



THE GARDEN DIRT

Find out how to join and see more stories, photos, past newsletters, and much more:

Website: Antiochgardenclub.org

Facebook: Antioch Garden Club-Antioch IL



President's Column

And, just like that, another year is almost over! The club has enjoyed a really great year! I have struggled with deciding what our club is. Yes, it's a garden club. Yes, we garden!

We are a group of people who enjoy gardening, but we are also a group that enjoys each other company.

Wreath-decorating was again, a HUGE success! If you are out and about, snap a pic of a wreath and post it on Facebook, and tag the club.

By now, the parade will have been walked. I predict much warmer than last year. Dang!

And, the tree at the festival of trees has been decorated. And the pots in the minipark have been adorned for the season.

I love that we keep busy! Our December meeting is being planned, and hopefully will be memorable! Your board is also busy lining up some traveling for the club. Stay tuned!

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

Birthdays:

12/2—Jennifer Wittenberg

12/2—Susan Ullrich

12/18—Carol Zwiazek

12/25—Holly Markwart Swehla

1/13—Barbara Gollwitzer

1/21—Colette Monahan

1/23—Joanne Dugenske

1/26—Mary Yott

2/9—Nancy Zitkus

2/16—Cindy Cartner

2/20—June Miller

2/26—Stacy Vogt

Dec. is a Holiday Party with Cocoa and PJs. Wear your PJs; there will be a contest. Bring a White Elephant gift to join in the game! There will be cookies & cocoa & fun surprises.

LOCATION CHANGE: Parks & Rec Bldg., 806 Holbek Dr., North door.

CALENDAR

Dec. 13—General Mtg. 1 p.m., **Parks & Rec., 806 Holbek Drive, enter door on North side** (Haley St.), door opens 12:30 p.m.

Jan. 28, 2026—Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center

Feb. 14—General Meeting, 1 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center, door opens 12:30 p.m.

Antioch Garden Club is a member of Garden Club of Ill., 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 November Photo Album

Everyone loves a parade!



Oh Christmas Tree!

Put a Wreath on it!



The club again decorated beautiful wreaths to display on public buildings, senior apartments & other places in town.



Vote for our Antioch Garden Club Tree, now on display at the Festival of Trees at the Hiram Buttrick Sawmill in Antioch.



Papa's Treat Shoppe in town was selected to receive our special business recognition wreath this year. They were very appreciative.



Go to the club's Facebook page & website for more photos!

Antioch Garden Club General Meeting Minutes Nov. 8, 2025



WELCOME: President Holly Swehla, President **CALL TO ORDER:** 1:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance & Garden Clubs of Illinois Pledge: Located on p. ii of the yearbook or on backs of our nametags.

Meeting was paused for program *Tabletops & Tablesapes* by Kathi Rose. Holly thanked Kathi for this wonderful program, which included raffle prizes for some lucky winners.

Secretary's Report: Chris Priller thanked Betty Sprovieri & Nancy Colby for taking minutes in her absence. October 13 Regular Meeting Minutes were published in the November *Garden Dirt*. NOTE: *October 22 board meeting minutes were approved by Holly & distributed to all board members. Norma Lucansky pointed out several corrections. Under Treasurer's Report, the amount of \$8,300.51 was questioned because it did not match with the newsletter report (see Treasurer's Report below). Audit should read Norma is working on procedures. This WILL NOT be added to the yearbook. Third correction was Chris Priller should not use abbreviations such as "PD" but should type out "Police Department."*

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Wittenberg clarified the amount of \$8300.51 is correct. The date was incorrect and should have read 9/30/25. The report has been filed for audit.

Correspondence: Current mail included a Heartland Bank Scholarship Fund statement, which was given to Jennifer. Also, there was a Tru-Green ad, which was shredded.

Standing Committee Reports

Audit: Norma – No Report

Bylaws: No report.

Historian: Joyce Kufalk. Please forward any photos you may have to Joyce.

Horticulture: George Weckbacher. George thanked all who showed up for the Fall Clean-Up. Hydrangeas have been pulled & set aside for the plant sale. The committee is hoping to plant a new tree in the Southeast corner of the Mini Park. More information to follow. The next Horticulture Committee meeting is scheduled for Jan. 14, 2026, 11 a.m. at the library. All are invited to attend. Mini Park pots need to be decorated for winter. Contact George if you will do this. June Miller volunteered, please contact her. Mark your calendars for **March 28** for **Spring Cleanup**.

