



Gardening for Community

The October 2020 Newsletter of the UFM Manhattan Community Gardens

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President's Message

The 2020 garden season is ending. This gardening year was certainly different than others but in reality, it is that way every year! Some gardeners had challenges with production while others were successful. The one thing that doesn't change is the fact that weeds seem to creep in every day and that is a challenge for all of us. Regardless of the issues you may have had, I hope you found some enjoyment in working in your plots and maybe getting to

know fellow gardeners better. It was certainly nice to have the gardens to work in and be able to social distance for the most part from this COVID stuff!!

Operating a community garden like we have does take a group effort to make it happen. We are fortunate to have those in this community that are willing to put in the time to make this a smooth operation. Proof of that is in the longevity of the Manhattan Community Gardens! I would like to thank the following entities and people for their assistance this year?

- **UFM** – for administrative assistance, fund management, and facility use.
- **City of Manhattan and Riley County** – for property lease support, water, compost, wood chips and maintenance.
- **KSU** – Manure compost.
- **Chuck Marr** – Weekly newsletter with timely information and gardening tips
- **Barbara Green** – Maintenance of Collins Lane Butterfly Garden.
- **MCG Board of Directors** – Management, recordkeeping and general operational duties.
- **Other volunteers** – there are many gardeners that volunteer their time when needed to take care of items as needed and

we thank you for stepping up when we needed extra help!

The operation of the MCG might seem like a simple and small task on the surface. Many might say “serving on a garden board can’t be that big of a deal.” Well, as with any board, you really never know what goes into it until you serve on the board and are privy to all the decision making and management that it takes. Your gardens are no different. It takes a team and some teamwork to make it all happen smoothly. For example, think of the chaos if someone didn’t accurately track who has rented the 300+ plots we have and maintained a data base of 180 names, email addresses, etc. of our gardeners. That in itself is a big job and we have been fortunate to have Kim perform so well in this task the past 3 years.

That being said, every year we have board members whose terms are up and chose not to run again. We are currently in search for several new board members. Gardeners from Riley Lane are especially needed as we do not have enough representation from those gardens. Please consider at least inquiring what being a board member may involve. We have to have volunteers to make this all happen! Please contact Darin Marti – dmarti7528@gmail.com or John Piskac – piskac@att.net or any other board member if you are interested.

End of Season Reminders

Please plan end of year garden activities accordingly. The following are important dates to know:

- **All hoses will be removed from both Riley and Collins on November 7th.**
- **Water will be turned off at both gardens around November 21st.**
- **Have all garden plots cleaned by December 1st.**

- **Dumpsters and restrooms will be removed from both gardens by December 1st.**

RETURNING GARDENER REGISTRATION ONLY

Check or cash only

October 31, Saturday, at the Riley County Fairgrounds, Hurlburt Barn, located on Avery Ave on the west side of Cico Park

- COVID precautions will be used, please be patient with our modified procedure while we enforce distancing. **Masks are required**
- To restrict number of gardeners, we will use the following schedule:
 - ✓ Last name A-E, 9-10 am
 - ✓ Last name F-O, 10-11 am
 - ✓ Last name P-Z, 11-12 noon

After November 2nd, Mail registration form with check to UFM, 1220 Thurston, Manhattan KS 66502. Credit card payment may be made online.

December 2, Wednesday, 7-8 pm, at UFM Solarium. Distancing guidelines will be used. **Masks are required.**

January 11, Monday, 5:30-6:30 pm, at UFM Solarium. Distancing/ masks will follow KSU/City of Manhattan mandates required at that time.

January 13-22 only, Go to UFM at 1220 Thurston, Manhattan KS 66502,. This should be a last resort as UFM is currently understaffed and has limited hours. (M/W/F 10-12, 1-3)

NEW GARDENER REGISTRATION AND RETURNING GARDENER ADDED PLOTS

Check or cash only

Distancing/masks will follow KSU/City of Manhattan mandates required at that time.

Masks are required.

February 6, Saturday, 9:30-10:30 am, at UFM Solarium

February 23, Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 pm, at UFM Solarium

March 15, Monday, 5:30-6:30 pm, at UFM Solarium

April 10, Saturday, 9:30-10:30 am, at UFM Solarium

VOLUNTEER OPTIONS (one required)

Most options will be performing a task on any day during your sign-up month. There will be a limit of 5 gardeners/month for each garden.

