

The Perennial



2017-2018

Issue 4: December

Website:

ArlingtonGarden.org

I remember the old television commercial with the ad line “It’s not nice to fool Mother Nature.” With a major storm on the horizon and the brutally cold weather these past two weeks that tied the one hundred year old record, I feel as though Mother Nature is not at all happy with us! Once again, our plants are being stressed following a dry autumn, and we are left to wonder how they will survive the erratic weather.

Garden Tip of the Month:

Have your tools sharpened to get them ready for spring

January’s Program: January 10th, 10:30 am

St. John’s Episcopal Church 74 Pleasant St. Arlington, MA

Vegetable Gardening

Susan Hammond, Lifetime Massachusetts Master Gardener and co-founder of the Medford Food Pantry Garden, will share the value of vegetable gardening as something everyone from the novice to the experienced gardener can enjoy. It can be a way to bring fresh food to your table, teach children where food comes from and a way to beautify your yard! Susan will look at different types of vegetable gardens and discuss layout, variety choices and growing techniques.



Hospitality Committee – Nancy Pike and Donna McGowan

January and February are our brown bag luncheons. Pack your favorite sandwich or salad. Drinks and desserts will be provided by the board.

Snow Closings

If the weather is questionable, be sure to check for Arlington School Closings. If the schools are closed, we will not have our meeting.

Town Hall Garden – Patsy Kraemer and Emily Snyder

On December 2nd, Arlington Garden Club members Emily Snyder and Stephan Miller and Master Gardener Diane Cuifetti Geis joined several members of the Friends of the Robbins Town Gardens to prepare a portion of the garden for spring planting. The group also included Mona McKindley, former National Park Service Gardener and the Club's September 2017 Program speaker. For four hours the group pruned, raked and sawed, removing invasive vines, reducing the size of overgrown shrubs and cutting down dead and diseased trees. While a few trees still remain to be pruned or cut down, the area at the lawn side of Town Hall is now largely ready for spring planting.



Town Hall Gardens before and after photos, showing the area to be planted this spring.

In consultation with Mona McKindley, the Friends have chosen plants that conform to the original 1938 Olmsted plan: cherry, elm, and maple trees, as well as lilac, mock orange and high bush blueberry. The Friends will now raise funds for the plant material. If any Club members would like to contribute to this project, you may do so through the Friends' [website](#).

Garden Therapy Committee – Barbara Neenan and Robin Watkins



On Dec 4, the Garden Therapy committee celebrated the holidays with residents of Park Avenue Health Center. Tree-shaped boxes were decorated with stickers, ribbon and candy canes. After the craft, residents enjoyed a slice of banana bread with cream cheese frosting and sang holiday favorites, led by Donna McGowan. Roberta Rossetti provided a beautiful card for each resident, wishing all a Joyous Holiday and Happy New Year from the Arlington Garden Club.

This month's project and snack were provided by Marcia de Rosas and Robin Watkins.

Civic Development Committee – Jane Foley

The library has had on exhibit photographs of our islands and work in Arlington. Thanks to Katherine Krister and Joan Robbio for heading up the group to get the exhibit together. We are always looking for your photos for further use in exhibiting and creating awareness of all that the Garden Club does for the town.

Also, Jane Foley spoke before the Selectmen early in December to keep them aware of all the effort that the Garden Club does to promote beautification. Mentioned were all the islands, town gardens and historical homes, our involvement in exhibits and our participation in the three town committees that improve our three town areas: East, Center and Heights. We hope this awareness will increase cooperation between the town departments, the business community and the garden club.

Membership – Jackie Keshian

We welcome new member Maryanne King.

Winter Beauty:



From Emily Snyder's yard: Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) encased in ice and Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) in the snow.

Best Wishes for a Happy 2018!