**LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC.**

**CLEANEST CITY CONTEST**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**These several years have been very trying for us all. We are glad to be able to hold this contest again. We are honored to be here and to have your city participate in the LGCF Cleanest City Contest. There are three (3) volunteer judges rating each city on cleanliness. There are 7 Districts and 10 population categories. We judge each city in its own population category. It would not be fair to judge a town of 200 against a town of 20,000.**

**There are 10 litter categories: 1. Approaches, 2. Public and/or municipal buildings, 3. Parks, recreation areas & cemeteries, 4. Business establishments, 5. Residential areas, 6. Streets, sidewalks, posts, & neutral grounds 7. Vacant lots, 8. Community involvement, 9. Book of evidence, and 10. Over all impression of cleanliness. Each category has a designated number of points. You may view the score sheet on line at LGCF,Inc. org. (scroll down and click on Cleanest City Contest.)**

**The Louisiana Garden Club Federation has sponsored this Contest since 1958. We were the first and are still the only state to have such a contest. The purpose of this contest is to clean and beautify the cities in Louisiana by raising the awareness of our litter problem. Litter has NOT been a high priority in the past. When we lost several major Industries due to the litter problem it opened a lot of eyes. Environmental awareness has now made litter an issue. Our primary goal is to become litter free. We can accomplish this goal if we all work together. The communitiesinvolved in this contest are working hard to accomplish this; but they cannot do it alone. We need more laws against litter and stricter enforcement of the laws. Currently there are only two (2) laws on the books. One is for litter flying out of a truck that is not covered and the other is for cigarette butts. The Lieutenant Governor has been very pro active against litter and is working hard to get Louisiana cleaned up. The legislature has implemented a program in the schools were children are taught not to litter and how it affects our environment.**

**Some ways cities can help is by holding clean up days. Education is the key, school programs on litter, projects such as poster contests, and cleanest school contests are great. These projects show the judges community participation. Educate the children and the parents will follow. “And a little child shall lead them”**

 **Every city that enters this contest is a winner! You have successfully started a cleanup campaign in your city. It is a contest so we wish you GOOD LUCK! The La Garden Club Federation’s State Chairman is Jean Gilstrap from Farmerville. The judges are: “Tricia” Ortalano, LGCF President Elect, from Terrytown, Karen Hoyt, Treasurer of District III, from Abbeville, and Jan Lemoine, Environmental Council Historian, from Hessmer.**

 **Listed below are the 10 categories and the entrants in each category.**

 **Category Entrants**

 **A Florien**

 **Pleasure Bend**

 **B Marion**

 **Moreauville**

 **Wallace**

 **C Lecompte**

 **Elton**

 **D Jean Lafitte**

 **E Farmerville**

 **Garyville**

 **Homer**

 **F St. Martinville**

 **Walker**

 **G Abbeville**

 **Crowley**

 **Pineville**

 **Reserve**

 **West Monroe**

 **H Gretna**

 **Hammond**

 **I Alexandria**

 **Monroe**

 **J Baton Rouge**

 **Lafayette**