- March 6-group activity putting out garden hoses
- April-assigned task
- May-assigned task
- June-assigned task
- July-assigned task
- August-assigned task
- September-assigned task
- October-assigned task
- November 6- group activity putting away hoses and cleaning sheds
- Mowing committee
- Tilling committee
- Equipment committee

RULES CHANGES

The MCG board made some rules clarifications in January and have again found some rules that needed further clarifications and changes. You will be emailed the new set of rules but below are some of the main updates:

- Rules 2, 3, 5, 9, 24, & 26 simply involved minor wording changes for clarification.
- Rule 8 is out of concern of cleanup of a forfeited plot. It restricts the planting of landscape bushes, vines and trees, and requires bushes such as raspberries to be planted in the center of the plot with no more than 5 bushes. Also, permanent concrete, rock or wood paths pavers are not allowed.
- Rule 13 states that garden trash cans/dumpsters are provided for garden use only. No personal waste is allowed.
- Rule 20 helps to clarify notification procedures when gardeners are found to be in non-compliance of any rules, especially plot maintenance rules.

I would ask that each of you reread and print a copy of the rules for quick reference. These rules certainly help set the expectations we have of all gardeners and you should have of each other.

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 46 years. The organization would not have been successful and persisted this long without quality leadership and volunteers who believed in the importance of the MCG and its benefit to the community. The MCG continues today through the leadership of the MCG Board. It is important to understand that the functions of the MCG do

not “just happen.” It is only through the actions of the volunteer individuals on the MCG 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 MCG board member is willing to provide leadership to one of several committees established to accomplish responsibilities. The committees include:

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

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

Contact – John Piskac: piskac@att.net

RILEY NEWS

Please note that reduced rates for Riley only plots have been changed. New rates are available at communitygarden@tryufm.org.

Pink fence posts?? This summer we have finished labeling plot corner posts with plot

numbers. MCG corner posts have now been sprayed pink! Please...do not remove or move these posts. They are MCG property.

Theft of cages has occurred again at Riley in September. Entering a plot is not allowed without permission, let alone taking items. Rule #24 reminds us that property taken by a gardener is grounds for permanent removal from MCG.

WORK DAYS/ANNUAL MEETING

Other than the March work day, our normal group work days have been sidetracked this year due to the COVID issues. As you well know, we have sent out emails to you in the month you signed up to work and have given a list of jobs for gardeners to do on their own. This has actually worked pretty well so for the near future we will continue this strategy. We will though need to have a group workday in November to pick up garden hoses and clean the sheds. Remaining gardeners who need to complete volunteer hours will be assigned to this work day. This workday is scheduled for November 7th at 1 PM.

The MCG annual meeting has typically been held after the November workday and social. We do plan to hold the work day but not the social. And to avoid a group gathering, we will not hold the annual meeting at the garden as in the past but instead via Zoom Conferencing on November 7th at 10AM. For those not familiar, Zoom is an online video conferencing platform that many are using for meetings. Your MCG board has been using it for board meetings most of the year. If you have a computer, you can sign in and if not, it is available to use via phone. Instructions will be sent to you to help you sign in for the annual meeting. If you have not used it, don't be afraid and give it a try! Please help us meet the quorum by logging into this meeting!

Fall UFM Gardening Classes

UFM has several gardening classes scheduled this fall. Some classes are in-person and some are live remote classes. Registration is required for all classes. October courses include:

- Rain Barrels: October 3rd, 1 -3 PM at UFM.
- Introduction to Tree Identification: October 14th, 6 – 8 PM at Kansas Forest Service Office.
- Front Yard Food Garden: October 26th, 7 – 8:30 PM at UFM.

UFM have these and many other class choices. Check out the digital catalog at

<https://tryufm.org/>

Registration for gardening and other classes at

<https://tryufm.org/>

For updated information about the Community Garden, current fees, and registration information, visit

<https://tryufm.org/community-gardens/>

UFM Office Hours

UFM is open with reduced hours this fall. If you need to come to the office, the current office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 AM to 12 PM and from 1 PM to 3 PM. If you need to come in at a different time, please e-mail linda@tryufm.org or leave a message at (785) 539-8763 to make an appointment. Mail in registrations are also accepted by send registrations to UFM, 1221 Thurston, Manhattan, Kansas 66502. Watch for information about online registration as well.

