



# THE GARDEN DIRT

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Facebook: [Antioch Garden Club-Antioch IL](https://www.facebook.com/AntiochGardenClub-AntiochIL)



## President's Column

**W**elcome to the beginning of the 2025-2026 season, the beginning of the 31st year!

Wow, did this year fly by! We were busy ... gardening, 4th of July parade, more gardening, 30th anniversary party, more gardening. I know our calendar seems wonky, but we follow the Garden Clubs of Illinois GCI calendar.

Boy, that party! I am so proud of every minute that went into the planning and execution of our special day. I believe our founders were honored nicely.

**THANK YOU** to Nancy Colby, and her crew, and everyone who participated! We wore it well.

The board has been very busy. The executive board had a brainstorming meeting and came up with many ideas, new and old for the club to try.

More to come on the agenda.

"Trust no one" ... I was recently informed a new member was given that advice.

—See President's Column, cont. on page 4

## Birthdays:

7/21—Jane Buck

8/7—Kevin McCarty

8/16—Sharon Pendergast

8/27—Jayna Legg

9/7—Carol Sackschewsky

9/11—Myrta Tiernan

9/17—Lana Svitak

9/19—Norma Lucansky

9/21—Marilyn Hall

**September Meeting: Potluck with program "Owls of Illinois" by Alyse Burman.** Birds of prey—Alyse will discuss the eight different species that reside in Illinois. Please bring a savory potluck dish if you can.

**September Hospitality (Desserts) & Raffle:** Lana Svitak, hostess, with Dee Obrochta, Norma Lucansky and Barb Gollwitzer.

## CALENDAR

**Sept. 13—General Mtg. 1 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center (formerly the Antioch Village/Senior Center), doors open 12:30 p.m.**

**Sept. 24—Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center**

**Oct. 11—General Meeting, 1 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center, doors open 12:30 p.m.**

**Antioch Garden Club** is a member of Garden Club of Illinois, Inc.; Central Region Garden Club, District IX and National Garden Clubs, Inc. **Officers:** President-Holly Markwart Swehla, Co-Vice Presidents-Susan Ullrich & Betty Sprovieri, Secretary-Chris Priller, Treasurer-Jennifer Wittenberg *The Garden Dirt* is published electronically nine times a year, emailed to members and posted online:

<https://antiochgardenclub.org/>

# AGC Plant Sale a great success!

**C**ongratulations to Plant Sale Chair Cindy Cartner, and helpers, and club members who donated plants and baked goods, for another successful plant sale - even on a rainy, cool May Saturday.



The 2025 plant sale crew poses in the small pavilion. This year's sale had to be moved due to construction on the large pavilion in Williams Park. But the change in location and dicey weather didn't deter shoppers, or workers. The steady stream of happy shoppers had hundreds of plants to choose from.

Club members dug up and brought about 800 plants to sell! And the bake sale table was chocked full of tasty goodies.

Cindy reported that the sale netted more than \$3,300 in just a few hours!

Buyers were lined up in anticipation. They found beautiful hardy perennials as well as many native plants and shrubs. Heartland Bank again had a table. And Humdinger Honey Works had a table as well. Thanks, too, to Raymond Chevrolet for again supporting the sale.

## News Briefs

- ♦ **Thank you to the club:** Open Arms Mission thanked the club for a donation of \$263.77 from 30th anniversary party proceeds.
- ♦ **New members:** Welcome to Marilyn Hall, George Weckbacher and Dawn Stary! Happy to have you!
- ♦ **Committee chair openings:** The club needs a new Horticulture Committee chair, and a new Ways and Means Committee chair.
- ♦ **Hospitality:** We will stick with sweet or savory finger foods along with beverages. If you haven't signed up to hostess yet, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/ye27nr6f>

# Antioch Garden Club General Mtg. Minutes June 14, 2025



**WELCOME:** President Holly Swehla, President

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1:07 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance & Garden Clubs of Illinois pledge:** This is located on page 64 of your yearbook & on the back of your name tag.