Hospitality: Thanks to our hostesses for this month. Great job Cindy Cartner, June Miller, Betty Sprovieri, & Joyce Kufalk!

Membership: Carol Zwiazek reported there were 28 members in attendance this month. New lanyards were distributed. Keep yours & bring it to each meeting along with your yearbook.

Nominating: Please see Jane Buck, Betty Collins, or Jill Monfre if you are interested in running for an office or chair position. Volunteers will be presented in April, voted on in May, & sworn in at the June Meeting. Please share your skills with the club.

——Minutes, continued on page 5



October AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Jennifer Wittenberg, Treasurer

October 31st 2025

Beginning Bank Balance						\$ 9,560.51
Disbursements Cleared						
	Check #	Paid to	Committee			
9/24/2025	1320	Betty Spovieri	operations			50
9/29/2025	1321	District 1X 2025 dues	operations			10
9/29/2025	1322	Antioch Township	Monarch Initiative			1200
10/11/2025	1323	James Rowen	October Program			190
10/11/2025	1325	Carol Zwiazek	membership			89
10/11/2025	1326	Stacy Vogt	operations			12
10/15/2025	1327	Awards by Kaydan	Monarch Initiative			150
				Total		\$ 1,701.00
Deposits		From				
10/11/2025		donation from George				13
10/15/2025		Oct. Raffle money				88
				Total		\$ 101.00
ending bank	balance 10/31/2025					\$ 7,960.51
Disbursements Outstanding						
10/11/2025	1324	Dee Obroctha				24.19
				Total		\$ 24.19
Ending Book	balance 10/31/2025			Total		\$ 7,936.32

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



On to year 31! Please consider being on a committee. Teamwork makes the dream work! Positions start with the June meeting. They are voted on by the general membership at the May meeting. Candidates are announced at the April meeting.

Save the date! The 2026 Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Seed Expo at the College of Lake County, will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 7! It's billed as the biggest seed and resource sharing event around.

From the Facebook event listing: "Come for the seeds and stay for all the great information, new connections, amazing raffle prizes and more!"

Merriest of holidays to all of us!

—Holly Swehla, President

—**Minutes**, continued from p. 3



Nov. presenter Kathi Rose shows her Christmas table.

Philanthropy/Arbor Day: No report

Programs: Susan Ullrich. December meeting will be held at the Parks & Recreation Building. This will be a Christmas party. Wear your pajamas – there will be a contest. Find your White Elephant gift to participate in the game. Cookies & cocoa & more fun surprises will be hosted by Holly, Carol, Jill & Chris Crego. **Date:** December 13, 2025.

Publicity: Nancy Colby. Please sign the beautiful anniversary party book Nancy put together. This will go in the archives for future Antioch Garden Club members to enjoy. **Christmas Parade:**

November 28, 6:30 p m. Details to follow. This year's theme is Candy, so we will pass out candy canes. Contact Nancy Colby to sign up. **Festival of Trees: November 29, 9:30 a m.** Theme is poinsettias.

If you have any pink or white fake poinsettias you would like to donate, contact Nancy. This will be at the sawmill area in town.

Scholarship: Jennifer Wittenberg reported the committee will meet soon to revise the application. They will be distributed in January. This year the scholarship will be \$2,000. \$1,000 is from Nancy Zitkus's generous family donation; \$1,000 is from the club.

Newsletter: November newsletter has been emailed to all members.

Website: Lana was absent but website is updated.

Yearbook: Please report any yearbook updates or changes to Trina Jaworek. **FYI** – Change Trina's last name to Jaworek. Congratulations Mrs. J.!

Facebook: Holly reported 536 followers. Let's get that number up!

Special Projects

Wreath Decorating: Date is November 22. Time is 9 a m., Dolly Spiering Center. Mary Yott is trying to get a decent price on wreathes. Village hall would like a silk wreath for indoor use. *Papa's Sweet Shoppe* is our special recipient this year. Contact Mary for sign-up & additional details. *Note: Please bring your glue guns, extension cords, & glue sticks.* The mayor usually drops by with coffee and donuts for the wreath makers. It's a fun project!

