



# Gardening for Community

The October 2019 Newsletter of the UFM Manhattan Community Gardens

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## President's Message

The 2019 garden season is about to end. The rain this year has caused more weeds, plant disease, and the inconvenience of a wet garden. Each garden season has its own set of challenges and next year will likely be different. I do hope among all the issues there was success and enjoyment in your garden.

I thank these entities and folks for assisting the Manhattan Community Garden (MCG) during 2019:

- **UFM** – for administrative assistance, fund management, and facility use
- **City of Manhattan** and **Riley County** – for lease support, water, compost, wood chips and maintenance
- **KSU** – compost
- **Chuck Marr** – for the informative tips during the garden season
- **MCG Board of Directors** – for management, record keeping, keeping gardeners informed
- **Barbara Green** – for maintenance of the Collins Lane Butterfly Garden
- Countless **other volunteers** who went beyond the required garden service to further the purposes of the MCG

You are encouraged to attend the MCG Annual Meeting on November 9. You can socialize with other gardeners, eat, and participate in the business meeting. Returning gardeners in good standing can re-enroll for the 2020 season prior to the meeting.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we hope you have a safe winter and that you return to the MCG in 2020.

Contact – John Piskac: [piskac@att.net](mailto:piskac@att.net)

## Manhattan Community Gardens Annual Meeting, November 9<sup>th</sup>

The MCG Annual Meeting and plot registration will be held at the Collins Lane garden on **Saturday, November 9**. Workdays are planned at both garden sites from 9:00 am to 11:00am. The 2020 plot registration for returning gardeners in good standing will be from 10:00 am to 11:30 am prior to the annual meeting. Please bring your checkbook/cash (no credit cards) if you wish to re-enroll for 2020. A meal of smoked pork and pizza will be provided. Eating utensils are also provided. Gardeners are encouraged to provide a home-cooked side dish to share. If you want something other than water to drink, bring your own (non-alcoholic). It is advisable to bring a chair to the Annual Meeting as seating is limited.

A short meeting will be held to discuss business, introduce candidates for election to the Board, propose revised MCG By-laws for vote, and general discussion. In case of inclement weather please watch your email for change of venue on that day.

- Returning gardener 2020 plot registration: 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- Social and Annual Meeting: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

## Manhattan Community Gardens Proposed By-Law Revisions

Periodically, the MCG Board of Directors reviews the By-Laws of the Community Garden for revision. This had not been done since 2012. In 2019, the Board has reviewed the document and is proposing changes that, we believe, will improve MCG

efficiency, operation, and fairness to the community.

The proposed MCG By-Laws (with noted changes in red) can be viewed at: <https://tryufm.org/community-gardens/>. Once at this site click on box “**Review the Proposed By-Law Changes.**” The proposed MCG By-Laws will be discussed and presented for approval by the membership at the annual meeting.

Contact- John Piskac: [piskac@att.net](mailto:piskac@att.net)

## 2020 Registration Dates

**Returning Gardeners:** 2019 MCG gardeners who are in good standing have registration priority for the 2020 season. Following are the signup dates for returning gardeners:

- November 9 (Sat.), 10:00-11:30 am, before annual meeting, Collins Lane
- December 4 (Wed.), 6:30-7:30 pm, UFM
- January 13 (Mon.), 5:30-6:30 pm, UFM

Returning gardeners have priority until **January 31, 2020**. After that date, returning gardeners may still register their 2019 plots if they have not been claimed or they may choose different plots that are available.

**New Gardeners:** New gardeners are able to rent unclaimed plots on and after February 1, 2020. New gardeners require orientation and must register during one of the following signup dates:

- February 1 (Sat.), 9:30-10:30 am, UFM
- February 25 (Tue.), 5:30-6:30 pm, UFM
- March 16 (Mon.), 5:30-6:30 pm, UFM
- April 11 (Sat.), 9:30-10:30 am, UFM

Returning gardeners wanting additional plots must select and register the additional plots during a New Gardener signup period.

## 2020 MCG Workdays/Socials

Following is the planned 2020 MCG Workday/Social schedule. Members who choose to participate in workdays or socials as part of their garden service may select from this schedule at signup:

- Sunday, March 8, 2-4 pm, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, April 4, 9-11 am, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, April 4, 11 am, Social @ Riley
- Saturday, May 9, 9-11 am, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, May 9, 11 am, Social @ Collins
- Sunday, May 17, 2-4 pm, UFM
- Saturday, June 6, 7:30-9:30 am, Riley & Collins
- Sunday, June 21, 2-4 pm, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, July 11, 7:30-9:30 am, Riley and Collins
- Saturday, August 8, 7:30-9:30 am, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, September 5, 7:30-9:30 am, Riley & Collins
- Sunday, September 20, 2-4 pm, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, October 10, 9-11 am, Riley & Collins
- Sunday, October 18, 2-4 pm, Riley & Collins
- Saturday, November 7, 9-11 am as a makeup day only; Annual Meeting at Collins

## The Manhattan Community Garden Board Member

The Manhattan Community Garden (MCG) was established in 1974. Many individuals were important in setting the “groundwork” for the MCG during the past 45 years. The organization would not have persisted without good leadership.

It is important to understand that the functions of the MCG do not “just happen.” It is only through the actions of the volunteers on the Board and their varied talents that the organization remains viable.