**Scholarship Presentation:** Jennifer Wittenberg introduced our 2025 Scholarship Recipient. Javier Sanchez graduated from Warren High School and is heading to the University of Maine. There he will study Marine Biology, Environmental, & Conservation issues. Nancy Zitkus presented Javier with the Scholarship Award. We wish him great success.



**Program:** Meeting was paused for **Jelly from Flowers**. Stacy Vogt taught how to utilize flowers, herbs, & fruit in making jellies jams. Very interesting, informative, & fun program & the sample jellies were delicious. Thanks, Stacy.

Jennifer Wittenberg and Nancy Zitkus awarded Javier Sanchez, Warren High School graduate, a scholarship.

**Secretary's Report:** Chris Priller reported the Meeting Minutes of April 12<sup>th</sup> were approved & are published in the most recent issue of *The Garden Dirt*. There was no Club meeting in May.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lana Svitak reported the the report has been filed for audit. All expenses must be turned in to Lana by June 30. Budget Meeting is scheduled for July 23, 6 p.m.

**Correspondence:** Chris reported we continue to get RSVP's in. Cards are given to Nancy Colby; checks are given to Lana Svitak. Additional documents include a U of I tax donation document and a check from our Culver's Fundraiser. Both were given to Treasurer Lana. Junk mail was shredded.

## Standing Committee Reports

**Audit:** Norma L, Dee O. Audit will be done after the end of the fiscal year (June 30).

**Bylaws:** Judy C. Bylaws were read at the June Board meeting. Vote was held & passed with 9 Yays & 1 Nay. There was a discussion regarding "All expenditures (for Areas of Interest) would be approved by board by majority vote of those present." Betty made a motion to accept; Chris seconded, motion carried with 1 Nay. Barb Gollwitzer brought up she would like to see a designation for our aging members' status. Holly said the board will work on this & it will be a discussion for a later date. Bylaw changes will be published in the new yearbook.

**Historian:** Joyce K. Please turn in any photos or awards to Joyce for our book.

**Horticulture:** Judy C. Mulch has been added to the Blue Star Memorial. Cindy has been doing a great job "Saving the Roses." Mini Park has had some new natives added; white stakes identify them. Please remember to water at the roots.

—Minutes, continued on page 6

# July AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Jennifer Wittenberg, Treasurer

<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>				<u>\$ 12,885.97</u>
<b>Disbursements Cleared</b>				
	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Paid to</b>	<b>Committee</b>	
6/14/2025	1296	Jane Buck	Hospitality - June	25.00
6/14/2025	1297	Stacy Vogt	Programs - June	150.00
6/20/2025	1301	Nancy Colby	Membership	8.95
6/25/2025	1302	Holly Swehla	Operations	28.90
7/6/2025	1306	University of New England	Scholarship	1250.00
7/20/2025	1307	Nancy Colby	Publicity	564.75
7/20/2025	1308	Parkway Banquets	30th Anniversary Party	1260.00
7/20/2025	1309	stu the piano guy	30th anniversary party	400.00
<b>Total</b>				<u>\$ 3,687.60</u>
<b>Deposits</b>				
	<b>From</b>			
7/3/2025	deposit	30th anniversary party		140.00
7/3/2025	deposit	new membership dues		60.00
7/3/2025	deposit	t shirts		20.00
7/23/2025	deposit	30th anniversary party		270.00
7/29/2025	deposit	t shirts		140.00
7/29/2025	deposit	30th anniversary party		585.00
<b>Total</b>				<u>\$ 1,215.00</u>
<b>ending bank balance 7-31-25</b>				<u>\$ 10,413.37</u>
<b>Disbursements Outstanding</b>				
7/26/2025	1310	Nancy Colby	30th Anniversary Party	1153.23
<b>Total</b>				<u>\$ 1,153.23</u>
<b>Ending Book Balance 7-31-25</b>				<u>\$ 9,260.14</u>

## President's Column (continued from p. 1)

At first, I was sad, but I feel it's a teaching moment.

My suggestion is - just think about the words you are about to say.

Are they kind? Would I say them out loud? If not, please do not say them.

