

# The Trowel



March 2024  
Volume 12, Issue 1

## BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Greetings from our President



*Getting ready to do a bit of Spring Cleaning? Consider donating gently used garden-related items to our Flower & Plant Sale. See page 4 for details.*

### 2024 Flower & Plant Sale Issue



Greetings Garden Club Friends,  
It appears Spring has sprung! Although it's another week or so until the official start of Spring, things are certainly popping up in my gardens a few weeks earlier than usual. Now I'm keeping my fingers crossed that Mother Nature doesn't throw us a curve ball and cover everything with snow.

Another exciting harbinger of Spring is our **Annual Flower and Plant Sale** coming up on **May 10 & 11**. The Sale is in full swing, and **Pre-Sale Orders are now open until March 23rd**.

What fun it is to pour over our offerings and plan what to plant this year. It's always exciting to try new plants and different combinations! Remember, it takes the ENTIRE club to make this sale a success. While the committee does all the planning

and prep work, we need all members to pitch in the week of the Sale. I encourage all of you to commit as much time as you can to work at the sale. It really is A LOT of fun! (And, we eat very well!) We'll cover all the ins and outs at our April meeting.

We are now in Daylight Savings Time, which means we return to evening meetings (6:15 PM Social time; 6:45 PM Announcements; 7:00 PM Program). It appeared everyone enjoyed last month's Curative Properties of Tea (who knew we had so many tea drinkers!).

Looking forward to Mike Nowak on March 19th, who will speak to us about Fighting Climate Change in your Yard.

Take care all . . . see you soon!

Cheryl

# An Overripe Banana Is The Secret To Attracting More Hummingbirds To Your Yard



To entice hummingbirds to frequent your yard, position this homemade sweet treat in a shallow dish, or feeder, ideally suspended close to flowers or other natural food sources for hummingbirds. Regular maintenance is crucial—make it a habit to clean and replenish the feeder frequently to thwart the growth of mold and bacteria. This routine upkeep ensures that the hummingbirds have access to fresh and safe nectar, encouraging their continued visits to your outdoor space.

## Ingredients

1 overripe banana

1/4 cup of granulated sugar

1 cup of water

You will also need a blender, saucepan, strainer and a container for storage.

## Instructions

1. Peel the overripe banana and cut it into small pieces and place banana pieces in a blender.
2. Add the granulated sugar and water to the blender and blend the mixture until smooth.
3. Pour the mixture into a saucepan and bring it to a gentle boil. Simmer the mixture for 5 to 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Remove the saucepan from the heat and allow the mixture to cool. Once cooled, strain the mixture to remove any solid pieces. Transfer the liquid to a clean container for storage.

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The Bloomingtondale Garden club was formed to encourage the advancement of gardening, development of home grounds and civic beautification. To stimulate interest, knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs. To aid in the protection of native trees, flowers and birds. To further the extermination of noxious weeds and to cooperate with other organizations in the beautification of the community.



# 2024 Annual Flower & Plant Sale MAY 10 & 11

Take Mom Shopping  
Mother's Day is  
May 12th!

Spring is arriving this month and your Flower & Plant Sale Committee is getting ready! We've reviewed and selected many plants for our Sale. Once again, we will receive our flowers from TWO professional vendors: Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse, Grant Park, IL, and Clesen Wholesale, Evanston, IL.

Most of our 4 ½" plants will come from Clesen with the remaining plants coming from Sunrise. Sunrise plants include flats; grasses; tropicals such as Rex Begonias; Tuts; zonal geraniums; Wave petunias; & accessory plants. In addition to plants listed on the pre-sale order form, hanging baskets, herbs, vegetables, & additional plants will be available at the sale. **Customers who submit a Pre-Sale Order have the first opportunity**

**to select from the vast array of baskets and additional plants when they come to pick up their pre-sale order on Friday morning.**

Gift Certificates in any denomination are available for purchase. Recipients of the gift certificates must redeem them at our 2024 sale. These make great Mother's Day (May 12th) and birthday gifts and are suitable to mark any occasion/event. Day-of-Sale prices apply. To order gift certificates, send a note with legible name/address and a check made payable to:

Bloomington Garden Club  
c/o Henrietta Sullivan  
1015 Tiverton Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60193

