

Garden City Garden Club

Annual Garden Club Potluck Picnic

Meeting: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Garden City Park Corner of Merriman and Cherry Hill Roads

The Club will provide the chicken and paper products. Please bring a dish to pass.

We will need an estimate of the number of people who plan on attending. Please email or call Pat McKarge by Sunday, June 14, 2020.

We will try to get the Large Pavilion but won't know until we get there if it is available.

If we don't use the Large Pavilion we will use one of the small ones.



Meeting Agenda includes:

- 2020-2022 Officers The following have been **nominated** for the following positions:

President: Pat McKarge

Vice President: Julie Slabaugh

Treasurer: Stacy Karafotis

Secretary:

At Large: Sue Orzel

We need a secretary. The secretary would take notes at the monthly meetings and participate and take notes at the board meetings that will be held once a month near the beginning of the month (to be determined by the board). Most of the "business" of running the club will be done at the board meetings so our monthly meetings can primarily for educational and social needs of the club. Business will be at a minimum at the regular meetings. All members can attend the board meetings if they would like. It would be a plus if the secretary could email the minutes/notes to the newsletter editor. **If anyone else would like to nominate themselves or another member for a position, please let me know.** After the election, the president will appoint one additional at-large member to the board.

- Solar Light Challenge—Update by Stacy Karafotis
- Garden City Garden Club 26 Annual Garden Walk—Update by Stacy Karafotis
- 2020-21 Garden Club dues (\$15 are now due). Cash or check made out to GC Garden Club
- Garden Club Annual High School Scholarship Update
- Meeting location for the Fall

The July Meeting will be held at the home of Cheryl Partin

Solar Light Challenge



Who is up to the Solar Light Challenge???? We all love cute solar lights so let's light up our front yards (back yards allowed if you won't mind people walking thru on the night of the event) with them. We will have a solar drive by contest Saturday June 20th. If you want to join, message the Garden City Garden Club your address. We will post a list the week of the 20th and people can drive by and vote on our Facebook page. Prizes for top 3 solar winners. Who's up to the challenge?????

It's On! The 26th Annual Garden Walk

Saturday, July 18, 2020

Garden City Garden Club

In partnership with the Garden City **Historical Museum**

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Specific information will be out shortly! We could still use a couple gardens. Please, let Stacy know if your yard can be included in the walk. We will also have a Plant Sale. If you are dividing your perennials please save some for the sale. Name of the plant is really important! Pat and Stacy have plenty of empty containers that members can use.

The pre-walk will be held on Friday, July 15 for members who have paid their 2020 dues. The Garden Club officers will be meeting with the staff at the Historical Museum to decide exactly what our partnership can look like this year.

Spring Work at Gardenville and City Park



Val Templeton, Ellen Parker, Julie Slabaugh and Jackie McCormick at Gardenville.



Stacy Karafotis

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped plant at Gardenville Vegetable Garden on June 6. The work was completed in under two hours because so many people were able to help. Thank you to the following members who were able to help: Candy Henry, Kathy Kopczyk, Jackie McCormick, Stacy Karafotis, Anna Miskulin, Pat McKarge, Ellen Parker, Julie Slabaugh, Sandy Stempniak, and Val Templeton. (Please contact me with any corrections please.) We always need people to weed and water at Gardenville. Please help if you can.

On Monday, June 8, I weeded the area near the entrance sign to City Park (off Cherry Hill) and then went over to the Butterfly Garden. Val Templeton

was there and had already pulled a huge number of weeds!! Thank you Val. I stayed and weeded more and also pulled weeds from around the Dwarf Red Leaf Sand Cherry trees we purchased for the park last year. The entrance sign area off of Merriman Road looked great. Thank you Kathy Kopczyk for maintaining that area. Again, if you can help at the park, we need the areas weeded and when the bed is ready, we will plant annuals that are good for the pollinators.



1 foot weeds in the bed at sign entrance at park.



Weeds are gone!



6 bags of weeds are gone from the Butterfly Garden

2020 Garden Club Annual Planting at the Commons in Downtown GC



Top right: Stacy Karafotis, Kim Dold, Paula Relich, ?, Sherry Mifsud, Jackie McCormick, Anna Miskulin

Bottom: ? and Julie Slabaugh (Please send me name corrections, I would like to have the correct names listed)



The Garden Club was featured on June's **Marketplace** magazine. I could not download a good enough picture to share it with you. Thank you to Cheryl Partin for getting the info into the publication!



Kim Dold and Jackie McCormick



Stacy Karafotis and Cheryl Partin

Mulch



In the May Garden Club newsletter I had a short article from Clemson University about the benefits of mulching. Since then I was asked the questions, “What type of mulch should I use on my vegetable garden?” and “What type of mulch should I use on my flower garden?” I am answering these questions with information located on the internet from extension services of the following universities: Iowa State University, Clemson University, and Michigan State University.



What materials would be a good mulch for a vegetable garden?

Lawn clippings, straw, and leaves are excellent mulches for the vegetable garden. Allow lawn clippings to dry before applying them to gardens. A thick layer of fresh lawn clippings may get hot and produce an unpleasant odor. *If the lawn has been treated with a broadleaf herbicide, don't use the clippings until the lawn has been mowed 2 or 3 times after the application. Tomatoes, peppers and most other vegetable are very sensitive to 2,4-D and could absorb residues of the compound from the treated grass clippings.* Straw should be free of crop and weed seed. Leaves should be shredded or composted before applied as a mulch. Shredded or composted leaves are less likely to blow away in the wind.

