

## Springfield Garden Club November 2020 President's Newsletter

Each and every month of this year has been packed with activities or important news. This month is no exception!

A lovely message from **Sandy MacGillivray**: *"There are no words to adequately express my sincere gratitude for all the prayers, cards, inspirational messages, texts, and emails from my garden club friends since my diagnosis. (Not to mention meals for Peter and mums and gourds for the yard). I was overwhelmed with the "card bombing" while I was at Brigham and Women's in Boston. I could actually feel the positive vibes sent my way. They thought I must be someone important to get all that mail. In fact, we recently received a forwarded packet of cards postmarked in September!"*

*I always knew that Springfield Garden Club is made up of talented, sensitive, thoughtful people. I am so thankful that I am a member.*

*With love and gratitude, Sandy"*

### Co-President Alicia's Horticultural Notes. This month titled, November in the Garden.

As I sit at my desk looking out the window, I can see that the colors on Mount Ascutney are becoming more muted. The green of the pine covered summit is in sharp contrast to the white mist surrounding it. Halfway up, the coppery oaks and a golden maple here and there still hang on to a few of their leaves.

This year has been different; a year so unlike any in recent memory. Our own garden and gardening in general, has played a special and important role in our lives and the lives of millions this year. The simple act of gardening has brought peace and a sense of well-being to so many who are struggling. Luckily for many of us, gardening is second nature and easily accessible. For folks newly discovering the pleasures of gardening, it was a godsend. Working in our gardens is something we can do so easily. For others, it may have been an unveiling of a world of wonder and sensual delight, a calm within a pandemic storm. The act of gardening may be something we take for granted. For folks learning to garden with children for the first time it may have been a source of indescribable joy.

November is the month we associate with the giving of thanks. We could all give thanks for being gardeners here in the very green State of Vermont. This is a place where the prominent figure standing on top of the golden capitol dome in Montpelier is Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture. Vermont is where the land and its inhabitants are highly valued and protected. Farmers and farms are appreciated and supported. As gardeners, we know how lucky we are to have such a wonderful nurturing place for our gardens to thrive. That is part of what we are about! Happy Thanksgiving Everyone.

## 2020 SGC CALENDAR

**August 12 – Brown bag lunch and plant exchange at Bonny Andrews' Lake House.**

**Sept. 9 – "American Chestnut Trees", Tour of the Knight's Chestnut tree grove, 2:00 p.m. at Dr. Randy and Grace Knight's home.**

**Sept. 18 – Fall Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Nolin-Murray Center**

**Oct. 7 – Fall Gardens Clean Up, 9:00 a.m., Springfield Plaza (Peebles)**

**Oct. 14 – Fall Potluck and Festival of Trees Update - CANCELLED**

**Nov. 11 – FOT Wreath Workshop - CANCELLED**

**Nov. 14 – FOT Moving Day, 9:00 a.m. at Lane's storage. CANCELLED**

**Nov. 16– FOT Decorating Day, 9:00 a.m. at The Great Hall. CANCELLED**

**Nov. 20 – Festival of Trees Party - CANCELLED**

**Dec. 2 – Creative Workshop, 9:00 a.m. Great Hall, 100 Main St. CANCELLED**

**Dec. 9 – Annual Holiday Luncheon, CANCELLED**



Our Montpelier Ceres

## Message From the Festival Of Trees Committee

This year has presented many significant and unique challenges for all of us. With the onset of the corona virus pandemic, the Springfield Garden Club has made many program changes as we have acknowledged the uncertain and evolving situation created by the pandemic. Our primary concern throughout these past months is the safety of our members and that of the community.

The FOT Committee is disappointed to report that in spite of our best intentions, our plans for decorating the Great Hall have been cancelled. This decision was made for three reasons.

1. The Springfield Medical Care Systems has seen an uptick in virus cases and has therefore implemented stricter regulations regarding who can enter their offices through the Great Hall. They asked if SGC members could limit visits and work to nights and weekends. The planning became too complicated and we didn't feel this would work for members.
2. Because of these new regulations, it's likely the number of visitors to the Great Hall will be significantly reduced and therefore our "audience" will be reduced as well. The FOT Committee felt that the time and effort required for decorating wouldn't have the community impact we had hoped for.
3. Because the number of virus cases is increasing, the committee decided that now was not a good time to encourage several of our members to gather together. As we head into the holidays we don't want to risk any of our members becoming ill.

