VILLAGE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
State of the Gardens
2018 – Fall Edition

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. *Albert Camus*

2018 Important Dates

October 13th – 9:00 – 11:00am --- Fall garden cleanup

November 20th – 7:00pm --- Holiday Prep Work Party @ the Meeting House

(Getting ready for Carols & Candlelight event of Dec. 1st. Join with your fellow all of you Village volunteers for an evening of getting ready for our kick-off event of the holiday season in the Village! Mingle and jingle.)

Review of 2018 season

In attendance at meeting held on 10/2/18: Myra Lenz, Marcia Roth, Pat Earing, Melissa Warner, Deb Habes & Trustee Liaison Al Yates.

Meeting of 10/2/18 member comments in RED:

Heritage Garden of 1812 – Hot, dry summer. Much watering had to be done. Weeds were prolific. Suggested short zinnias for summer. Icicle pansies planted in fall after we plant the bulbs Stone dust pathway installation is on hold. We hope it is a priority someday. Main Street reconstruction has sidewalk and curbing all torn up. Fountain is now non-existent and non-working. We purchased 9 half barrel planters at Aldi and positioned them inside the rock basin and planted them with blue and white wave petunias and marguerite sweet potato vines. ***10/2/18 – Request: more compost at northern tip; removal of cobblestone border and replacement with mulch border. Cobbles are uneven for walking on and make weeding almost impossible; add taller plants in the barrel planters; pursue stone dust entry path from sidewalk into the garden https://buffalo-niagaragardening.com/2018/10/02/paths-can-make-your-garden-more-beautiful-easier-to-use/ ; add 2 hand hewn/iron strap log benches; research garden signage; continue public education of 1812 role in the history of the Village.***

Meeting House Garden – Forest Stream GC did an outstanding job. Wood/iron piece disappeared. Marcia planted fairy house inside the bird bath in time for Garden Walk. Plans are on hold for expanding the beds. ***10/2 – Continue with FSGC; send thank you letter.***

Pocket Park – Outstanding success. Pallet planter, which was removed for the winter was re-installed by DPW in the spring. Planted with bits and pieces of perennials and some annuals. Zahara mix small

headed zinnias exploded wherever we planted them. Nice and bunty and vigorous. Let's think about planting more of these and fewer of the tall ones? Tall State Fair mix zinnias were slow to catch on but eventually did well, however they get very stalky and gangly. But good for cut flowers. Maybe we can plant them at rear of beds next year and leave the front of beds for the shorter Zahara? Sweet Autumn clematis growing great. Overgrown forsythia bushes were trimmed by DPW at beginning of August. Myra planted tall sunflowers at front and around the totem sign near Main Street sidewalk. Next year maybe plant them further back in bed so they don't obstruct the pathway. Pergola lighting is out at one time or other all season long. When all are lighted, it looks great. Bought 4 new planters for the stone patio and planted with purple wave petunias and orange hibiscus. Did beautifully. Need ID signage branding for this garden. ***10/2 – Buy more child size Adirondack chairs; research banner-style graphics for pole attachment; research sun sail installation; research wall murals/art; research garden signage.***

Bronze Statue – "Let's go read in the garden." Installed in the PP. Library held dedication ceremony for Marcia and Nick Roth's donation of the bronze statue on August 7th at 6:00pm. Held reception afterwards in the PP. Huge thanks to our friends for their generous donation and to our volunteers who contributed in many ways to the lovely "garden" reception.

Village Hall – Front/Back Entrances – Planted with variety of coleus, vinca. Let's do this again next year. They take no care, just watering and are exploding thru fall too. Did great. Thanks to Marcia and anyone else for all the watering. ***10/2 – Continue with coleus in 2019.***

Village Hall Front Bed – Planted pockets of tall State Fair zinnias. Recommend just planting clusters of the short Zahara zinnias in the future and NOT the tall State Fairs. The tall ones got lost in the bushes. Concentrate on the lower planting in the future. The Zaharas did spectacularly well this year. Both in the main bed and under the Village Hall illuminated ground sign. They filled in completely and made a great blanket and are still going strong. Mark from Mischler's recommended the Zaharas for future use. ***10/2 – just plant zahara zinnias.***

Garrison Park Memory Garden – DPW did a major make-over here. Ripped out the dead bushes and added some big landscape boulders. A working spigot was added and a hose which made a huge difference there and made Myra very happy!! Myra added lots of giant zinnias which did great on the edges of the bed. Full sun. Bed needs thinning out and organization plan. Thank you to Myra for adopting these gardens and taking such good care of them. ***10/2 – Myra recommended to continue adding in perennials; relocate red metal bench to rear of this garden, facing the corner.***

Glen Park Pathway Garden – A big thanks to Village Co-op members who volunteered to join us for a garden cleanup day on Aug. 19th with a 2 hour intensive cleanup followed by a pot luck picnic in Garrison Gazebo.