Major responsibilities of the Board include:

- Administration – planning, finances and oversight, rules, and records
- Activities - signups, training, gardener work responsibilities
- Communication – newsletters, e-mails, publications, verbal messages
- Equipment and Facility Maintenance

Each board member is provides leadership to one of several committees including:

- Equipment
- Compost and Hay
- Mowing
- Garden Site (Collins/Riley) Coordinators
- Tilling
- Communications/Records
- Nominations

With nearly 200 gardeners the MCG is fortunate to have access to a good number of individuals with various skills who are willing to serve on the Board. Are you one of these? If so, please contact any current board member for further information.

Contact – David Claus: [dclaus171@gmail.com](mailto:dclaus171@gmail.com)



Potholes on west side of Collins Lane Garden

## Collins Lane Road Improvements

If you have driven the perimeter of Collins Lane garden you are aware of the poor road condition. If you didn't notice the potholes when it was dry, you surely did after a rain!

The Collins Lane garden was established in 2012. Gravel on the site from an old mobile home park was salvaged and used on the current roads. Obviously, that gravel was insufficient. Also, the gravel has been pushed down in the sandy soil by traffic, especially during wet times. Eventually, vehicle tracks formed where tires traveled the same path. The tracks hold water, which in turn causes potholes to form.

The road around the southwest portion of the site is the worst because it is low, flat, and does not drain well. Building up the road in that area is not the answer because that would dam the water and flood adjacent garden plots. The MCG board has approved repairs to 250 feet of road at a cost of \$3,125. First, 4 to 5 inches of existing road bed will be removed. Then a geotextile mat will be placed, and completed with a gravel surface. The mat will help prevent gravel from sinking away over time. New gravel will be added to the proper level so water will

drain away. The material removed from the existing road bed will be used to fill potholes and re-grade and improve other areas around the garden.

This road improvement project is planned for late November, weather permitting. At that time most garden plot work is done so construction should have little impact on access.

Contact: Darin Marti: [dmarti7528@gmail.com](mailto:dmarti7528@gmail.com)

## Not Returning in 2020?

Gardeners not returning in 2020 need to notify the MCG at: [communitygarden@tryufm.org](mailto:communitygarden@tryufm.org) by **January 31, 2020**. Plot deposit will be refunded by request if gardener volunteer commitments are complete for the year and plot is clean by December 1, 2019 (see MCG Garden Rule 2). To request the deposit refund contact the UFM business office at: UFM Community Learning Center, 1221 Thurston, Manhattan, Kansas, 66502, phone (785) 539-8763, email: [info@tryufm.org](mailto:info@tryufm.org).

Contact – Kim Smith: [kimberly.smith@cox.net](mailto:kimberly.smith@cox.net)

## End of the Garden Season

Plan your end of year garden activities accordingly.

Following are approximate dates to know:

- Hoses will be removed on **November 9**
- Water will be turned off at both gardens by **November 23**
- Dumpsters will be removed by **December 1**
- Portable restrooms will be removed by **December 1**

## Collins Lane Butterfly Garden



Although it may appear the “butterfly season” has come to a close, it has not. Barbara Green, caretaker of the butterfly garden, indicates it is necessary to leave the flowers and plants intact until spring. Many butterflies overwinter there as chrysalis, larva, and sometimes even as butterflies.

## Manhattan Garden Community Peace Pole – A Short History

The Peace Pole is the international symbol for peace. The Pole usually stands six to eight feet tall and is shaped like the Washington Monument. It displays the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” and can be written in many different languages. There are more than 200,000 Peace Poles planted in over 180 countries. They are a constant reminder for us to pray for world peace in this conflict-ridden world.

The Peace Pole Project was started in Japan by The World Peace Prayer Society, a non-profit, non-denominational organization founded in 1955. The project was launched with a

dedication to uplift humankind toward harmony rather than conflict.

The Peace Pole may symbolize peace in a family, community, or the world. It can serve as a focal point for community activities and a visual reminder of peace. Peace Poles have been planted in forests, cities, schools, places of worship, businesses, and private settings.

The MCG was awarded a Peace Pole by the World Peace Prayer Society in 1995. It was dedicated in 1995. The Pole was received in recognition of the value of our garden in contributing to peace, communication, and community building in Manhattan.

Stop and look at the Peace Pole in its refurbished setting. It is located at the Riley Lane site, behind the large shed, near the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Riley Lane.



Completed Peace Pole with a group of proud Riley Lane volunteers

Contact – Linda Teener: [linda@tryufm.org](mailto:linda@tryufm.org)

**2019 Board of Directors**

John Piskac	President	piskac@att.net
Vacant	Vice President	Vacant
Linda Teener	Treasurer	linda@tryufm.org
Molly Webb	Secretary/Riley mowing	mollymcwebb@gmail.com
Kim Smith	Records	kimberly.smith@cox.net
Melanie Derby	Socials	mel.derby@gmail.com
Alan Boerger	Newsletter	aboerger@cox.net
Carl Reed	Collins Lane coordinator	carl_reed@cox.net
Pat Duggan	Riley Lane coordinator	twopats6@juno.com
Aran Ryan	Equipment	aran.ryan@centralmechanical.com
John Kobiskie	Compost	johnkks@cox.net
Fred Peterson	Collins Mowing	bjpdfp@sbcglobal.net
Darin Marti	Tilling Collins	dmarti7528@gmail.com
Derek Frasier	Tilling Riley	derekfr4sier@gmail.com
David Claus	Past Pres./Nominations	dclaus171@gmail.com



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# **Fall 2019 Newsletter**