



# Gardening for Community

The Newsletter of the UFM Manhattan Community Gardens

Spring 2018

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### Welcome Back Gardeners

Now that winter cold is waning we must take time to start planning our gardens. It matters not if you start your plants from seeds or purchase plants from a garden center. This is a time of year when you imagine picking all your colorful vegetables, perhaps even sharing a few with your non-gardening neighbors.

The Manhattan Community Gardens have approximately 180 gardeners and 280 plots. Gardening is more than sweat, hard work and harvesting. Gardeners enjoy the camaraderie of their garden neighbors while they learn and share their gardening knowledge. Tell your neighbors to join us at

Manhattan Community Gardens - where we always have room for one more! Remember we have a variety of gardeners and garden practices, which means we can learn all kinds of new tricks.

Manhattan Community Gardens will have a spring, summer and fall newsletter and we have a new editor, first-year Board member Carl Reed. Chuck Marr will continue to provide a periodic e-newsletter full of wit and wisdom. We are so lucky to have such an experienced and masterful teacher of gardening techniques and science.

### Disposal of Plant Waste and Trash

The MCG Board would like to share our "plant waste and trash removal" costs. Our drop-off dumpsters cost **\$75.00** for each garden. To empty a dumpster costs **\$150.00** plus \$10.00 a ton. If trash is found in the contents, the rate increases to **\$250.00** plus \$50.00 per 1.5 tons of waste. Our cost also increases if you put garden waste in our trash containers. Proper disposal of plant waste and trash is vital to keeping garden expenses within budget.

## Our Spring Garden Focus

The Manhattan Community Garden Board has concluded that garden-courtesy compliance must improve:

**Read** and understand garden rules.

**Maintain** your garden plot, keeping it free of weeds, trash, and other waste.

**Maintain** the paths around your plot, keeping them mulched and weed-free.

**Keep** your plants inside your plot boundaries.

**Repair** your fencing this spring. Every year there are injuries from bad fences.

**Prevent** garden overgrowth and remove trees.

Heads-up. Expect to hear more about this in 2018. If you have a question, contact:

**Collins Lane** - Deane Lehmann

[deanelehmann@gmail.com](mailto:deanelehmann@gmail.com)

**Riley Lane** - Derek Frasier

[derek4sier@gmail.com](mailto:derek4sier@gmail.com)

**President** - David Claus

[dclaus171@gmail.com](mailto:dclaus171@gmail.com)

### Workday Commitments

You signed up for two workdays when you registered for your plot. The Board has heard concerns about workdays and is planning for improvement. We really need gardeners to complete the task to which they committed. To help you remember, Kim Smith will be sending you an email reminder (twice). If you can't make your workday, e-mail us an alternative date.

Deane Lehmann – Collins Lane –

[deanelehmann@gmail.com](mailto:deanelehmann@gmail.com)

Derek Frasier – Riley Lane –

[derek4sier@gmail.com](mailto:derek4sier@gmail.com)

David Claus – Both Gardens –

[dclaus171@gmail.com](mailto:dclaus171@gmail.com)

## Committees

### Plot Tilling

Between Riley Lane and Collins Lane our tilling committee now tills approximately 30% of the plots. If you have chosen to have your plot tilled, make sure you have inspected your plot. All plant waste must be removed as well as cages, stakes, bricks, etc. Tilling committee members are not responsible for removing waste and other obstacles before tilling. If your plot is not ready on time, the tillers will move on and you'll have to make another appointment. Derek Frasier – [derek4sier@gmail.com](mailto:derek4sier@gmail.com)

### Equipment

We are fortunate to have first-rate equipment-committee people to maintain our community tools. Breakdowns are expected because of high usage, but reports of misuse have become more common. Instruction will be provided at the social April 7 at Collins Lane. If you're not sure how to use a piece of equipment, ask a neighbor gardener. The basic rule is: clean it, refuel it, and store it for the next gardener.

Aran Ryan – [akryan08@hotmail.com](mailto:akryan08@hotmail.com)

### Mowing

The mowing committee has a big job at both Gardens. Mowing is done to keep our gardens looking fresh and groomed. When you find a rock or brick in your plot, please don't toss it in the grass or along the railroad tracks at Riley. Instead, put it in the

proper container; same for the broken cage wire, glass or trash. Whatever you throw in the mowing lanes becomes shrapnel to our mowers. Also, don't leave benches or plant cages in the mowing lanes. We on the mowing committee would appreciate your help.

Pat Duggan – Riley Lane –

[Twopats6@juno.com](mailto:Twopats6@juno.com)

Fred Peterson – Collins Lane –

[bjbdp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjbdp@sbcglobal.net)

### Learn something new at our spring socials!

New this year, socials will feature a brief educational component. We invite all MCG gardeners to socials held after our April and June workdays; just bring a home-made dish to pass. Please come if you want to meet your fellow gardeners, volunteered at the workday, or signed up for socials (providing tasty food, setup, and cleanup). Spring socials will be held:

\*April 7, Collins Lane, 11:15-11:45am.

"Equipment show and tell"-- Our MCG Equipment Team will teach you how to use tillers, mowers, and more!

\*June 9, Riley Lane, 11:15-11:45am.

"What's up Doc?? How's my soil?" Learn how to diagnose common soil problems and improve soil health.

Socials put "community" in community gardens. We hope to see all of you at our two spring socials.

### Timely Topics

Trash containers and toilets will be in place by March 1. The water hydrants will be on by March 15.

### Much Appreciation

Board Chairman David Claus wishes to thank Dick Green and the Men's Garden Club who proposed in December to install electricity and lighting at the Collins Lane shed. The board agreed and the project was completed immediately and under budget! Thank you to Dick's crew Pat Butler, Joe Mainey, John Darch, and David Meirerer. The Gardens are very fortunate to have volunteers willing to go the extra mile.

#### 2018 Board of Directors

<b>Dave Claus</b>	<b>President</b>	dclaus171@gmail.com
<b>Linda Teener</b>	Treasurer	linda@tryufm.org
<b>Cheryl Arthur</b>	Secretary	arthurcheryl@sbcglobal.net
<b>Deane Lehmann</b>	<b>Collins Ln</b>	deanelehmann@gmail.com
<b>Gary Schwandt</b>	Compost	gschwandt33@gmail.com
<b>Aran Ryan</b>	Equipment	akryan08@hotmail.com
<b>John Piskac</b>	Nominations	piskac@att.net
<b>Derek Frasier</b>	<b>Riley Ln</b>	derek4sier@gmail.com
<b>Fred Peterson</b>	Mowing Collins	bjpdfp@sbcglobal.net
<b>Kim Smith</b>	Records	kimberly.smith@cox.net
<b>Pat Duggan</b>	Mowing Riley	twopats6@juno.com
<b>Carl Reed</b>	Newsletter	cm_reed@cox.net
<b>Melanie Derby</b>	Socials	mel.derby@gmail.com