## 2024 Flower & Plant Sale Schedule of Events

### MARCH 1st to MARCH 23rd Pre-Sale Ordering Underway

The Pre-Sale Order form is available on our website: [bloomingtongardenclub.org](http://bloomingtongardenclub.org)

Pre-Sale Order Form with Payment by check is Due on March 23rd (no exceptions)

### TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH • 6:30 PM

**Plant Sale Prep Meeting at Cornerstone Faith Community Church** We'll provide a brief overview of this year's Sale. Most importantly, sign-up sheets for when you can commit to help will be distributed. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Cheryl at 630-930-4990 or [cheryl.svee@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.svee@gmail.com) to let her know WHEN you will commit to help. We ask that each club member sign up for at LEAST two, 3-hour time slots, along with signing up to bring food, give additional assistance, etc.

### MONDAY, MAY 6TH

Leaving at 6:30 AM from parking lot at the Community Garden

A group of us will be going to Sunrise to pull part of our order for the Sale. This is a busy and fun day that will go into the afternoon. "Super Bonus:" We'll probably stop at Mayberry Junction for a delicious lunch after we are finished at Sunrise Greenhouse! Let Linda know if you are interested in joining us.

### TUESDAY, MAY 7TH

Tables Arrive & Set Up for Sale

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH

Tentatively 8 to Noon

Flower Delivery from Sunrise. Help us unload the truck, set out the plants, and inventory them. Bring your family members, friends, and neighbors to help.

## WE CAN PROBABLY USE THAT!

Donations may include garden books and magazines, large pots/containers at least 10" in diameter, and garden tools. Please bring them to the Park District Maintenance Building on Wednesday, May 8 between 8 and 12.

## THURSDAY, MAY 9TH • 7AM to 6 PM

7 AM • Club Members Arrive

8 AM • Flower Delivery from Clesen

Help us to unload the truck, set out the plants, and inventory them.

9:00 AM to approximately 5 PM • Pull Pre-Sale Orders

Help us to pull, check, and set aside pre-sale orders. Perennials also will be set out if needed.

NOTE: Club members who help this day may take home their own pre-sale orders AFTER pre-sale orders are pulled and all remaining plants are re-inventoried.

*It takes our ENTIRE garden club to make this sale a success! Thanks for YOUR Efforts!!!*

## FRIDAY, MAY 10TH

7 AM • Club Members arrive

8 AM to 11:00 AM • **Pick Up of Pre-Sale Orders—Open ONLY to Pre-Sale Customers.** These customers also may shop for additional plants including hanging baskets, herbs, and vegetables.

**Noon to 6 PM • SALE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

## SATURDAY, MAY 11TH

8 AM • Club Members arrive

**9 AM to 3 PM • SALE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

3 to 5 PM • Clean Up

**Payment:** Cash, check, or credit cards accepted. There is a service fee for credit card use.

**Raffles:** Two large pots (one for sun; the other for shade) and a Fairy Garden will be available for the raffles.

**For Sale:** Gently-used gardening-related books, magazines, large pots and containers, tools, and other garden items

**Master Gardener Help Desk** will be available throughout the Sale.



# Bloomingtondale Cares Communiy Grant

Cheryl Svee

I am happy to announce that our Bloomingtondale Cares Grant application was approved by the Village Board in the amount of \$1,500! These funds will enable us to purchase high-quality supports/trellises and other items for the Plot-to-Plate garden that will last for many years. Also, we can purchase additional signage for our Plant Sale. Other suggestions were "upgrading" the November craft for West Suburban and perhaps purchasing an entertainment program or two for the residents there. Please put your thinking caps on for other ways we can put this money to good use to support our efforts in the community.



# 2024 Guidelines For Perennials

We LOVE getting plants from our Garden Club Members and their friends for our Plant Sales. Below are a few “guidelines” we’d appreciate you following to ease your preparation and help our Garden Club get the most profit we can while giving our customers high quality, member-grown plants.