A mulch depth of 2 to 4 inches would be appropriate when applying these materials to the vegetable garden. Shredded newspapers or whole sheets may be used as a mulch in the vegetable garden. Newspapers use organic inks so gardeners need not worry about lead contamination. When using newspaper sheets, place a layer of 2 to 4 sheets between plant rows in the garden. Water the sheets so they stick to one another and to the soil surface, then place a layer of dry grass clippings, shredded leaves, or straw over the newspaper.

Mulches control weeds by preventing the germination of weed seeds. Established weeds should be destroyed prior to the application of the mulch. In addition to weed control, mulches help conserve soil moisture, reduce soil erosion, prevent crusting of the soil surface, keep fruits and vegetables clean, and may reduce disease problems.

What materials would be a good mulch for a perennial bed?

Wood chips and shredded bark are excellent mulches for perennial beds and areas around trees and shrubs. Apply 2 to 4 inches of material around landscape plantings. These materials decay slowly and should last several years. However, it will be necessary to apply additional material periodically to retain the desired depth.

MSU What's the best material to use for mulch?

To a large extent, the “best” mulch material is in the eye of the beholder. Most organic materials such as ground bark, ground wood chips or shredded leaves can provide the key benefits of moisture conservation, weed control, thermal insulation and organic matter addition. Therefore, cost, aesthetic appearance and availability are often the deciding factors. Inorganic mulches such as rock or shredded tires do not need to be replaced, but do not add organic matter to the soil.

What about lawn clippings as mulch?

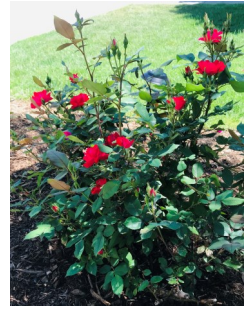
Lawn clippings are a poor choice for mulch since they tend to mat together and impede water penetration if they dry out. In addition, they are unsightly and can produce an unpleasant odor as they decompose. [Michigan State University Extension](#) says a better alternative is to compost your lawn clippings and then use the compost in your garden or as a top-dressed amendment before you apply mulch. Or use a mulching mower that returns the clippings back into your yard.

Is it true that mulch can “tie-up” soil nutrients?

In theory, organic mulches that are low in nitrogen, such as wood chips, can reduce soil nitrogen availability during the process of microbial decomposition. In reality, we see little evidence of this in trees and shrubs. We monitored plant nitrogen in landscape shrubs and found no difference between plants without mulch and those that were mulched with pine, hardwood bark and wood chips. In fact, in a couple of instances, the mulched plants had increased plant nitrogen. The one case where nutrient tie-up could be a concern is with annual bedding plants since they have limited root systems.

How Did Your Pruning Go?

In a May bulletin I talked about pruning Knock Out Roses. After watching several reliable sources on the internet, I knew I had to get “brave” enough to prune more severely than I have in the past. Not only did I prune it back, I reached down into the plant and cut out old wood, down to the ground. Yes, I had to count to 10 to get the nerve to do it! Well I have good news, my roses are looking bushy and healthy. Was I nervous? Yes!



Another plant that I cut back was my Limelight Hydrangea. It had become “leggy” with a lot of wood showing at the bottom, with no leaves. I was too timid cutting it back enough last year. I researched how to prune this specific Hydrangea (remember different species of Hydrangea are pruned differently and at different time of the year.) The Limelight Hydrangea is pruned in early spring. I cut it back to about 14 inches from the ground, just above a bud. Was I nervous? Yes, but I was brave! The plant is looking bushy and healthy!



One more pruning story, my ‘Hidcote Promise’ Lavender. ‘Hidcote’ is a compact English Lavender that grows about 18 to 24 inches tall. I thought I pruned it back enough after it bloomed last year but I was too timid, again! I decided I didn’t have much to lose, since I didn’t want a leggy, woody plant. I pruned it back to the lowest 3 leaf buds (much more severe a pruning than I had done previously). I was REALLY nervous about doing this. Well, success. I now have a bushy, healthy lavender plant! It might bloom a little later than normal but it is the plant I want. After it blooms this year, I will not be afraid to prune it back—back to the lowest 3 leaves.

Don't forget it is never to late to cut back dead or diseased branches on your plants. Now is the time to examine your bushes and trees and trim out the problem areas.

What's Happening — Mark Your Calendar

Remember you should verify that the events are taking place closer to the date. So many things are changing on a daily basis.

- **June 16, Garden Club Annual Pot Luck Picnic at Garden City Park**
- June 20 DDA Lucky Squirrel Flea Market, Craft & Vendor Event
- **July 17, Garden Club Pre-Garden Walk for members and homeowners**
- **July 18, Garden City Garden Club 26 Annual Garden Walk in partnership with the Straight Farmhouse**
- July 18 DDA Lucky Squirrel Flea Market, Craft & Vendor Event
- July 21, Garden Club meeting at Cheryl Partin's home
- August 15 DDA Lucky Squirrel Flea Market, Craft & Vendor Event
- August 18 Garden Club meeting at Kim White's home.

