



THE GARDEN DIRT

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Website: Antiochgardenclub.org

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



President's Column

And ... just like that, it's September! The program this month is presented by Mike Nowak. It should be phenomenal! Please share with your friends. Tell them it's complimentary.

No strings attached.

Backing up, the 4th of July parade was one for the books. I cannot thank Jane and Wayne Buck enough for their extraordinary float and all who helped. I kinda wish the village had a voting thing where viewers can submit their parade favorite. Maybe next year. I'm certain we would win. The bubble machine was a show stopper, and the gentleman (whom I still don't know) was outstanding. Who knew there were so many verses of *God Bless America*? My goodness!

Our paper flowers were also a HUGE hit! Viewers gave us standing ovations! We are sure making our presence known in town. I am amazed at how many do not even know we exist ... still.

—See President's Column, cont. on page 7

Birthdays:

9/7—Carol Sackschewsky

9/11—Myrta Tiernan

9/17—Lana Svitak

9/19—Norma Lucansky

9/21—Marilyn Hall

September Program: POTLUCK &

“Fixing Climate Change In Your Backyard” by Mike Nowak. What we do in our yards and our homes—especially if done en masse—can make a big difference in saving plant, animal species and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Mike, who many know from WGN radio, has been talking about gardening, the environment and green living for 29 years.

Sept. Hospitality: Carol Zwiazek (lead), Norma Lucansky, Dee Obrochta, & Jill Monfre (bringing desserts); members bring potluck dishes.

CALENDAR

Sept. 12—Regular Mtg., 1 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center, door opens 12:30 p.m.

Sept. 23—Board Mtg., 6 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center

Oct. 10—Regular Mtg., 1 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center, door opens 12:30 p.m.

Oct. 28—Board Mtg., 6 p.m., Dolly Spiering Center

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 Rocks July 4 Parade!

See more photos and story on page 6.



Mary Yott and Nancy Colby dressed as patriotic flower pots!



Jill Monfre & Jane Buck

Norma Lucan-sky, Judy Cald-well, Jayna Legg, Cindy Cartner



Carol Zwiazek & Michelle Goldstein



Nancy Zitkus, Cris Crego & President Holly Markwart Swehla



Nancy Colby & Judy Caldwell

For more photos of the parade and more, go to the Antioch Garden Club website: <https://antiochgardenclub.org>

AGC General Meeting Minutes June 10, 2026

WELCOME: Holly Swehla, President

CALL TO ORDER: 1 p.m.



Pledge of Allegiance & Garden Clubs of Illinois Pledge were recited.

Meeting paused for program: *Landscaping with Native Plants by David Brooks*

Secretary's Report– (Trina J. in for Chris Priller while she floats down the Columbia and Snake Rivers)
- The June issue of *The Garden Dirt* has published the General Meeting Minutes of May 9.

Correspondence – No correspondence this month.

Treasurer's Report – Jennifer W. reported the Ending Book Balance of \$7,813.99 for April 30. For anyone in need of reimbursement for club activities, please see Jennifer for a reimbursement form at any meeting (regular/board) and she can provide a check at that time. You may also send your form and request your check by mail, but give Jennifer a heads up if that is your preferred reimbursement method.

Standing Committee Reports

Audit – No report; Audit will be scheduled after treasurer's report is submitted for the fiscal year.

Bylaws – Judy C. proposed and motioned a vote for the bylaws revisions, posted in the June 2026 issue of the *Garden Dirt*. George W. seconded the motion. All members voted Yay.

Historian – Joyce K. requests more pictures from members to document our club's active involvement with the gardens and other community events.

Horticulture – Continue signing up for garden maintenance if you haven't already. Next horticulture meeting is 11 a.m. on June 19. We are also adding 40 milkweed plants to the gardens (20 orange butterfly, 10 prairie, and 10 purple).

Hospitality – Thank you to today's hostesses: Cindy C., Jennifer W., Donna R., and Collette M.! And thank you to all the members that brought something for the June potluck!

Membership – Carol Z. reported today's attendance of 26 members and one program presenter.

Nominating – Jane B. installed our elected officers and committee chairs for fiscal year 2026-27. Chris Priller was not in attendance and will be installed at the September regular meeting.

Philanthropy/Arbor Day – Jane B. thanks Cris and Marilyn H. for their help in picking this year's books to be donated to the Antioch Public Library. The club is donating *Tree Full of Wonder* by Anna Smithers and *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* by Kate Messner.

Programs – Betty S. announced she has spoken with a contact from Fox Waterway Agency that will have some exciting news to share regarding Homeowner Online Purchase of Garden Topsoil that could benefit many local gardeners next year. This is an upcoming program you will not want to miss!

Publicity – Nancy C. reported that we are still in need of volunteers for the 4th of July parade. Wayne B. is hard at work prepping the trailer so our float is better than ever for America's 250th birthday.