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH**

### ***Preparation for Plant Labels and Signs***

(1 week before potting party)

Email Carole Lockerbie at **carolelockerbie@yahoo.com** to let her know what plants you will provide, how many, their height and spread, bloom time, and their growing conditions. Please include in your email the common name, along with the botanical name if you know it. Carole is preparing labels for the plant markers. (If you know that she already has a label on file, you can just let her know the name and how many plants you’ll bring—no need for all the extra info!) An example is shown below:

**Quantity: 3 – ‘Autumn Joy’ Sedum (Herbstfreude).**

**Pink (changing to rust) flowers in flat heads; fleshy green leaves. 24” H x 18” W. Full sun or partial shade. Flowers August-September.**

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**IMPORTANT: *We are aware that there may be “jumping worms” in our area.*** These pests are extremely invasive and detrimental to our gardens.

If you know you had jumping worms in your yard, we **CANNOT** accept any plants from you. Thank you for your cooperation.

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## **SATURDAY, MAY 4TH • 10 to 3 PM**

### ***Perennial Plant Potting Party***

It will be held at the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building. Bring plants in bags or boxes and members will help get them potted. We cannot accept any plants that are not identified. This is a great time to accept or trade perennials with other club members. Just remember though, once the plants are “potted,” they belong to the club and can only be purchased.

**Be sure to check a perennial book or the internet to see if your plant can be divided in the Spring!**

**Questions or Concerns: Contact Joyce at 630-327-3871 or Carole at 630-488-9194.**

## **If you decide to dig up and pot your plants yourself, please follow these GUIDELINES:**

**1. Plan ahead. Perennials should be dug up and potted NO LATER than May 4th.** This will allow the plants to “settle” into their pots. Be sure they are watered regularly and receive sufficient sun/shade so they can acclimate to their potted home.

**2. Use a pot size that accentuates the plant’s full, lush growth for early spring.** Use regular plastic pots, e.g., 6”, 8”, 10”, 12”, etc., for potting (no plastic bags please).

**3. Please use potting soil, NOT garden soil or dirt.** The more attractive our plants are, the better they will sell. Re-use “old” potting soil from last year, if necessary, or purchase all-purpose potting soil at Home Depot, Lowe’s, etc., to cut down on your cost. (You do not need to purchase ‘Miracle-Gro Soil-less Potting Mix.’) The plants will be transplanted by the customer within a few weeks from the time you pot them up. To minimize the mess, put a piece of newspaper or a new coffee filter in the bottom of the pot to cover the hole so the soil does not fall out.

**4. Potted/labeled perennials need to be dropped off at the Bloomingdale Park District Maintenance Building, 259 Springfield Dr., Bloomingdale, on Thursday, May 9th 3 to 6 PM.** Plants dropped off later may not be available for sale. Plants not identified will not be accepted.

### **Important Notes:**

We do not have the resources available to help dig up plants unless there is an unusual circumstance.

Please do not be offended if we “price” your plant for less than you think is appropriate. As the Sale progresses, or if we have an abundance of similar plants (e.g., day lilies/hostas), prices may be reduced to “Buy 1 [at highest price]; Get 1 [or 2] FREE.”

The type of plant and its condition, along with the size of the pot will determine our pricing.

# Bloomington Garden Club 2024 Donations

Laurie Dring, Treasurer

**Bloomington VFW Post 7539**—A service organization which provides inactive and active veteran assistance, senior assistance, flag disposal and honor guard. <http://www.vfw7539.org/> **\$1,000.00**

**Cornerstone Faith Community Church**—A non-denominational Christian Church in Bloomington. (Provides meeting space and other assistance to the BGC.) <https://cornerstonefaith.church/> **\$1,200.00**

**DuPage Care Center (DPCC) (Plants)**—DPCC provides quality long term care as well as short term rehabilitative services to DuPage County residents in a professional and cost effective manner. [https://www.dupageco.org/Convalescent\\_Center/6086/](https://www.dupageco.org/Convalescent_Center/6086/) **\$ 800.00**

## Repeat Boutique served 3,770 people from 70 countries speaking 54 languages in 2023

*Gina Kraman, Daily Herald 1/31/2024*

More inflation and more immigrants in our community meant more people than ever before sought free clothes and household goods at Repeat Boutique in 2023. Volunteers served 50% more people than in 2022.

Many clients were fleeing challenging circumstances in their homelands, including 268 families from Ukraine, 116 from Russia, 84 from Burma, 40 from Syria, 38 from Sudan, 22 from Afghanistan, and 21 from Iraq. Immigrants from Latin America included 131 families from Venezuela, 104 from Mexico, 43 from Columbia, and 31 from Cuba.

