

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDEN



NEWS



MAY 2017



GARDEN NEWS

IS-YOUR-PLOT-PLANTED?

On June 4, teams of volunteers will walk around the Garden and see whether plots have been planted. That means a plot should have been weeded or tilled, and should have seeds planted and labeled, or have plants in place. A sea of weeds with one row of lettuce won't cut it. If your plot does not pass, we will notify you and assign your plot to a gardener on our waiting list.

Perfection is not required, but solid evidence of gardening activity is. The inspections crews will also check to make sure there is a **permanent, visible, legible plot sign** that displays **plot letter and number**. For new gardeners: The temporary marking tape should be removed and a permanent plot sign put in place; look around for good ideas about how to satisfy the requirement and ornament your plot at the same time.

COMING AND GOINGS. Long-time gardener and garden photographer Elsa Vitols has given up her plots, N/M 3/4. Elsa was a generous contributor to the Garden, giving of her time and her photography skills; her photos graced many a Newsletter. She will be missed.

REPORTING COMMUNITY

SERVICE. Please remember that you yourself must report the time you spend on community service projects. Even if you sign up on the

bulletin board, or come to Spring Cleanup, you have to log in that time with
<GLORIANOHO CG@GMAIL.COM>. 🌿

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMUNITY SERVICE LOG – YEAR SEVEN!

Hello Fellow Gardeners:

Thank you for helping make the sixth year of our system run even better by being clear and concise. I appreciated the patience you all gave me last year when I hurt my back and could not be on the computer.

This year again you will have two options for sending your community service report to me. Please use only one option. (Sending both email and paper only confuses things and adds frustration.)

As in past years, we encourage you to use the e-mail method, and therefore, we will automatically add a one-time 15-minute credit to your total community service hours!

Please remember... No matter which method you use, I need all the information listed below in A to D. Missing information makes it difficult to give you full credit.

Here are the two options:

1) **E-MAIL:** You can send me an email at glorianohocg@gmail.com, stating the following information:

A. The name of the person the



2017 GARDEN CALENDAR

IS-YOUR-PLOT-PLANTED? INSPECTION

Sunday, June 4

RAGWEED WALKTHROUGH

Sunday, July 16

FALL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, October 7

FALL INSPECTION

Sunday, October 15

LAST-CHANCE INSPECTION

Sunday, October 29

GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Third Monday each month
@ 6:30 p.m. at the Rec. Dept.
at JFK Middle School
(or in the Garden during nice
weather; call to confirm)

plot is registered to (which may not be your name);

B. Your plots numbers (please remember this!);

C. The date and amount of time of community service;

D. A brief description of the community service.

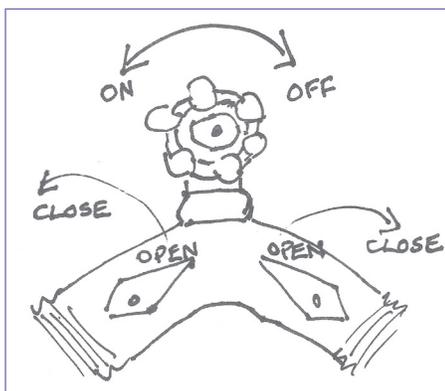
2) **PAPER:** This is the less preferred option. I realize that a few of you do not use e-mail, so I have created a paper form that is to be

used. The form has spaces for you to write all the information needed to properly credit your community service (same as 1 a-d) please, please write legibly! I will keep the mailbox stocked up – but please feel free to take one and copy it a few times for your use – expect the first batch to be in the mailbox by the first week in May.

Your patience and cooperation has been much appreciated.

— Gloria A. Santa Anna, Plots T5/6, S5/6; glorianohocg@gmail.com 🍀

**WATER IS A
PRECIOUS RESOURCE.
PLEASE HELP US CONSERVE
AND SAVE \$\$\$!**



PLEASE —

Turn off the faucet and both little levers.

WATER IN THE GARDEN

Water is on our minds: We have had a lot of it recently, and it always seems to come on week-ends when we were planning to work in the Garden.

Here are some **THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WATER** in the Garden.

- The water we use in the Garden

is Northampton city water, just like the water that comes from your taps at home. It is safe to drink (but you may not want to drink from a hose.)

- We pay for the water we use in the Garden, although (unlike our bills at home) the fee does not include a surcharge for use of the sewer system). It is one of our largest expenses—\$2400 in 2015.

• Because the Garden is zoned as agricultural, we are not bound by any water restrictions that apply to home gardens. If possible, we should water early in the morning or later in the afternoon. But, if necessary, we can water at high noon without breaking the law.

Here are some **THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE WATER SYSTEM** in the Garden.

- There are 14 spigots, distributed throughout the Garden, and spaced to make the average distance from spigot to plot as short as possible. Each spigot has a number attached to its post.
- Each spigot is supplied with a splitter, so that two hoses (or two watering cans) can use the spigot at the same time. Each side of the splitter has a shut-off valve. When you finish using water, turn off the spigot and the side of the splitter you used.
- The City cannot add more spigots in our garden because the water system would not provide adequate pressure for a greater number.
- Tom Bassett <SHAWBASS@COMCAST.NET> is the man to contact if you have problems with the spigot, the splitter, or the hoses. Note the number of the

spigot when communicating with him.

Here is what **YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HOSES**.

- The Garden supplies 100 feet of hose at each spigot. This will reach most plots. However, you may need to buy an extension if your plot is further away.
- Hoses are expensive — especially as we buy heavy-duty, kink-resistant hoses. As the hoses at any spigot develop leaks or become excessively kinky, we replace them.
- You can help make hoses last longer by recoiling them carefully, straightening out kinks, and hanging them neatly. Never leave a hose lying on the ground uncoiled after you use it.
- If a hose develops a leak, don't keep using it--that's a waste of water. Contact Tom (<shawbassett@comcast.net>) and he'll fix or replace it.

Here are the **PRIORITIES AT A SPIGOT**.

- A gardener filling a watering can has priority over a gardener using a hose.
- A gardener using a hose has priority over someone using a drip irrigation system.

And here are a few more **DO AND DON'TS ABOUT WATER USE**.

- You must be present when a hose is running — do not prop it up and walk away.
- Do not use Garden water to wash your dog or your car.
- Do not use Garden water to fill a kiddie pool for your kids. 🍀