

Garden Pals Portage Senior Center

320 Library Lane
Portage, Michigan 49002



Yearbook 2018-2019

Notes and Reminders

Garden Pals Portage Senior Center

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Portage, MI 49002



Organized 2016
9 Members

Member of the:
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
District III, Central Regional, Club #493
Kalamazoo Garden Council, Inc.

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History of The Garden Pals Club

The Garden Pals Club is under the umbrella of the Portage Senior Center. They provide a meeting room, office support and liability insurance. Any funds raised are turned over to the Center. The Portage Senior Center and volunteers support the Garden Pals activities.

The beginning of Garden Pals at the Portage Senior Center was the inspiration of Joyce Tuinier. In 2013 some gardening minded volunteers formed a garden group to enhance the gardens around the Center. The original members were Cyndi Brown, Trudy Girr, Diane Reese, Lynn Searles, and Karen Wyatt. As the garden areas grew, and there were more volunteers, a group formed calling themselves Garden Pals. In 2016, the group voted to become an official garden club, establishing bylaws, regular meeting times and joining the National and Michigan Garden Clubs. The Club has landscaped the front areas including spring and summer flowers and shrubs. They have also enhanced and maintained extensive gardens in the courtyard area, providing a haven for birds, bees, butterflies and enjoyment of our senior population. The floral display drew praise from the Statewide Accreditation Committee of Senior Centers conducted in 2017.

Officers

President	Diane Pilgrim
Vice President	Jill Toma
Secretary	Lynn Searles and Karen Wyatt
Treasurer	Charlotte Kelley
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Joyce Tuinier</i>



Planting and maintaining
the Portage Senior Center
Gardens



Affiliations

Portage Senior Center
320 Library Lane, Portage, MI 49002
Kimberly Phillips,
Senior Center Manager
Phone: 269-329-4550
<https://portagemi.gov/266/Senior-Center>



Portage, MI

Kalamazoo Garden Council
President, Jeanette Meyer
<https://kalamazoogardencouncil.org>



Evelyn Flynn, District III Director
evelfly1@sbcglobal.net
Michigan Garden Club, Inc.



*Welcomed to District III
meeting in Coloma 2017*

Michigan Garden Clubs
Carol Brodbeck, President
504 W. Brunswick Drive,
DeWitt, MI 48820-7107
<https://michigangardenclubs.org>



Objective

The objective of the Garden Pals Garden Club is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and flower arrangement among amateurs, to encourage study and appreciation of flowers, native trees, and shrubs, and to encourage civic beautification. The club shall enhance and maintain the gardens at the Portage Senior Center and encourage seniors to become interested in joining the Garden Pals of Portage Senior Center. The club shall promote ecology by protecting our natural resources.

When the Club Meets

The Garden Pals meet on the second Monday of the month except for December, January and February. Meetings are held at the Portage Senior Center at 10:00 a.m., except when special excursions are planned.

The fiscal year is July to June. Dues of \$9 is collected on the first meeting of May and sent to the Michigan Garden Club and Kalamazoo Garden Council.

Joyce Tuinier, President and Founder of Garden Pals Portage Senior Center is relocating to Tennessee. We wish her a happy new adventure. She will be missed as a friend, mentor, and leader for the Garden Pals. Let's keep in touch sharing photos of our gardens.



Club Meetings and Activities

There is a job for everyone no matter what your skill level or limitations. Workdays in the garden are scheduled through the growing season. A “garden tip” is shared with the club by a member at each monthly business meeting.

Schedule of activities Garden Pals of Portage Senior Center 2018-2019

July Activities

9, 10:00 a.m. – Business Meeting – Work on garden favors for Garden Tea party.

28 Kalamazoo Area Daylily Society (KADS) daylily Sale, Bank Street Farmers Market, 1204 Bank Street, Kalamazoo. Sale begins at 7 a.m. – Noon

Planning for Garden Tea Party – assignments of jobs

August Activities

3, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Garden Tea Party,

4, 7:30 a.m., Annual Iris Rhizome Sale, Bank Street Farmer's Market, 1204 Bank Street, Kalamazoo

13, 10:00 a.m. – Business Meeting – Recap of Garden Tea Party

27, 10:00 a.m. – Garden workday and review of the yearbook.

September Activities

10, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting – Discussion of items to sell at bazaar, Speaker and Member of Garden Pals, Jill Toma, "Orchids 101"

12, 11:45 a.m. – Bell's Brewery Tour with the Petal Pushers Garden Club

21, 10:00 a.m. – Pull summer plants and plant fall bulbs in front of the Center

22, MGC District III Fall Meeting, South Haven, MI

24, Kalamazoo in Bloom – front bed maintenance

October Activities

4, Good Neighbor Day

5, Plant Day at PSC of plants from Wenke's Good Neighbor Day outing

8, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting – Forcing Bulbs – Luba from Schram's Greenhouse and finalize prep for Bazaar

22, 9:00 a.m. - Kalamazoo Garden Council Greens Workshop - Mailbox Covers

29, 9:00 a.m. Kalamazoo Garden Council Greens Workshop-Swags and Pinecones

November Activities

3, 9:00 a.m. to 5: p.m., Portage Senior Center Bazaar – Sale of plants and seasonal decorations

5, 9:00 a.m., Kalamazoo Garden Council Greens Workshop-Bow Making

12, 10:00 a.m. – Business Meeting

12, 9:00 a.m. – Kalamazoo Garden Council Greens Workshop, Tie-on for swags and wreaths