Repeat Boutique encourages the community to donate clothing and housewares to keep the inventory supplied. All items are donated and staff members are volunteers. Financial donations keep the doors open. Their only expense is rent.

Repeat Boutique does not charge for merchandise and welcome people in need who bring referrals from charitable organizations, churches, and governmental agencies.

**GardenWorks Project**—Promotes organic suburban agriculture to improve the well-being of our community, the environment, and those facing food insecurity. <http://www.gardenworksproject.org/> **\$1,000.00**

**Humanitarian Service Project**—Assists impoverished families living in DuPage County by providing nutritious food to seniors, birthday presents and school supplies for children and Christmas meals and gifts to needy families. <http://hsp.agency/> **\$1,000.00**

**Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets**—Provides housing, supportive services and community outreach to help homeless and at-risk veterans and their families achieve self-sufficiency. <http://www.helpaveteran.org/> **\$1,000.00**

**Naomi's House (Wheaton)**—Naomi's House programs are comprehensive services offering hope and healing to women who have suffered from commercial sexual exploitation. Naomi's House offers residential and day programs. Ministry of The Moody Church. \$1.6M budget: 81% of funds go to Program services; 19% Admin and Fundraising. <https://www.moodychurch.org/naomis-house/> **\$1,000.00**

**Neighborhood Food Pantries**—To improve the health and well-being of our neighbors by providing reliable access to nutritious food in welcoming environments through the generosity of volunteers, individuals and community partnerships. \$5M budget: 97.5% toward Program services; 2.5% Admin & Overhead. <https://www.neighborhoodfp.org/> **\$1,000.00**

**Repeat Boutique**—Our mission is to demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by providing material goods free of charge to people in need. Not a resale shop, Repeat Boutique is a Christian, non-denominational, and all volunteer service ministry providing clothing and practical household goods to those in need. Located at 191 S. Gary, Suite 140, Carol Stream. <https://repeatboutiquecenter.com/> **\$1,000.00**

**We Grow Dreams**—A not-for-profit greenhouse and garden center providing job training and employment opportunities to people with disabilities. <https://www.wegrowdreams.org/> **\$1,000.00**

**Total \$10,000.00**

# 2023 Treasurer Report

Balance as of Dec. 31, 2022.....\$12,167.00

## Revenue

Plant Sale .....\$24,131.00  
 60th Anniversary Gala.....\$22,204.00  
 Membership Dues.....\$1,075.00  
 Holiday Party.....\$660.00  
 Donations .....\$250.00

**Total Revenue \$48,320.00**

## Expenses

Plant Sale .....\$17,482.00  
 60th Anniversary Gala.....\$16,517.00  
 Holiday Party.....\$1,068.00  
 Programs .....\$1,339.00  
 Community Garden.....\$173.00  
 Flowers for Members & Memorial Day .....\$150.00  
 GCI Membership.....\$289.00  
 Liability Insurance .....\$75.00  
 Miscellaneous (Website, software, supplies).....\$431.00  
 Donations to Charities.....\$6,600.00

**Total Expenses \$44,124.00**

**Revenue over Expenses.....\$4,196.00**

**Ending Balance as of Dec. 31, 2023 .....\$16,363.00**

## Recap

Plant Sale Net Revenue .....\$6,590.00  
 60th Anniversary Net Revenue.....\$5,686.00  
 Holiday Party Net Expense .....-\$408.00

# Membership Dues

If you did not update your membership dues, please mail a check to Laurie Dring at 308 Wentworth Circle, Bloomingdale, IL 60108-3034. \$25 for single membership or \$30 for couples.



Cindy Glen Says the photo above was taken December 29th and the same on the right March 12th. I love my daffodils!



Cathy Gall says I can't believe how early my Lenten Rose plant has come up and bloomed!