Scholarship – Jennifer W. announced that Danielle Hewitt was unable to attend this month's meeting, but she will provide updates on her work as soon as she's able to.

Newsletter – Jayna L. left copies of *The Garden Dirt* at the membership sign-in table. No deadline was given for the next newsletter.

—Minutes, continued on page 6

AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Jennifer Wittenberg, Treasurer

May 31st 2026					
Beginning Bank Balance					<u>\$ 7,872.47</u>
Disbursements Cleared					
	Check #	Paid to	Committee		
4/11/2026	1352	George Weckbacher	March Hostess		25
4/11/2026	1353	George Weckbacher	Horticulture Committee		33.48
5/5/2026	1359	State Farm	general fund Insurance		265
5/9/2026	1360	Ken Benson	May Program		250
5/9/2026	1361	George Weckbacher	Horticulture Committee		71.53
5/9/2026	1362	George Weckbacher	Horticulture Committee		87.93
5/9/2026	1363	George Weckbacher	Arbor Day		300
5/25/2026	1366	Jennifer Wittenberg	Scholarship		18.7
				total	<u>\$ 1,051.64</u>
				balance	<u>\$6,820.83</u>
Deposits					
		From			
5/14/2026		May Raffle			105
5/14/2026		family of Karen Coulture			195
5/26/2026		Plant Sale			3197
				Total	<u>\$ 3,947.00</u>
ending bank Balance 5/31/2026					<u>\$ 10,317.83</u>
Disbursements Outstanding					
5/25/2026	1364	Cindy Cartner	Plant Sale		24.15
5/25/2026	1365	Dawn Starry	May Hostess		25.00
				Total	<u>\$ 49.15</u>
Ending Book balance 5/31/2026					<u>\$ 10,268.68</u>

News briefs update

- ◇ **Volunteer hours update** — Don't forget to submit your volunteer hours to Donna Rieter, jdrieter@sbcglobal.net. Working in the gardens in town, helping out other community organizations, working at home on projects for the garden club, participating in club activities such as making blankets and crepe paper flowers—it all counts! From July 1, 2025 to June 30 of this year, the club's volunteer hours total 1,686 hours! THANK YOU to everyone!
- ◇ **WELCOME** to new members **Cinde Deboer, Geoff Crego** and **Wayne Buck**! The club is growing by leaps and bounds! We're happy to have you!
- ◇ **Historian Joyce Kufalk** needs more pictures from members to document our club's active involvement with the gardens and community events.
- ◇ **Book donation**— The club donated *Tree Full of Wonder* by Anna Smithers and *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* by Kate Messner to the Antioch Library.



Social & Community Happenings by Chair Michelle Goldstein

Spring planting, July 4 parade show club's community spirit

Our annual planting of the flowers took place, and what a beautiful day it turned out to be! The Mini Park Garden is looking fabulous, thanks to the care, dedication, and hard work of our AGC members. It's always rewarding to see how much our collective efforts can transform a space and bring a little more beauty to our community.

One thing that always stands out at our events is the incredible wealth of knowledge our members bring to the table. Working alongside such a talented, creative, and experienced group is truly a pleasure—and there's always something new to learn!

Speaking of our members, we had an outstanding turnout for our parade crepe paper flower-making event. A special thank you to our coordinators, Mary Yott and Nancy Colby, for organizing the project and providing all the supplies needed for a successful evening of crafting.

We set an ambitious goal of creating 600 flowers. While we didn't quite finish all 600 during our Tuesday night library session, many of our dedicated "flower warriors" took materials home and continued the mission. Thanks to their enthusiasm and determination, we reached our goal! I think it's safe to say we can now officially add "Crepe Paper Flower Master" to our résumés.

And all that hard work certainly paid off! The 4th of July Parade was a resounding success! Thanks to the incredible efforts of Wayne and his team, our beautiful flowers, and the enthusiasm of our AGC members, we were greeted by smiles all along the parade route. The smiles on the faces of the parade-goers—especially the children—gave us more than enough mojo to carry us through the rest of the weekend. What a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday and showcase the creativity, camaraderie, and community spirit of the Antioch Garden Club!

See more photos on page 2!



Antioch Garden Club July 4, 2026

– *June Minutes*, continued from p. 3

Website – Lana S. reported that the AGC website has been updated.

Yearbook – Trina reported the 2026-27 yearbook draft will be updated with the proposed bylaw revisions voted on this meeting.

Facebook – 579 followers (up by 20!) Growing, growing, growing!

Special Projects – No report.

Ways & Means – Cris C. had nothing to report.

Plant Sale – Cindy C. announced the next plant sale will be on Saturday, May 15, 2027. She is still looking for members to assist in next year's plant sale. Note that these preparations start around January.

