

THE *Garden Club of Dearborn*

September 2024

NEWSLETTER

BOARD MEETING

October 2, 2024
10:00 am
McFadden Ross House

Upcoming Events

Festival of Trees
Performing Arts Center
Nov. 24 - Dec. 1

Holly Berry Brunch
Doubletree Hotel
Dearborn - Detroit
December 7

September Birthdays

2 Linda Johnson
2 Karen Marzonie
6 Anina Bachrach
10 Shirley Barrick
11 Nanette Fisher
15 Linda Stechison
22 Mary Lenart-Kirchoff
26 Carolyn Lashchuk

October Birthdays

7 Carol McGarvey
19 Marie Komnenic
22 Cathy Booth

Editor:

Mariya Fogarasi

Chief Photographer:

Otto Baumgart

www.gardenclubdearborn.org



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the last weeks of summer wind down, I am reminded of the harmonious season of flowers blooming, birds singing and butterflies flitting about. Not to say there haven't been challenges with the heat and humidity. This will be behind us as we transition into the vibrant colors of autumn. Take time to enjoy the late bloomers! Time to appreciate the gardens in these milder days. Hopefully milder.

I am excited to get back together and enjoy the programs we have planned for our club. I chose a variety of presenters who will delight your spirit. It's going to be good. Invite a friend too. *Welcome back!*

NEXT GCD GENERAL MEETING

October 14, 2024 – 11:00 am
First Presbyterian Church Dearborn

Speaker: Virginia Froehlich – Passionate Gardener and Michigan Garden Club Life Achievement Award Chair.

Topic: The Gardening Contributions Pilgrims Made to America. How our founding fathers were vested in gardening and the notable contributions they made.

Hosts: Jo West and Rose Wiggle

MISSION STATEMENT

THE GARDEN CLUB OF DEARBORN, INC.

To stimulate the knowledge and the love of gardening, to promote civic beauty by encouraging and contributing to landscape development and helping to protect our natural environmental resources.

With the year's programs firmly in place and with 70 members in our directory, along with a new and spacious Holly Berry Brunch venue, the Garden Club of Dearborn is ready to begin its 109th year. What better way to start than with a presentation from our Dearborn Historical Museum archivist, Mason Christensen, on the historical geography of Dearborn, highlighting the changes our city has seen over time?



M. Christensen

Please note: all board and general meetings are listed in this newsletter as well as in our 2024-2025 directory which includes program descriptions. Great thanks to President Cynthia Casillas for lining up all these wonderful and informative programs! Our Garden Club directory for the 2024-2025 year will be handed out at the October 14th meeting.

Save the date!!! Our biggest annual fundraiser, the traditional Holly Berry Brunch, takes place on Saturday, December 7th at the Double Tree by Hilton, located just off Ford Road next to the Southfield Freeway. Tickets will cost \$40 and can already be ordered



from Mary Bugeia at 313-613-0870 or email Mary at marybugeia7@comcast.net; Mary's mailing address is 7 Cherry Hill Court, Dearborn MI 48124. Our new venue allows for more space in a holiday setting. If you have contacts to local vendors or have ideas on whom to approach for a sponsorship, please speak up and consider approaching them on our club's behalf.

Personal recognition is frequently the easier road to soliciting a donation. Also, now is a good time to keep an eye out for sale items to donate for the raffle, noting that raffle prize donations should have a minimum retail value of \$30. Last year we had 100 enticing baskets, wrapped in foil with gorgeous ribbons, for raffle prizes and it was obvious watching everyone place their bids that we had some pretty gorgeous prizes.

Our Vice President of External Affairs, Terri Bungee, explained the Holly Berry Brunch forms for donors and sponsorships which were emailed out on September 6th. Let's work together to make this bigger and better than ever! *Do let the prospective donors know just how much this means to our club and how their donations enable us to continue our programs, our donations, and so much more.* The club sends out thank you notes to our corporate sponsors and if you would like a prize donor to be personally thanked, please let us know. At times, this can be invaluable for years to come. Terri will be out pounding the pavement approaching businesses and she welcomes help in reaching as many as possible. Thank you, Terri, for your tireless drive to bring in some great prizes!



Our Holly Berry Brunch needs volunteers to help at the event. People are needed to .wrap raffle prizes (no wrapping skills necessary), drive gift baskets to the Doubletree Hilton, sell raffle and 50/50 tickets at the event, and more. Please make your enthusiasm and availability known at our upcoming meetings!