## 2024 Program Schedule

**February 20**—Marcie-Lautenan Raleigh, Curative Properties of Tea (See page 8)

**March 23**—**Pre-Sale Order Deadline**

**March 19**—Mike Nowak, Fighting Climate Change in Your Backyard

**April 16**—**Flower & Plant Sale Prep Meeting**

**May 10 & 11**—**FLOWER & PLANT SALE**

**May 21**—Mark Spraeyer, Who's Who of Owls & Raptors

**June 18**—Visit to the Bird Flower Farm, a flower and vegetable garden and 1890's home

**July 16**—Garden Club Potluck Picnic and nature walk at Springfield Park

**August 20**—Tour of Fabyan House & Japanese Garden; Ball Gardens (date TBD)

**September 17**—Japanese Forest Bathing and Nature Therapy

**October 15**—By the Light of the Moon: An Evening Garden

**November 19**—Christmas Craft

**December 8**—Christmas Party

# Herbal Bliss by Marcy Lautanen-Raleigh



Debbie Matuszak

Marcy Lautanen-Raleigh from Backyard Patch Herbs gave us an excellent presentation in February on the Curative Properties of Tea. Marcy taught us many health benefits of herbal teas including those for fever, digestion, nausea, inflammation, calming, nursing mothers, pain relieving, stress, antiviral, restful sleep, cramps, immune system, menopause, colds, and coughs. We learned about creating herbal teas, how to brew teas, and blending teas.

Everyone had a taste of two different infusions of herbal tea: Holy Basel Relaxing Blend Tea and a custom blend for our group made from Lemon Balm, Peppermint, Lavendar, Hibiscus, and Lemon Verbena. At the end of the meeting, several of our members made purchases, which will make nice gifts. One of Marcy's books, *Sip and Savor: Herbal Tea Bliss*, was raffled and the winner was Linda Steck.

Warm up your winter days with a cup of soothing herbal tea. Here is a simple blend with uplifting flavor for you to try:

## Chamomile Citrus Zest Tea

1 tablespoon dried chamomile flowers  
2 teaspoons dried lemon balm  
1 teaspoon dried orange peel  
Honey to taste

Steep chamomile flowers and orange peel in hot water for 5-7 minutes. Strain and sweeten with

honey. Relax and enjoy the calming aroma and flavor!

And if you just want to enjoy teas already blended, we have a great selection available. You can find them all on Marcy's website (below). And the holiday teas are only available through the end of January, so grab yours today!

## Spice Up Your Life: Creative Dry Herb Uses

Dry herbs aren't just for seasoning—they can elevate your dishes to new heights! Try these fun tips:

### Herb-Infused Olive Oil

Create your own herb-infused olive oil by combining dried rosemary, thyme, and garlic in a small amount of olive oil in a canning jar. Let it sit for a day, then drizzle over salads or use as a dipping sauce for crusty bread. Discard leftovers after a week.

### Herbal Infused Honey

Elevate your culinary creations with a homemade herb infused honey. Simply warm honey and add dried herbs like thyme, cinnamon or lavender. Let it steep for a few hours, then strain. Drizzle this aromatic honey over desserts, toast, or even stir it into your favorite cup of tea for a unique twist.

Marcy's website is [www.backyardpatch.com](http://www.backyardpatch.com)

# Plot-to-Plate Garden March 2024

Gail Sanders

The Plot-to-Plate Committee has met and drawn up plans for this year's garden. Most of the seeds needed have been purchased and we have a list of transplants that will need to be purchased later this spring. Now we wait for the proper planting times. It has been hard to wait with so many warm days in the last weeks, but it is too soon yet for most of our crops.

We look forward to another successful growing season but will need your help to do so. First, we need you to save plastic quart and pint containers with attached lids. Think containers from strawberries, blueberries, and grape/cherry tomatoes you purchase in the produce department. You can bring clean containers to any of our meetings. We will be collecting these throughout the year. Secondly, and most importantly, we need your help maintaining the garden. There will be a sign-up at the May and June meetings for people who are willing to take one week this growing season to water and weed our garden. You will



need to come several times during that week to do so and we encourage you to work with a partner to complete these tasks. No experience needed as instructions will be provided to all who sign up. With a 19 week season, that means we need 38 people if every week has two volunteers.

Thank you for your support of this project. Your help allows us to get fresh, organic produce to a local food pantry that distributes it to people in need.