Dorissssss will be wintering in the Mini Park garden. She has really grown since she moved in. George recently fixed the sign for her.

Blankets for Open Arms Mission: This event takes place after the end of the year. Details to come.

Monarch Initiative: Barb Gollwitzer reported the new sign is up at Antioch Township property.

—Minutes, continued on page 8

Horticulture Committee Report

by George Weckbacher



The committee met on Nov. 5 at the Antioch Library. Members of the committee are George Weckbacher, Holly Swehla, Sharon Pendergast, Jennifer Wittenberg, Donna Rieter, Judy Caldwell, and June Miller. (All AGC members are welcome to join!)

The committee discussed and reviewed the many garden's needs.

One issue that came up was the replacement of the Mini Park tree that was previously lost at the West entrance. The SW corner needs an anchor tree again. After discussion of trees available to go in that space, it was decided that a White Birch should be planted there. (Follow up note: June Buck offered funds from the Arbor Day Committee to purchase the tree.)

Committee discussed the health of the viburnum tree at the front the NE corner by the art gallery. It seems to be dying. It was agreed we would allow it to winter over and see what the health of the tree is in the spring before taking any actions.

Also discussed was the "abundance" of plants that need to be culled out. It was decided that during spring cleanup (March 28, 2026), excess plants will be separated and set aside in pots for the spring plant sale on May 16, 2026. Hosta, irises, and Solomon's seal were suggested to be donated to the plant sale.

General discussion followed on the planting of the annuals during the spring planting event. We will need volunteer(s) to do the large pots. What to plant for annuals was discussed, and it was decided that all members should bring their suggestions to the next meeting in January. The chair was tasked to contact local vendors to see what they plan to have available next spring.

Discussion was held about the "color of the garden" thought the year. We discussed the different times that bulbs show color. (See bloom-time chart next page.) The committee decided we should put some early bulbs such as crocus to be planted on the edge of the Main Street sidewalk for early color. (Follow up note: It was found that there are no crocus bulbs available locally – all vendors are sold out.)

The committee also discussed decorating the large planters for the winter. (Follow up note: Asked for volunteers at the November Club meeting, but no one offered to decorate the planters.)

Native plants (more and different types) were discussed for us to plant in the future, - No consensus made on this issue other than "yes," we need to keep this in mind.

Other issues were discussed such as providing something to attract birds to the gardens. Humming birds were suggested as they would enhance the public's enjoyment as well as they are pollinators. It was agreed to include birds (not just pollinators) in our garden decisions in the future.