When we entered our church hall for the September meeting, we were greeted with green tablecloths and beautiful autumn floral centerpieces. Great thanks go to Linda Johnson, who decorated all our round tables, buffet table and also made four small centerpiece door prizes. Linda's talents and creativity are a gift to our club! Jo West donated three books and Marietta Lynch brought an extra mum bought by our club to round out the door prizes for eight happy winners. Anyone taking one of the floral centerpieces home was lucky indeed! Thanks ladies.



President Cynthia Casillas opened our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance with 33 members and 5 guests in attendance. Joining us were Maiyah Devenport, Mazel Heermann (a past president whose mother was also a president of our club), Paul Heermann, Carol Krupa and Susan Seta.

Mary Bugeia read a paragraph from the book “100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names” by Diana Wells. We learned how botany used to be the “frontier of knowledge” and how many explorers died in the quest to learn more about plants and flowers around the world. Mary selected the chrysanthemum for our September reading and will read the story of one flower every month. The chrysanthemum, we learned, had been cultivated in Chinese gardens for over 2500 years before being brought to the West! This was only one of the captivating facts she related from the book. Stay tuned for more upcoming readings or give this to a friend or relative for birthdays or Christmas to elicit surprise and lots of fun about the name origins.



G. Morton

Member Gary Morgan alerted us all to the ongoing concerns about the current Dearborn Tree Ordinance and the proposed changes which our City Council has presented. Gary outlined past procedures as well as his past involvement. Future council meetings, eventual study sessions and agendas are posted on the city website and we hope that any updates to the ordinance will serve to promote our city's tree growth and preservation goals. Thanks Gary!

After Cynthia announced all the September birthdays and brought out a rousing chorus of “happy birthday”; after Laurine’s always spot-on financial report (thank you, Laurine!), we welcomed two new members into our club.

Two new members; Marybeth Lynch-Verga and Susan Kingston, were welcomed as new members with a lovely formal introduction. After Carol Chrzastek read our “new member welcome”, both were greeted by our Hospitality Chairs Marietta Lynch and Rose Wiggle and were presented by two lovely yellow chrysanthemums. Welcome, Marybeth (daughter of Marietta) and Susan! We hope you will enjoy our Club and all the opportunities for gardening and community involvement it offers.



M. Lynch M. Lynch-Verga R. Wiggle S. Kingston

The elaborate panels lining one side of our meeting hall this September are a historic work of art to behold!

Karen Marzonie explained how the panels were completed in 2015 and were considered a traveling exhibit celebrating both the Garden Club's and Fair Lane's centennials with an all-day symposium at the estate. Karen worked with the estate garden's interns to research the information in our club's archives and then worked with a Fair Lane exhibit specialist to prepare the digital layout for the panels. Once they were finished with scanning the original photos and other printed material, and writing the summary text, they organized all of the archived materials in archival quality boxes (now in the church basement). All costs for this work were covered by the estate.

The panels were on display at Fair Lane during the June 2015 landscape symposium, at the Centennial Library for a time, and at the Holly Berry Brunch that year. Officially donated to our Garden Club in 2015, they have been stored at Fair Lane and have been set up at a few Garden Club meetings since then. You will see them at occasional future meetings and at the Holly Berry Brunch this year, too. Take time to browse and read about the past, highlighting activities, events, community involvement and more. We can all be proud to have inherited this legacy and be contributing members of our club.



Our presenter, archivist Mason Christensen, a self-described map geek, has worked for the Dearborn Historical Museum since 2016. A native of the Lansing area, he holds Bachelor's degrees in History and Geography from Penn State and a Master's Degree in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University. Mason is a fountain of knowledge about Dearborn history and never too busy to help visitors to the archives. Whether you are looking for information about your house, Dearborn personalities, a long-ago event or more (even a telephone directory from 1925 describing how to make a call properly!), Mason can guide and help you. Mason's social media skills bring photos and historical happenings to all of us, making him a recognized figure when he's out and about. Two years ago, he and Preservation Dearborn's historian Ian Tomashik mapped out walking tours through the East and West Dearborn downtown areas as well as the Rouge Gateway Trail. Their tours have been a big hit, filling a void and leaving no stone unturned as they take us back in history.