19, 9:00 a.m. Kalamazoo Garden Council Greens Workshop, Fresh green arrangements (for yourself)

29, 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Kalamazoo Garden Council Greens Sale Preview Party (for members and invited guests)

30, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Kalamazoo Garden Council Greens sale open to the public

December Activities

1, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Kalamazoo Garden Council
Greens Sale

10, 11:00 a.m. Martel's lunch for Garden Pals Members

March Activities

11, 10:00 a.m. – Business Meeting

April Activities

8, 10:00 a.m., Business Meeting – trip to Meijer Gardens in
Grand Rapids to see the butterfly display

May Activities

13, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Business Meeting – Trip to Holland to
see the tulips from Tulip Time event

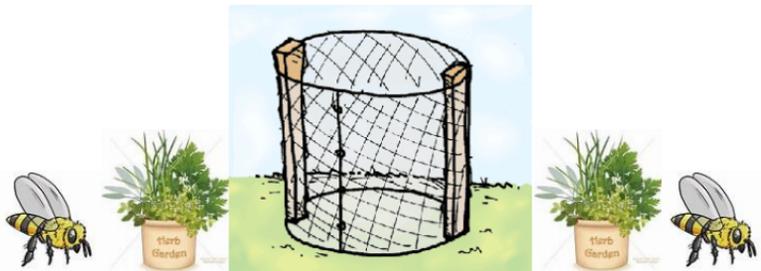
Pay dues for Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. membership
and Kalamazoo Garden Council (\$9)

Kalamazoo in Bloom Planting Day at Portage Senior
Center

June Activities

10, 10:00 a.m., Business Meeting and Members' Brunch
and Annual Meeting

17, 10:00 a.m., Fernwood Botanical Gardens in Niles, MI



On Going Projects

- The maintenance and beautification of the Portage Senior Center's outdoor gardens.
- Participant in Kalamazoo in Bloom planting day and bed adoption.
- Enhance the Certified Monarch Way Station garden providing native plants for monarchs and essential insects.
- Maintain the nesting boxes at the Portage Senior Center for Eastern Bluebirds. Two bluebird houses have been installed to entice Bluebird visitors.
- Maintain the hummingbird feeder to encourage hummingbirds to visit the Portage Senior Center garden.
- Participate at the Portage Senior Center Bazaar the first Saturday of November which is open to the public. Garden Pals have crafted terrariums, dried and sold herbs from the Center's garden.
- Planting and maintaining of the Vertical Wood Herbal Garden Planter.

New Projects

- Adding and maintaining Mason bees to the Portage Senior Center Gardens.
- Increasing the size of the herb gardens.
- Developing compost area.
- Utilizing and maintaining rain barrels
- Recruit new members and advertising Garden Pals' activities.

Report to the Portage Senior Center 2017

Joyce Tuinier
President of Garden Pals



In February, we met with four members, having two snowbirds away for the winter. We have been featured in the Kalamazoo in Bloom winter newsletter recognizing our accomplishments as a new small garden club. In March, four of us went on the Portage Senior Center trip to the Chicago Flower and Garden Show and while there, a new member was recruited. In April, we were officially welcomed at the Spring Division III Michigan Garden Club gathering in Constantine that five of us attended.

Over the 2016 Holiday season, we suggested purchasing an evergreen tree to be placed at our Portage Senior Center entrance and lighted, later to be planted in the front for future decorations. As Spring started, our front bed was filled with an array of spring flowers planted by a club member and her family in the Fall. In May, we planted flowers donated by Kalamazoo in Bloom in that front bed. Copious varieties of plants and shrubs (procured through Wenke's Good Neighbor Day participation) were planted throughout all our Portage Senior Center beds surrounding the Center. In May, our club painted the vertical herb wall in the courtyard with colorful stenciled décor. In June, the Bluebird Society presented and installed two birdhouses to enhance the courtyard environment. In June, a workshop was conducted by two of our members making hypertufa containers.

During the Summer, we toured Crane Park in Kalamazoo, gardens of the Paw Paw and South Haven Garden Clubs, Southern Exposure in Marshall, and the Chicago Botanical Gardens in Northbrook, IL. We have

had speakers on Butterflies, Birds and Bees. In August, we hosted a Garden Tea Party, complete with hats and finery in our Portage Senior Center courtyard for 35 attendees from a Red Hat Society and Portage Senior Center members. Entertainment was provided by Sweet Adelines. Club members made table decorations, tea sandwiches, cookies and bars. Plant markers were placed throughout the surrounding gardens. Door prizes were awarded to all. In September, we started making terrariums, painting pots for herbs and cup and saucer bird feeders in preparation for the November Portage Senior Center Bazaar. We filled two tables with our wares and placed items in the Portage Club Senior Center showcase for continued sales.

As the season closed, bulbs were again planted in the front bed as a harbinger of another year of color and activities by our very hard working, fun loving garden club members.





Garden Pals Hosted
a Summer Garden Tea Party.
Serving Lemonade, Iced
Tea, Tea Sandwiches, Cookies,
and Door Prizes in the
Court Yard at the Portage Senior
Center.



2016-2017 Activities

Hypertufua,
Terrariums,
Building a
Vertical Wall
Drying Herbs,
Feeding
Humming Birds,
Volunteering for
Kalamazoo in
Bloom,
Installation of
Blue Bird Houses,
Trips to Southern
Exposure,
Crane Park and
Garden Pal's Gardens





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