Meanwhile the FOT committee and several members have been busy. We have mailed fundraising letters to local businesses who have supported us in the past, as well as people who normally attend the event and buy tickets. The silent auction and raffle team is busy hand delivering a similar letter to their donors. A letter also went out last week to members asking for your support as well. These steps will go a long way toward helping us fund our important civic beautification and scholarship programs.

Good news...wonderful comments are coming in from our efforts so far. We have many generous friends and supporters and we have much to be thankful for. However, we are short of our goal to support next year's important civic beautification and scholarship programs. The Club will continue to seek financial support via a press release and a Facebook posting coming out later this week. The safety and health of our membership and our community will continue to guide our choices in this process.

**All the best, Lynn Likus, Sandy MacGillivray, Jean Swanson**

**Another related cancellation: Our December 9 Annual Holiday Luncheon has been cancelled due to the virus.**

**Springfield Family Center Santa Claus Toy Drive Update:** For many years our Club has collected toys for the Family Center Santa Claus program. As with everything this year, the execution of this project is more complicated because of the virus. **Deanna Dexter** is working with the Family Center and, as soon as details are finalized, she will coordinate an email message with **Carol Eramo** that will be sent to all members. The email will include a signup sheet. If you'd like to participate, you can choose "your child and gift" from the sign-up sheet. It will be important for you to **REPLY ALL** to the email so everyone will know what you've chosen. If you prefer to send a money donation directly to the Family Center instead, please let Deanna know so she can track the full scope of our participation.



A few changes to member contact information are listed below and should be added to your Yearbooks.

- **Lucinda “Cindy” Bouruet’s** new email address: [lucindabouruet2@gmail.com](mailto:lucindabouruet2@gmail.com)
- **Sandy Brown’s** new address: 80 Grouse Lane, Weathersfield
- **Louise Robert’s** new address and telephone: 68 Country Skyline Boulevard, Ascotney, VT (mailing address: Windsor 05089) 603-477-1054



Please remember that Springfield Garden Club has an AmazonSmile Foundation account. If you order from Amazon using the SGC link, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the value of your order to our Club. We’d appreciate your support of this new fund-raising tool. You’ll find it under the Members

tab or use this link: [www.springfieldgardenclub.org/Members.php](http://www.springfieldgardenclub.org/Members.php). Thanks for supporting SGC!

The fall issue of the quarterly National Garden Club magazine is now available. To read it:

- Go to [www.NationalGardenClub.org](http://www.NationalGardenClub.org).
- At the bottom of the page, click on “Member Resources”.
- On the next page scroll down to the menu of several resources.
- You’ll see *The National Gardener*, the quarterly online magazine listed there.
- Also listed there is *Keeping in Touch*, the bi-monthly newsletter.

**Karen Vatne** posted her spectacular photo of the Eureka Schoolhouse to the *Growing Up in Springfield* Facebook page and linking it to SGC’s Facebook page. As of October 29 it had gotten 71 likes! Here’s a sampling of the comments.



- It looks great! The Garden Club does a terrific job!
- U do a great job
- Very thoughtful!
- Wow that’s beautiful, nicely done!!!
- I think the Springfield Garden Club is incredible! Everywhere they plant is a profusion of perfectly paired floral arrangements. Such combined talent you are lucky to have. Kudos.
- I enjoy their plantings all season long. They do a wonderful job. Thanks Garden Club.
- Beautiful pictures, Karen, of the wonderful plantings the Garden Club does every Spring to beautify all of Springfield.

*Happy Thanksgiving! I wish you all a blessed holiday. Cheryl*

Thanks to Karen for these beautiful photos of our very successful October Clean Up Day!



Blue Star – Barb L., Wes, Therese, Deanna



Town Hall – Barb R., Alice, Carol E., Margaret



Rt 10/106 – Cheryl, Carol E., Deanna, Barb R., Lee, Sandy B, Sue, Nell, Alicia.



Plant It Pink – Bonny, Kim, Sue, Lee



Plaza – Evelyn, Lynn, Rosann, Lillian, Elaine, Glenna



The Town Crew Heros! – Look at the size of this pile!