

Garden Scoop Newsletter – January 2024

The last edition of this newsletter touched on the beginning history of the Arlington Garden Club whose early focus was on beautification projects and the establishment of some of our local parks. As summarized by an early club member in the 1930's, "We believe in planting and caring for growing things, in encouraging others to do likewise, so that our town and community may be a lovelier place in which to live." The club's efforts have always been forward thinking and many projects have included those that support local youth, our next generation of gardeners, and future stewards of the land.



AGC President Mrs. Clyde Ruckert (R) and former President Mrs. Albert Lamp (L) present the donation of a teaching curriculum to the Arlington School District.

Here are a few stories of youth related garden club projects over the years. In 1951 there was quite a bit of news coverage about the Arlington Garden Club's Junior Garden Contest. Mrs. Al Eliason, Junior Garden Club Chair, coordinated the event which was a chance to "really earn some pin money." Cash prizes and merchandise from local merchants were awarded: \$5 for under 12 years of age; \$10 for 12 – 16 years of age.

In 1971, the Arlington Garden Club (photo left) was one of many clubs across the nation to participate in the National Council of State Garden Club's civic development project to develop and promote conservation and environmental education in school classrooms. The goal of the project was to provide teachers with necessary materials. The club donated a teaching curriculum and materials to the Arlington School District to be used at all grade levels. The Stilly Valley Pioneers newspaper reported on the local efforts and included a quote from the current Arlington Garden Club President, "Help a Teacher – Help a Child – Help our World."

In a more recent project, the Arlington Garden Club made planters for students in second and third grades at Stanwood Elementary School. One of our club members, Barbara Marsh, was the school Principle. Her husband, Terry, would get donations of plants, soil and wood and club members would help students. This was usually done on a Thursday or Friday afternoon before Mother's Day. Garden Club members were just as excited as the kids! This was an ongoing project for about 6 or 7 years until Barbara retired as Principle and the project was discontinued.



Currently much of the proceeds from fundraising efforts support the club's scholarship program. Money is raised from the annual Spring Plant Sale, Holiday Garden Art & Crafts event, raffle, Spring Fling silent auction as well as ticket sales at monthly meetings for the Ways and Means (WAM) raffles. These events have grown and become more and more successful over recent years. There are so many people in our club presently that give generously of their time and efforts to support these projects! The club's scholarship program is presently the major focus and way in which the club gives back to its community!