Half of volunteers went to GP and other half to 1812. It was determined at GP that the weeds are out of control b/c there is no mulch in the beds. Black mulch must be added to keep the labor down. Also, at least one if not 2 benches need to be added on the west side of the upper path near the bulletin board. They should face east toward the creek. Garden could use thinning out to give the plants air circulation and to highlight them better. Thanks to Pat, Elise, Edie and Melissa for their dedication here. ***10/2 – Marcia reports that good layer of mulch has been added; roses need a lot of trimming back; request 2 benches be installed in the west bed at top of pathway to give visitors a place to sit.***

Fall Plantings – Only fall planting is the wheelbarrow in the PP with 2 giant mums and a couple of kales + a pumpkin and the scarecrow. ***10/2 – Marcia will complete this.***

Holiday Décor - Carols and Candlelight event – Sat., Dec. 1st. Do we want to volunteer again to hand out the candles? November 20th at 7:00pm at the Meeting House – Village Friends gathering to prep for our Candles and Candlelight event on Dec. 1st. You are invited to help make the candles and cups, wrap fake presents for Santa décor and trim the tree in the Meeting House and hang decorations. It was a really nice laid back evening last year. ***10/2 – Invited members to attend this fun evening.***

Spring Bulbs? – No bulbs this year. We have planted more than 1,500 bulbs the past 3 years!

Main Street in Bloom Project 2018 - In conjunction with WBA and Picture Main Street Project. We decided to be more selective this year and chose only 2 businesses: Moses Insurance (Best Survivor of Main St. Construction) and Moor Pat (Best display – their amazing patio) were winners of the 2 **Golden Gnomes**. We all visited the 2 locations (we even had lunch at Moor Pat) and personally presented the owners with framed certificates and their own Golden Gnomes for display. Al Yates joined us on both occasions. The winners really appreciated the personal attention. Thanks to all those of us who celebrated the winners!

Village Website – One of our missions is to create a history and ongoing updates on each of our village gardens. We need to tell the "story" of what we do, why we do it and where we do it. This can be used as a draw for future community involvement. Need to use this as a marketing tool. Using lots of photos, we can tell the befores and afters. Share gardening info and stories. Need input and skills of others for this.
10/2 – Need to spend some time writing our garden stories.

15th Annual Village Garden Walk 2018 – Huge thanks to all who volunteered. At least 750 visitors.
10/2 – Total net dollars raised from this event since 2012 = $7,490.44. These funds are to be used exclusively for improvements (other than plants) in the Pocket Park and in the other Village municipal gardens tended by Beautification members. Beautification members will research options and use these funds which we worked very hard to raise, in ways to improve and enhance the look and use of our municipal gardens for our residents and visitors to enjoy for many years to come. To include hardscape, seating, art, signage, educational information re plants and Village history.

Looking Ahead…2019 Plans

1. Improvements to Heritage Garden of 1812

a. Installation of a hard edged, crushed stone pathway which connects the public sidewalk to the center of the garden, thereby inviting the public inside the garden to rest, view the specific plants and enjoy while being informed of the Village's role in the War of 1812. Research costs involved for landscape design and implementation.
b. Continued public education on historic 1812 meaning of this Heritage Garden and its native flora on Village website
c. Introduce entrance signage in keeping with Village branding
d. Purchase and install plant ID markers
e. Purchase and install benches
f. Brand garden with overall Village brand
g. Continue with half barrel plantings in the basin.
h. Thin out this garden!

2. Improvements to Pocket Park

a. Continue planting the pallet planter
b. Continue adding climbers at each pergola.
c. Replace planter pots if cracked or unsightly
d. Research temporary chalk/wheat paste/vinyl decal wall art on brick walls of this pedestrian corridor
e. Replace any cracked/unsightly Adirondack chairs with new ones. Purchase more child size chairs.
f. Cutback forsythia and butterfly bushes.
g. Research place-making banners & sun sails

3. Improvements to Meeting House Garden - Continue with Forest Stream Garden Club donation and volunteer worker support**.**

4. Gathering more volunteers – Create social media campaign to gather more hands on deck.

5. Garden Walk - 3rd Saturday in July, July 20, 2019 – Up for grabs in 2019. See Deb if interested in grouping together to move forward in a new and streamlined way. ***10/2 - Try to keep this event alive.***
Some ideas: put map on line; get someone to create digital map; eliminate all fundraising elements; just invite residents to register their gardens with Village Hall; have participating gardeners pick up their signs and return them to Village Hall instead of us delivering them and picking them up. No host gifts. No stuffing of gift bags. No gift bags. No décor. No fairy garden contest. Just set up 1 small tent for those who don't want to get map online (if it can be put online). Strip the event down to bare bones and offer the public an opportunity to see some gardens. No sponsors. No engagement with Village businesses. It could morph into anything that people's imagination can create. Good luck!

6. **Other:** Member input!!

Thank you for another wonderful year!!!

Deb Habes

www.Facebook.com/gardenwalkwilliamsville

See next pages for photo galleries of examples for various projects.

Small example of trompe l'oeil chalk art ideas for brick walls of Pocket Park

How to attract artists? Approach WSHS for proposals? Should it be themed? If so, what theme?

Need volunteers to take this on if it is something we want to pursue further.

Example of interactive public wall art for Pocket Park

http://www.redwoodcity.org/departments/parks-recreation-and-community-services/public-art/interactive-wall-art

Becomes something the public wants to take "selfies" with.

Rustic, era-appropriate bench style example for Heritage Garden of 1812

OR

Add a Village DPW made concrete/wood bench like in Glen Park

OR

Add 2 colorful resin Adirondack chairs! Boom. Done. Could be temporary fix.

Just an example of a crushed stone pathway and entrance from Main Street sidewalk into Heritage Garden of 1812. Edging could be vinyl strip or metal or paver. Amorphous shape. Entrance on west side of flag pole.

Another (better) example of a crushed stone pathway idea for 1812.