November Annual Meeting

NOTE: Due to the continuing COVID-19 situation, it was necessary hold the MCG Annual Meeting via Zoom Conferencing on November 7, 2020 at 10:00 AM. Instructions will be sent on how to sign in through Zoom for attending the Annual Meeting. We will be looking forward to seeing on November 7th.

Committee Reports

Records & Communications

NOT RETURNING IN 2021???

If you are not planning to return to garden with us in 2021, here is what you need to do:

- Clean up you plot by **December 1st**. Remove personal items. Cages and posts may be left on the plot for the next gardener.
- Notify MCG by e-mail at communitygarden@tryufm.org or call Kim Smith (Records Coordinator) at (785) 341-9387 by **January 31, 2021**, stating that you will not be returning to garden in 2021.
- Your deposit will be returned once your plot is clean and approved by your garden coordinator.
- Requests for deposit refunds will not be honored after **January 31, 2021**.

Equipment Notes

This is about to become a busy time of the year for equipment usage. As the gardens begin to die down, it is time to chop up the residue and till the soil for the winter. Some people chop everything with a lawn mower and then till it in. This is great, but we just want to stress safety in

this endeavor. This is not actually an intended use of the mowers. After you have chopped and tilled, please CLEAN THE EQUIPMENT. The underneath side of the mower gets compacted with plant matter that the next user does not want in his/her garden. The tillers can get vines wrapped around the tines and does not work as well. They also can tear out the grease seals and severely shorten the life of the machine. Not only will this help other gardeners, but cleaning equipment is also in the rules. Be safe. Have a restful winter and be ready for spring in the gardens.

Dale Hayden

dalesmhs@gmail.com

Garden Theft

Hopefully you saw my email several weeks ago regarding theft of produce at Collins Lane. Someone blatantly entered the gardens in broad daylight and began helping themselves. The gate had been left open and these individuals simply drove in and started raiding garden plots. While the individuals were helping themselves, a gardener drove in and caught them in the act and even found that her plot had missing produce.

Since that early September incident, I sent an email out to all gardeners regarding the theft. That email prompted a number of replies reporting theft from other plots too. Not all of these thefts happened at the same time. It appears there are possibly numerous incidents. Other gardeners have commented that they have seen vehicles come down the road slowly and turn around in the Collins entrance. Were these folks scouting the place and left when they saw a gardener there? Maybe? I am a bit suspicious at this point!

Now I am sure we have thefts every year from every garden and we just didn't notice it or say anything. It is certainly disheartening when we grow a melon all year only to find it gone once it is ripe. After all we only get one shot at it each

year. It's kind of like the coons raiding the sweet corn patch the day before we planned to pick!

We believe the most recent incidents are thefts from someone outside the gardens.

Unfortunately, we cannot rule out fellow gardeners either. For that reason, we have Rule #24 which states in part: "Intentional damage or theft by a registered gardener of another individual's garden/property or MCG property will result in the offender forfeiting all fees (including the deposit) and produce and their immediate and permanent ejection from the MCG. "

If you should see suspicious activity in the gardens, questioning the individual is ok as long as it can be done safely. If not, call for help from the police or other gardeners. Taking pictures of them in the plot is good proof and pictures of any stolen produce and their vehicle and the tag is great. Anything for proof of the incident helps.

This certainly is a somewhat difficult situation and we will continue to monitor it. To help prevent theft, picking your produce as soon as it is ripe, limits the days it is available to steal. At Collins Lane gardens, keeping the gate locked will probably prevent most theft from the outside. Maybe it is too the point that you lock it even while you are in the gardens if no one else is there since it is difficult to see the whole garden. Even locking someone in the garden when you leave isn't a terrible thing. They have the combination and can get out. And please lock all storage sheds before leaving!

2020 Board of Directors		
Darin Marti	President	dmarti7528@gmail.com
John Kobiskie	Vice President/Compost	johnkks@cox.net
Linda Teener	Treasurer	linda@tryufm.org
Lucas Shivers	Secretary/Riley Till/Mow	lshivers@hotmail.com
Kim Smith	Records/Communications	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
Dale Hayden	Equipment	dalesmhs@gmail.com
Frank Arthur	Collins Mowing/Tilling	fha@ksu.edu
John Piskac	Past Pres./Nominations	piskac@att.net



**UFM Community Learning Center
1221 Thurston Street
Manhattan, KS 66502**



Fall 2020 Newsletter