Mason's talk showed us how the place we call Dearborn has been shaped by humans for centuries – native peoples, trappers, soldiers, farmers, automakers, and others, and it also covered a number of stories on how humans have used and modified the Dearborn area landscape to suit their needs. Starting with Baubee (Baby) Creek in Dearborn's South End, to explaining how the 1770's shipyards existed at its confluence with the Rouge for the military and fur trade, to telling us how Metro Detroit became part of the United States in 1796 (causing many British citizens to move to Canada), Mason churned out one fascinating fact after another. Who knew about the French ribbon farms or the orchards or the slaves used in the grist mills and for shipbuilding (Native Americans as well as African enslaved peoples)? Baby Creek is gone now, covered up, Dearborn's eastern border at Woodmere cemetery but it's still alive in our history books.

He told us about the salt ponds and puddles known as salt licks, leading to the name "Salina". He explained how travel along the Rouge waterways was much easier – first due to forests, then to muddy early road conditions (when Dearborn's Arsenal was built, much of the material came down the Rouge from Detroit). Did you know that Ann Arbor Trail reaches all the way to Delray? It would have been a main road had not the federal government decided to build a new road, the Chicago Road, which we now know as Michigan Avenue. East Dearborn was mostly swampland, the Ann Arbor Trail was the way to get to Detroit.

Not surprisingly, our first business was not cars, not the red bricks for which early Dearborn was known but a distillery opened during the 1790's. Springwells Township was named after the natural springs in the area. Telegraph Road is named for – well, this is an easy one – a telegraph line which basically follows Pardee Street to the south (lines were first built in the 1840's) running to Flat Rock. An old Indian burial mound stood where the Taylor Walmart stands today. The Rouge River near Brady was actually moved in 1967 because its natural course created a dangerous "dead man's curve" and more room was needed for Michigan Avenue. Such fascinating historical facts imbedded in Mason's talk gave us a wonderful overview of early Dearborn; I do feel we could easily have listened for another hour.

A big thank you goes to our Awards Chair, Karen Marzonie, who is constantly scouting both Michigan and National Garden Club awards for which our club might qualify. We don't realize how much time and effort goes on behind the scenes – the write-up, the required supporting words, the photos - but we do know that her work has been quite successful. Thank you, Karen, and also to Terri Bungee for the most recent application highlighting our involvement with local schools.



Our club's first Buddy's Pizza fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, October 17. This is a win-win for our club! Buddy's Pizza offers this Giveback Fundraiser program to support a variety of causes including schools, sports teams, and non-profit organizations. On that designated day from 11am to 10pm, Buddy's will donate 20% of food sales – both dine-in and carry-out – generated by supporters of our cause **BUT the diners must mention our club when ordering or dining.** We'll have to be out in the parking lot advertising and making sure everyone knows. Please plan on joining us and bringing family and friends, too!

Many thanks to our hosts who have signed up to provide hospitality, greetings and assorted baked goods and snacks to our meetings.

The Senior Health Expo will be held at the Performing Arts Center on October 11th. Rose Wiggle and Cynthia Casillas will represent our club, and they invite all to come by and visit on that day. The expo runs from 10:00 am to 1:30pm.

Cynthia Casillas passed around a sign-up sheet for the Festival of Trees. The following is from the email sent out to all on August 20th:

*If you plan to make a donation for the festival of trees this year, please fill out the contract and send in as noted on the form to Denise McDonald. When doing so, please make sure when filling out your name to also include you are with Garden Club of Dearborn. Note that the contracts should be sent in no later than **October 1** in order to have your name appear in the program for the festival. The festival will provide the 2 and 3-foot trees. The festival does not provide wreaths. They have some items for centerpieces as noted below.*

We have scheduled November 11, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church-Dearborn for a hands-on workshop again this year to get together as a group and work on items we plan to donate to the Festival of Trees. Save the date on your calendars. This is always a fun event and the more the merrier!

Please note below that the festival is always looking for volunteers.

When our Vice President of External Affairs Terri Bungee and Marlene Wojtowicz team up to launch the annual Smokey the Bear / Woodsy Owl poster contest, they will hopefully be working with four schools. Along with Duvall and Lindbergh, schools already participating in the program, Howard and McCullough-Unis have been approached and we are hoping they will agree to offer this fun and enriching program for their students.

How much do we really know about Smokey the Bear and how he started out as an enduring symbol of wildfire prevention in the United States? The history stretches back to World War II when the war increased the demand for lumber, leading to the exploitation of forest resources and after the Japanese launched balloon bombs intended to cause wildfires on the West Coast, the vulnerability of American forests to both natural and human-made fires was apparent. The idea of a national wildfire prevention campaign was born out of collaboration between the U.S. Forest Service and the Wartime Advertising Council. Initially, Disney's Bambi was chosen but rights to Bambi were limited and so Smokey Bear was created on August 9, 1944 with his first poster depicting him pouring a bucket of water on a campfire.



