

***By Dwight Coleman
Imperial Mayor***

As we look back on 2012, four things stand out in the city of Imperial.

We have again received the Tree City USA for the 27th year. This really shows the city's commitment to our parks, trees and our young residents. Every year we send fourth graders to Lincoln to represent Imperial to accept the Tree City USA award.

The Certified Economic Development Community designation we received from the state will be very important in future development in Imperial. In fact it has already played a big part in bringing additional housing development here. I would like to thank our former Community Development Director Leslie Carlholm for helping to attain this status.

The Governor's Showcase Community Award really highlights communities that keep their cities clean and have a very dedicated volunteer base. It is a great honor to be the sole recipient in 2012 of this award.

A very positive step was taken to resolve the dire situation with rental housing in Imperial. Dana Point Development plans to build at least 10 new rental single family homes for low to moderate income families in the Cornerstone Development Park in the southeast part of town. A private individual has also built a rental duplex near the new ambulance barn which should be ready for occupancy soon.

Again, the future for Imperial looks bright for 2013.

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers and committee members. We would not have the kind of community we all enjoy without you.