the property just to the south of them, just to clean it up. They took a blighted property, removed all of the debris, rodents and other unsightly litter and made it a lot that someone may now occupy and add to the area, not detract from it.

For the clean up, moving one property more to the south, Bill contacted his neighbors and lent a helping hand. He helped them deconstruct an old camper, removed; weeds and shabby bushes that stood 6 feet high, lots of litter and debris, and Bill helped them to load all of it. In total, with Bill's help, this family disposed of three heaping 16ft trailer loads.

Not one item contributed to the total removed from Indian Acres came from Bill and Betty James', though; much of it would not have left without their help. They are true examples of good neighbors who do unselfish acts of kindness. Oh and did I mention, Bill did all of this and he is legally blind. They are deserving of this Certificate of Merit.



Grand Island Police Department

Certificate of Merit

Presented to

Bill and Betty James

For showing the true spirit of being a good neighbor and citizen by presenting a beautiful property that anyone in Grand Island would be proud to have next door; and going above and beyond by providing the assistance to your neighbors to help them bring their properties into compliance with City Code; helping to create a pleasant community in which to reside.

Jay Vavricek
Mayor

City of Grand Island

Steven Lamken
Chief

Grand Island Police Department