## Plot-to-Plate Committee

Susan Glick-Shore, Eileen Spaman,  
Gail Sanders, Barbara Weisenberger

## Perfectly Roasted Vegetables Every Time

Beyond the Brambleberry

### Helpful Tips:

- Roasting times are based on the oven set at 425° F.
- Use olive oil (sparingly), salt, & pepper to season.
- Keep the vegetables cut around the same size so they roast evenly and at the same rate.
- Mix up the vegetables with a spatula half way through the cook time.

### Roasting Times By Vegetable:

- Asparagus spears: 10-12 minutes
- Beets (whole, poked with a fork, wrapped in foil): 60 minutes
- Beets, cubed: 30 minutes
- Bell peppers, slices: 15-20 minutes
- Broccoli florets: 20-25 minutes

- Brussel sprouts, rimmed and halved: 18-25 mins
- Butternut Squash, cubed: 40 minutes
- Cauliflower florets: 20-25 minutes
- Eggplant, cubed: 20-30 minutes
- Green Beans: 12-15 minutes
- Mushrooms, sliced: 20-25 minutes
- Onion, cut into wedges: 18-20 minutes
- Potato, cubed: 30-35 minutes
- Potato, whole, poked with a fork: 40-45 minutes
- Pumpkin, cubed: 30 minutes
- Spaghetti Squash, deseeded & halved: 30-40 mins
- Sweet Potato, cubed: 30-35 minutes
- Sweet Potato, whole, poked with a fork: 40-45 mins
- Tomatoes (plum, whole, cherry, etc.) cut in half or cubed: 30-40 minutes
- Zucchini, cubed: 10-15 minutes

# Remembering George Holtz



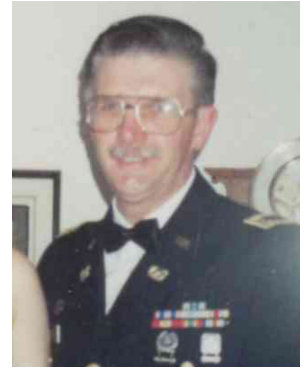
George Holtz was an ardent gardener and had beautiful flower beds at his home in Bloomingdale. For several years he worked for the Park District and was greatly admired by his colleagues for his knowledge and his work ethic.

His hobbies included a very fine train collection and a variety of unusual indoor plants; he was a keen photographer and could be counted on to record all of the club's activities. George was a fun loving guy and enjoyed decorating and dressing up for the holidays—his home at Halloween and Christmas was one folk always went to see. And he truly loved animals and the family always had pets—right to the end he had Winston by his side.

George served in the Air Force and also in the Army Reserve. He retired as a Commissioned Warrant Officer. His sense of duty included continuing to be educated and he achieved his B.A

Degree when he was in his 50s! He also continued to serve and volunteered at the Lion's Club to help rebuild churches in the south that had been vandalized.

During 2016 George suffered a stroke and passed away at home on December 30, 2023. His wife had pre-deceased him. He was father to George Jr, Morgan and Heather and a loving grandfather to Alex, Charlotte and Xavier.



He is sorely missed by all of his friends in the Garden Club—it is doubtful that we will ever find another “Go to” guy quite like him.

## Art & Marilyn Dattilo Anniversary Celebration

Joyce Basel

Long time members Art and Marilyn Dattilo celebrated their 60th Wedding anniversary in grand style which they shared with some fifty family members and friends. The party was held at the Bloomingdale Golf Club and many of the guests flew in from far and wide! It was an elegant affair and Marilyn looked absolutely stunning in her full length black gown! Art—as always—handsome in his tuxedo. Guests were treated to a fine meal and dancing to old time favorites in true Italian style. Congratulations to this wonderful couple!!



Art and Marilyn Dattilo are joined here by Joyce and their son to celebrate an extraordinary 60 years together!

# My Brother's / Sister's Keeper

Joyce Basel

During my rather long tenure as President of our club, I had the privilege of being able to introduce a few programs, one of which is quite dear to my heart. I had looked around the group assembled at one of our meetings and noticed how many single women there were—many of them living alone—and I just knew that because we are such a terrific group, that we would all benefit from keeping a closer eye on each other.

I thought it through and suggested that we simply choose someone from the group and “check in” every now and then. Become, as it were “my sister’s keeper.” Not everyone did this, but a number of us did indeed stay closer in touch and help out on occasions.