I want to say WELCOME again to our newest members! Welcome Michelle Goldstein, Myrta Tiernan, June Miller, Trina Zimmer, Cris Crego, Carla Podrasky, Marilyn Hall, Dawn Stary and George Weckbacher! We're happy you've joined us!

Cheers to continuing a great season !

*For the love of gardening!*



—Holly Swehla, President



# Social & Community Happenings by Nancy Colby, Publicity

## Thank You!

Short and simple ... a huge thank you to a club that goes along with all of my crazy out-of-the-box ideas and seems to enjoy them. It is a pleasure to plan and orchestrate events that result in smiles and excitement. Thank you to you all who participate, help and enjoy the fun things outside the garden. Stay-tuned for more fun and games this season. Welcome Fall!

## Antioch Garden Club celebrates 30 years



Founding club members were invited to the 30th anniversary party at Parkway Banquets on Long Lake: Joyce Olson, Joanne Dugenske, Marji Krutsch, Nancy Zitkus, Nancy Neckermann pose with current President Holly Markwart-Swehla.



Dee Obrochta and Jennifer Wittenberg are all smiles. The many decorations were very well done!



Thanks to Nancy Colby & the party team that planned every detail—decor, prizes and an awesome raffle.



Betty Sprovieri, Jennifer Wittenberg, Judy Caldwell and Donna Rieter.



Nancy Colby & Joan Vitello, who created beautiful flower arrangements for the party.



Thanks to photographer Carol Zwiazek, posing here with Lana Svitak



New member George Weckbacher checks out the raffle baskets.

**See more news and photos online!** For photos of summer happenings, go to the Antioch Garden Club website at <https://antiochgardenclub.org/> and check out our Facebook page. **Tip** — Our page on Facebook is **Antioch Garden Club — Antioch, IL**. You don't have to be a member of Facebook to look at our page. AND, all members are invited to join the club's private Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/234424415870410/>

## —**Minutes**, *continued from p. 3*

**TICKS:** Several members received ticks while doing maintenance. Save the tick for identification if you get ill. Use tick protection & dress appropriately.

**Hospitality:** Sharon is doing a wonderful job! It's time to sign up for next year. The sign-up sheet is at the membership table. Thank you to all for their contributions to our potluck luncheon today. This month's hostesses were Nancy Zitkus, Betty Collins, Jane Buck & Chris Priller.

**Membership:** Carol Z. Reported 25 members & 9 guests were present today. Trina Zimmer was installed by Nancy Zitkus as a new member. Trina also joined the Membership Committee. George Weckbacher also joined and will be installed as a new member next meeting. Carol Z. updated us on a former member; Jackie Horneck is currently living with family members & loves to get cards.

**Nominating:** Elizabeth Vogt is resigning from the club. We need a new **Yearbook** chair. Thank you for the amazing job you have done! Barb Gollwitzer is retiring as the **Ways & Means** chair. We need a new **Ways & Means** chair. Thank you Barb for all the hard work & fundraising you have done for the club!

**Philanthropy:** Jane B., Joanne D. No report.

**Programs:** Susan U. & Betty S. All programs are planned & will be in our new Yearbook.

**Publicity:** Nancy C. The club will be in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. There will be a truck & walkers. More information will be sent out closer to the event. The club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary party is July 20. To date, Nancy has 25 RSVPs. Please get your card & money in ASAP. There are a great many raffle prizes so bring your money to the event too!

**Newsletter:** *The Garden Dirt* last published included both May & June.

**Website:** Lana continues to update the website. Send garden photos to her.

**Yearbook:** Elizabeth continues to finalize next years book. She is still waiting for information from some members. This position is open for next year. Please consider taking over this job so you can learn from Elizabeth.

**Facebook:** Nancy C. Currently has 530 followers & is growing!

## **Special Projects**

**Wreath Decorating:** Mary Y. This is a November project.

**Monarch Initiative:** Barb G. There is a budget of \$3,800 remaining. Donate \$500 to Horticulture Committee for natives, proposal for Township Center 12 x 40 garden of \$1,500. Holly will be purchasing Eastern Redbud trees for PD/FD with a budget of \$1,500.