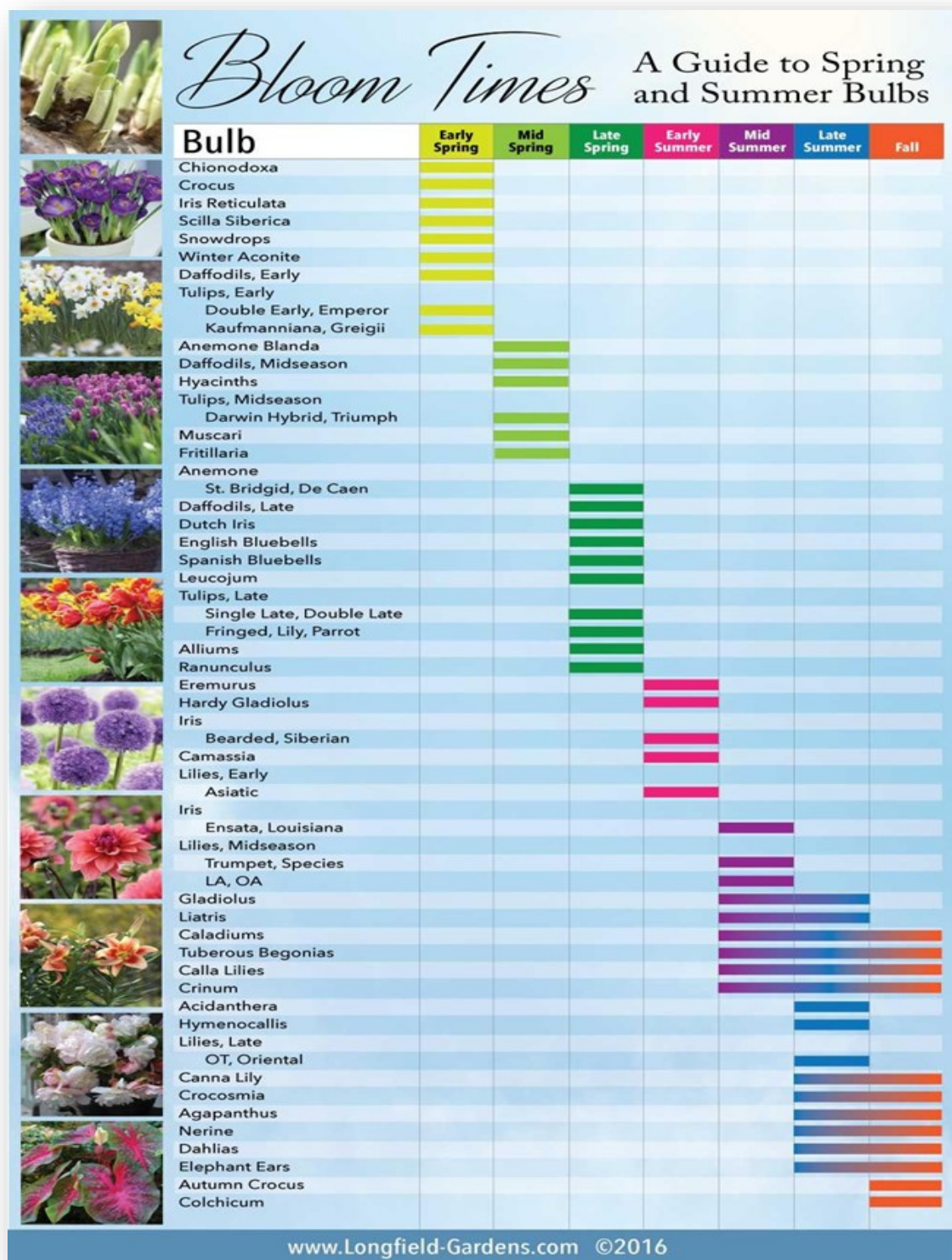
—Hort Committee Report, continued on page 7

—Horticulture Committee Report, *continued from p. 6*

Public involvement was discussed. How can we get more public involvement to help educate them, but maybe get them to assist in some of our events.

There was no consensus on how or what we can do on this issue.

Next meeting will be held Jan. 14, 2026 at 11a.m. at the Antioch Library.



Social & Community Happenings

By Nancy Colby, Publicity Chairman

Saving Memories



A pictorial memory book of our 30th Anniversary Celebration has been created. It's full of fun pictures and happy moments. The book was circulated at the November meeting and will be circulated again at the December meeting. It would be wonderful if every member would write a little note in it so all future members can see what a great group we are. The book will go into the archives of the club and serve as a lasting memorial to the club's first 30 years. Be sure to add your name to the book!

—Minutes, continued from p. 5

There are approximately 70 plants, all native, from Horvat's Greenhouse. In attendance for the dedication were: Tom Shaughnessy, Mark Haufe, Bill Wick, Holly Swehla, Joanne Dugenske, Dan Dugenske, Joyce Kufalk, Rich Kufalk, Barbara Gollwitzer. Members unable to attend: Collette Monahan, Donna Reiter. Special thanks to the Antioch Lions Club, Sherry from Horvat's, photographer Renee Mehring, and Joanne D. & Joyce K. who did the initial work for this project. We hope to have a garden party next summer, when all is in bloom & members can appreciate this waystation. Both this waystation & the committee are being put to bed for the winter. However, there are upcoming projects for spring. We will keep you posted!

Ways and Means: Chair needed for this position.

Plant Sale: Cindy Cartner requests everyone **Save the Date: May 16, 2026.**

Old Business: We continue to collect Socks for Souls for *Open Arms Mission*.

New Business: Happy Nov. Birthdays -Donna Reiter, Judy Caldwell, Betty Collins, & Dawn Starry!

Announcements: Thanks to Pat Hayes & Kevin McCarty for free seeds on the membership table.

Raffle Proceeds: \$102 **Meeting Adjourned:** 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Chris Priller, Secretary



Christmas table by Kathi Rose

THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

577 Plum Tree Lane

Antioch, Il 60002



December