After Ernie Pulido passed away Carole began checking in on Bobbie and taking her to doctor’s appointments as well as picking her up for meetings etc. Bobbie and I had been friends for many years and often attended functions together so when Carole could not help Bobbie, it was easy for me to do so.

Never in a million years, did I think that I would eventually be one of the more serious “players” in this program. In January 2019 (five years ago!) I started taking Bobbie for her appointments because she had a serious hernia for which surgery was indicated. During the following months (eventually years) as Bobbie’s memory loss became more acute and she needed closer attention and care, Carole and Maureen, and others, visited often and I engaged a nurse to make sure of meals etc.

And then Covid happened! Neither Bobbie nor I were vaccinated and so no one could visit and as Bobbie’s hernia surgery had complications that entailed two other surgeries as well as hospital stays, I became her advocate and care giver and daily companion.

I really don’t know where the years went but I do know that while I don’t consider myself a nurturing person, I do know that these years have been—for me—amongst the most rewarding of my life.

As you all know, Bobbie’s family decided to place her at Sunrise for her safety and her future. I continue to visit with her regularly and she does still know me. She has declined and now does not remember very much. My heart will break when the day comes and she no longer knows me!

I am not writing this to suggest that any of you undertake such an endeavor but just to tell you that Bobbie would not have survived without the friendship, care and love that she got from our members. Please consider touching base with others regularly—I promise it is worth it!

## Bobbie’s 83rd Birthday



On February 10th Bobbie turned 83! I took her a birthday gift and balloons as well as flowers and had her hair styled. She was really happy.

There was a card of course from the Garden Club as well as several others from individual members.

I think she has been in Sunrise now for just over two years and I continue to see her several times every week.





## 2024 Club Officers and Committees

*President .....	Cheryl Svec
*1st Vice President .....	Marietta Serenda
(Membership)	Jean Kurzynski
*2nd Vice President.....	Debbie Matuszak
(Programs)	& Kimberly Kennedy
*3rd Vice President .....	Linda Kunesh
(Ways and Means)	
*Treasurer.....	Laurie Dring
*Publicity .....	Vacant
Publicity Contributors	
Publications.....	Akhila Meda
Proofreading .....	Linda Kunesh
Photo Retouching.....	Alan Schneck
Facebook.....	Cathy Gall
Website & Trowel .....	Jamie Schneck
Website Support .....	Dan Vitacco
*Secretary .....	Joyce Basel
Plot-to-Plate Garden .....	Gail Sanders
Susan Glick-Shore, Eileen Spaman, Barbara Weisenburger	
Good Cheer .....	Jennifer Moore
Hospitality.....	Henrietta Sullivan
Memorial Garden.....	Joyce Basel
Nursing Home Liaison.....	Chris Magnatowski

*\*Denotes Executive Board*

Let Us Hear From You:  
[jschneck1233@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jschneck1233@sbcglobal.net)

Phone: 630-372-6003

Posting Months:

March, June, September and December

## OUR VISION

To educate members and the community about gardening through informative and educational meetings, workshops and activities

- To develop and promote projects for civic beautification and environmental stewardship
- To support philanthropic endeavors which aid the residents of the Bloomingdale community and surrounding areas
- To provide opportunities for fellowship for those interested in gardening and environmental and civic responsibility
- To aid in the protection of native trees, flowers and birds
- To further the extermination of invasive and/or noxious plants

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all persons at his or her request of application regardless of residence. Annual dues are \$25.00 for a single member and \$30.00 for a couple when paid January 1st through June 30th. (\$6.00 pays each member's State Garden Club dues; and \$7.00 for each couple).

Half year dues for new members are \$12.50 for single member, and \$15.00 per couple when paid July 1st thru December 31st.

Visitors are always welcome, but we encourage them to join the club after 3 visits in order to help out with the costs of our monthly programming.

## Meeting Location:

The 3rd Tuesday of each month. Social time and announcements at 6:15 PM. Program begins at 7. We meet at:

Cornerstone Faith Community Church  
118 S. First Street, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

## Contact Us At:

[bloomingtongardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:bloomingtongardenclub@gmail.com)

## We're On The Web:

[bloomingtongardenclub.org](http://bloomingtongardenclub.org)