Nancy Zitkus had the honor of installing new member Trina Zimmer, who also joined the membership committee. Welcome Trina!



—Minutes, continued on page 7



# June AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Jennifer Wittenberg, Treasurer

Disbursements Cleared				
	Check #	Paid to	Committee	
5/21/2025	1293	Antioch Parks and Rec	Publicity - 4th of July Parade entrance fee	30.00
6/14/2025	1294	Nancy Colby	T'shirts/Sweatshirts	315.08
6/14/2025	1295	Holly Swehla	Horticulture	31.99
6/15/2025	1298	Penny Pines	Horticulture	68.00
6/15/2025	1299	GCI	New Member Dues	24.00
6/20/2025	1300	Cindy Cartner	Horticulture	45.35
6/25/2025	1304	Jennifer Wittenberg	Scholarship	11.36
6/25/2025	1305	Judy Caldwell	Horticulture	10.78
Total				\$ 536.56
Deposits				
		From		
6/12/2025		Deposit	30th Anniversary Party	240.00
6/12/2025		Deposit	Membership dues	125.00
6/16/2025		Deposit	Culvers Cares - \$405.84	415.84
6/16/2025		Deposit	T'shirts/Sweatshirts	193.00
6/16/2025		Deposit	30th Anniversary Party	240.00
6/16/2025		Deposit	Raffles - June	106.00
6/16/2025		Deposit	New Member Dues	30.00
Total				\$ 1,349.84
ending bank balance 6-30-25				\$ 12,885.97
Disbursements Outstanding				
6/14/2025	1296	Jane Buck	Hospitality - June	25.00
6/14/2025	1297	Stacy Vogt	Programs - June	150.00
6/20/2025	1301	Nancy Colby	Membership	8.95
6/25/2025	1302	Holly Swehla	Operations	28.90
Total				\$ 212.85
Ending Book Balance 6-30-25				\$ 12,673.12

—**Minutes**, continued from p. 6

Giftng to Township Center, PD & FD comes with the condition they will maintain. Additional monies will go for the purchase of Monarch signs.

**Dorissssss!** Mary reported some rocks have been added (about 3 feet more), as well as some rocks have been taken. Continue to paint rocks if so inclined.

**Blankets for Open Arms:** Mary Y. This is a February project.

**Ways & Means:** Barb G. We had a very successful Culver's Fundraiser! Profit from the approximate 12 man hours was \$405.84. This comes to about \$34 per man hour for volunteering. Barb is retiring as Ways & Means Chair. Thanks for all you've done Barb! We will need a new chair.

**Plant Sale:** Cindy reported this was once again a HUGE success! Approximately 800 perennials were donated, in spite of the cool, rainy Spring weather. The Club generated over \$3300 in just a few hours. Cindy volunteered to chair next year also. Thanks Cindy! Thanks to all workers & to Betty's grandsons for helping out.

**Old Business:** We continue to collect Socks for Souls. Mary Therese of Open Arms told us they serve over 1,200 people per month.

—Minutes, continued on page 8



## Everyone loves a parade!



Club members donned their garden club shirts and red hats and marched in the Antioch July 4th parade. Left to right: Jane Buck, Holly Markwart-Swehla and the truck crew, and Betty Collins.



Left to right: Jill Monfre, Jennifer Wittenberg and friend and Nancy Colby handing out goodies, and Nancy Zitkus.

### —**Minutes**, *continued from p. 7*

The biggest increase in demographics is now the senior citizen population.

**New Business:** Lana brought some plants to donate if anyone is interested.

**Announcements:** St. Raphael's Church will be having a Rummage Sale next weekend & will be donating leftover Christmas decorations next Saturday after noon. **NOTE:** PLEASE put your chairs away at end of meeting.

**Raffle:** Raffle netted \$106.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:30 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted, Chris Priller, Secretary**



## **THE GARDEN DIRT**

### **ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB**

Jayna Legg, Editor

577 Plum Tree Lane

Antioch, Il 60002



September