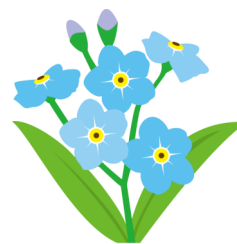
Old Business – We continue to collect socks for souls and toiletries for Open Arms Mission

New Business - None

Raffle - \$90

Meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Trina J., Acting Secretary



AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Jennifer Wittenberg, Treasurer

June 30th 2026

Beginning Bank Balance				\$ 10,317.83
Disbursements Cleared				
	Check #	Paid to	Committee	
5/25/2026	1364	Cindy Cartner	plant sale	24.15
5/27/2026	1367	Jane Buck	Philanthropy childrens books	31.37
5/27/2026	1368	George Weckbacher	Horticulture Committee	342.67
5/30/2026	1369	Garden clubs of Illinois	43 member dues	262
6/1/2026	1370	Cindy Cartner	Horticulture Committee Fungi for roses	24
6/8/2026	1371	Barb Gollwitzer	Monarch initiative Rose bud trees	632.98
6/9/2026	1372	Nancy Colby	publicity 4th of July parade	43.4
6/9/2026	1373	Mary Yott	publicity 4th of July parade	183.74
6/13/2026	1374	Donna Rieter	Horticulture Committee Flags	\$ 9.97
6/13/2026	1375	David Brooks	June Presentation	\$190.00
6/13/2026	1376	Myrta Tiernan	Horticulture Committee pots	40.29
6/22/2026	1377	Holly Swehla	General fund printing reimbursement	45.5
6/22/2026	1378	George Weckbacher	Horticulture committee milkweed plants	423.29
6/22/2026	1379	George Weckbacher	Horticulture committee Flowers	18.76
6/22/2026	1380	Purdue University	Scholarship Recipient Danielle	1000
				total
				Balance
				\$3,272.12
				7045.71
Deposits				
6/22/2026		From June Raffle		90
6/22/2026		member fee Wayne Buck		\$ 30.00
				total
				\$ 120.00
ending bank balance 6/30/2026				7165.71
Disbursements Outstanding				
5/25/2026	1365	Dawn Starry		\$ 25.00
Ending Book balance 6/30/2026				Total
				\$ 7,140.71

President's Column (continued from p. 1)

The mayor asked us a few years ago if we could do some plantings along the fence line by the police department. I am pleased to announce that shrubs have been planted. We made use of Monarch Initiative money. We planted two multi-stemmed Eastern red buds purchased from Breezy Hill in Salem. I will go out on a limb and say this is the only red bud planting on village property. Just wait until spring! Public Works picked them up and planted them, and now is watering them. Additionally, we purchased three blackhaw viburnum from Possibility Place in Monee, Ill., 76 miles one way ... but they deliver free to Illinois. The spring flowers on them are an early pollinator favorite, and the leaves in the fall are a stunning array of reds, oranges and deep yellows. We hope to add a few more as time and money permits.

Continuing to look for members to take the reins from Cindy Cartner for our very famous plant sale. I think it will take more than one member. If you feel this is something you would like to tackle, please let Cindy or I know. The "process" starts in January. Also, this is my last term as president, and so I will be canvassing each of you to take my spot. I have loved this job, but I know how important it is to rotate talent. The vice president and secretary positions will also be available. Of course, we all will continue to be members and available to coach. Divide and conquer! Many hands make light work!

Bloom where you are planted!



—*Holly Swehla, President*

AGC Treasurer's Report

Respectively Submitted by Jennifer Wittenberg, Treasurer

[illegible]

Horticulture Committee Report by Chair George Weckbacher

Sincere thanks goes to Hort Committee members!

The gardens look wonderful, thanks to the dedicated members of the Antioch Garden Club!

Our club was founded to add floral beauty to the village for the enjoyment of its residents.

As Horticulture Committee Chair, I want to recognize the committee members who coordinated weekly garden maintenance among themselves and with the members who assisted in the gardens. A sincere thank you goes to Holly Swehla, Sharon Pendergast, Jennifer Wittenberg, Donna Rieter, Judy Caldwell, June Miller, Collette Monahan, and Myrta Tiernan.



Donna Rieter stands in front of the Blue Star Memorial.



At the July Horticulture Committee meeting, members developed a plan and budget for next year to maintain the quality of the gardens. The plan also includes replacing aging and declining bushes and plants at the Blue Star Memorial, the Mini Park, and the Berm Garden. This fall, during the annual clean-up, the committee plans to thin overcrowded plants, add stepping stones to make garden maintenance easier, and provide compost for the garden plants. The next Hort Committee meeting will be held at the Antioch Library at 11 a.m., Sept. 9. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend.

Donna Rieter and Myrta Tiernan are pictured above. On the right, Hort Committee members and friends take a break from working in the gardens downtown to pose for a photo. Photos provided by George Weckbacher.



THE GARDEN DIRT

ANTIOCH GARDEN CLUB

Jayna Legg, Editor

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