Smokey Bear's impact over the decades has been profound. The campaign has been credited with reducing the number of acres lost to wildfires, thanks in part to the public's increased awareness of fire prevention practices. Smokey's image and message continue to evolve, addressing contemporary issues such as climate change and its role in exacerbating wildfire risks. The National Garden Clubs have sponsored the poster contest for 50 years now, promoting awareness in a fun and creative way for grades 1-5. Our Garden Club is proud to participate! Thank you, Terri and Marlene, for carrying on this tradition and outreach program.

Our new Over Sharers study group is up and running and although the growing season has ended, the program is poised to start off well next Spring. At the beginning of September, they approached the Senior Services at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center and are collaborating with the Food Surplus Distribution Program for surplus vegetables, cut flower bouquets and herbs from Monday through Friday during regular business hours. We can step in to help fill an existing need so next year if you have excess, we will be promoting this program and suggesting our members donate. Please note the Senior Services entrance to the Performing Arts Center is on the east side at the back entrance, 15801 Michigan Avenue.

The Center will weigh and bag produce. Flowers and herbs should be bouquets wrapped in a rubber band and in water. During winter months, we can keep an eye out for bargains (two sacks of potatoes for the price of one, for instance) and still support this endeavor. Our club has also donated a scale which can support up to 111 pounds at a time. This is a hands-on approach which can make a difference in our community! Congratulations to our Over Sharers and we thank Katrina Harris, Claudia Meyer and Shawn Tambeau (with Shae Shae) for their initiative in starting the group. We look forward to hearing more from them next year.



Our Garden Club receives several thank you notes from the organizations to whom we donate regularly, and we would like to highlight an especially moving response (second paragraph) we received from the University of Michigan Dearborn Institutional Advancement office in July:

Dear Garden Club of Dearborn,

You are the reason why UM-Dearborn continues to be a leader in higher education and student support. We are truly grateful for your continued support and partnership and appreciate your faith in our community.

The Snow Woods neighborhood plastic bottle cap collection runs through October, will then be evaluated, and may run into next year. We are still collecting so please continue to bring your contributions.

The Dearborn Fire Department wants citizens to know about its grant-funded program to offer free fire alarms to Dearborn and Melvindale residents. The fire alarms include ten-year batteries and free installation - an offer too good to pass up. Please note, this offer is for fire alarms only (no carbon dioxide detectors). Call Kim at the fire department (313-943-2134) and she will contact you to set up an appointment for the installation. Take advantage of this offer for increased safety and peace of mind; please spread the word amongst friends and neighbors.

Additionally, if you ever tour the Michigan Firehouse Museum in Ypsilanti, you will see the most expansive Dalmation collection in the country! Last year, the museum honored William Dennis Gramer, who had a love for Dalmations and a passion for collecting Dalmation-related items, by unveiling a new record-breaking exhibit. His collections hold the world record with 1,240 Dalmation-related items!

Six Garden Club of Dearborn members watched our fellow member Heather Yeaw sing and dance her way through a fabulous performance of the romantic comedy musical, "Crazy for You," at the Grosse Pointe Theatre on September 18. Cheryl Pizzimenti, Kim Kovacs-Gucwa, Rose Wiggle, Diane Rebori, Jo West, and Judy Polcyn were treated to Heather's spectacular job as the Follies Girl, Patsy, in the Gershwin musical. Stay tuned for future shows!



C. Pizzimenti K. Kovacs-Gucwa R. Wiggle H. Yeaw D. Rebori J. West J. Polcyn

2024-25 GARDEN CLUB OF DEARBORN

BOARD Meeting Schedule

Time: 10:00 am

2024

September 4	McFadden Ross House, 915 Brady
October 2	McFadden Ross House, 915 Brady
November 6	McFadden Ross House, 915 Brady
December 4	McFadden Ross House, 915 Brady

2025

January 8	McFadden Ross House, 915 Brady
February 5	McFadden Ross House, 915 Brady
March 5	First Presbyterian Church, North Parlor, 600 North Brady
April 2	First Presbyterian Church, North Parlor, 600 North Brady
May 7	First Presbyterian Church, North Parlor, 600 North Brady
June 4	Commandant's Quarters, 21950 Michigan Ave

GENERAL Meeting Schedule

First Presbyterian Church, 600 N. Brady

Time: 11:00 am

2024

September 9
October 14
November 11
December NO Meeting

2025

January NO Meeting
February 10
March 10
April 14
May 13
June 16

GCD POTLUCK – September 9, 2025

