

October Newsletter



Boo! Its suddenly verging on the end of October! I actually missed most of the month in Bristol, because I've had on my traveling shoes...visits to family in Maryland and Virginia, then ten days in Barcelona and Mallorca. No one has to tell me how fortunate I am! Barcelona is a lovely city with so many sights, sounds and flavors...and I came home with some terrific chocolate boxes for my Christmas tree. Mallorca is stunningly beautiful. If you get the opportunity to visit, grab it!

While I've been away, our Garden Club members have been extremely busy. We took advantage of the State Street Fair early in the month and set up a daffodil bulb stand in front of my house since there was a lot of foot traffic passing by. We also set up our tent two weekends in a row at the MHF farmers market; sales went well. Thank you, Bethany, Carol B, Diana, Dodie and Hope!



Barbara C kicked off the Daffodil Project 2024 with her team planting bulbs in the Ferry Rd medians. That is now a completed site. They moved on to plant at the Griswold garden. Thanks go to Diana, Laura, Hope and Jan.

On Saturday the 5th, John Twomey and Garry Holmstrom dug 100 holes for us along Rt 136 at McCarthy's Auto Repair. Bright and early the next morning, Diana, Hope, Bethany, Matt Francis, and Robyn got all 500 bulbs planted in record time. Everyone has mad respect for the auger! "Best purchase ever" has been the refrain.



Hope's amazing organizational skills really paid off: with tremendous help from our DPW guys, Cameron and Dylan, 1,000 bulbs were planted at Hope and High Street on the weekend of the 11th. The same day, another 1,000 bulbs were then planted at 60 DeWolfe! Thanks and applause to Hope, Mary Fran, Pam, Carol G, Laurel, Agi, Kathleen, Vicki and Terri! Special thanks go to David Howe for lending us his auger batteries. On Sunday the 13th, 100 holes were dug and bulbs were planted at the VFW on Hope street by Hope, Jon Avery, John Twomey, Carol B, Karl Antonevich, Margie, and Bethany and Matt Francis. Muchas gracias!

But wait! There was more that Sunday: 50 holes were dug by Matt Francis and Jon Avery at the Rockwell School on Hope Street. Celeste and Matt Bernardino joined in for some heavy lifting support and photos. Tuesday the 15th, the bulbs were planted by Rockwell students, who were supervised by Mary Fran, Hope, Bethany, and Laurel. It's extra rewarding when we get children involved and they have a stake in watching plants grow and in giving service to their community.



Finally(!) Dodie and her team planted and donated 200 bulbs to residences on High Street. Thank you to her husband, Dana, and to her team members Kathleen and David Howe, for knocking on doors and sharing our bulbs to continue planting along our very own scenic byway.

October has not been totally “all about the bulbs”. Our general meeting this month was a field trip to Juniper Hill Cemetery here in Bristol. The club was fortunate to get a beautiful autumn day for a tour of this tranquil arboretum. Chris Fletcher, the cemetery superintendent, gave a wonderful historical talk about its origins and the families who created this hidden gem. Chris’s talk was sprinkled with knowledge about the trees and shrubs planted at Juniper Hill. In addition to being a local historian, Chris is a certified arborist.



Two items were brought up for discussion at the October meeting and will be voted on in November:

- First and foremost, as per our bylaws, we did a review of the Bylaws, and our very hard working committee has made some significant changes. The revised bylaws have been sent to all of you for review; if you have not received them, let me know asap. Please read and review them prior to the November meeting where we will vote on them. Major kudos go to Jan for the many hours she put into these new Bylaws.
- Secondly, it has been proposed that we change our meeting start time to 12:00. It has been brought to our attention that there are many people in town who are quite interested in becoming part of our garden club, but the 1:00 start time makes it difficult for them to get home by the time their children get out of school. We could use some more members who can actually get down in the dirt...and get up again! Please think this over and come to the meeting prepared to vote on changing our meeting time. I can’t stress enough that this will be an important meeting to attend.

Our last October opportunity is a “seaweed workshop” to be held at Mary Jameson’s Saltwater Studio in Newport, on October 30th. Space is limited so please contact Robyn asap if you are interested.

Exciting news! Thanks to the efforts of Mary Frances, Vera, Jan and Carol B, we now have our 501(c)(3) certification and are officially a non-profit organization!

Next up, November! Not quite as busy as October, but we do have some big events.

First, we have been granted to opportunity to use a beautiful function space at Herreshoff in exchange for the work we did last June to spiff up their garden area. We’ve decided to use this opportunity to host a Thank You Cocktail Party for all of our helpers...spouses, DPW workers, etc,...during the past year. Invitations are being sent out soon. We would love to have everyone attend, and we would also love any and all help that you can give us. PLEASE contact me or MaryFran if you can assist.

Our November meeting will take place on November 13, at 1:00 in the library. This will be a very fun meeting, focusing on Origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. Our guest speaker, Barbara Sousa, will walk us through the steps to create beautiful holiday ornaments using this ancient art. This will be a hands-on workshop, and all materials will be provided.

Later in November, we will once again be making pumpkin centerpieces to sell at MHF the Saturday before thanksgiving. We will have a workshop to create them...details will be forthcoming, but plan on helping! It's great fun!

Great news! The "Attack Bushes" by the walkway between the Post Office and the Library have been cut down! Stump removal and plant replacement (something friendlier) will be tended to as soon as possible, but for now we are just happy to not get stabbed while walking on the path. Major thanks to Sherri and John for going after this problem and making sure that it was taken care of.

Also highly noteworthy: Matt Perry, nephew and godson of Mrs Perry, stepped forward and asked if he could take care of the restoration of the sign for Mrs Perry's Garden! He has taken care of the repairs and it is now, once again, gracing the garden. Thank you from all of us, Matt.

And speaking of Mrs Perry's Garden:

NEXT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28th, WE WILL BE PUTTING MRS PERRY'S GARDEN TO BED FOR THE SEASON. PLEASE PARTICIPATE! ARRIVE AT 4:00, STAY FOR THE TAILGATE PARTY WHEN THE WORK IS DONE 🌻 😊 🌻

Wow. That was a lot for one newsy newsletter. I hope you all made it through to the end. Happy Halloween...May all your ghosts and goblins be cute little trick or treaters!

Gail

Halloween Chocolates in Barcelona

