

District I

Debbie Nagy, GCI District Director

Bull Valley Garden Club had a busy and fulfilling fall season, including hosting the district fall meeting. Members handcrafted the centerpieces and several of the raffle baskets to help make the event a resounding success. Members continued to work on civic projects in late summer and early fall including the Thompson Road Pollinator Garden in partnership with the Land Conservancy of McHenry County. It had a soft opening in October showcasing native plantings, new picnic areas, and a birdwatching station. The club also tended to the Stickney House gardens, maintained the Memorial Brick fundraiser, and advanced plans for the Christmas tree display at the Woodstock Opera House. This year's theme, "The Golden Age", will feature wool and hand painted wooden ornaments. Members were also busy with hospice floral arrangements and daffodil bulb sales. Looking ahead, plans are underway for a yearlong celebration of the club's 80th anniversary in 2026-2027. Events will honor the club's roots in conservation, education, and community beautification.

Coming off the summer celebration of our 75th anniversary, **Green Gate Garden Club** had a busy fall. A reporter from the Northwest Herald newspaper attended a meeting to learn about the history of the group and garden clubs in general and wrote an article about the club. In October, we made floral arrangements in pie pumpkins for seniors in the county and also made fall greeting cards for those in senior facilities. Five members attended the fall meeting. By the time this article comes out, we will have visited Blumen Gardens in Sycamore, cleaned up the Colonel Palmer House garden, and placed flags in that garden to honor veterans.

Tri-City Garden Club in the Quad Cities will celebrate our 107th anniversary in 2026. New TOGC officers and board members plus programs and events will be introduced at the January annual meeting. Past presidents will be recognized and members with 50 years of continuous membership will be honored with Lifetime Membership. During the winter, the Civic Beautification & Conservation Committee will be accepting grant applications from local nonprofits. In March, we will have a program on new plants for 2026 with Kate Terrill, president of Wallace Garden Center. The April program will feature the work of Tapestry Farms, an urban farm system that invests in refugees living in the area, presented by executive director, Ann McGlynn.

Winnebago Garden Club enjoyed several fun fall programs including a trip to Aquascape to see all of the pond ideas, and a program on bonsai with the Rock River Bonsai Society. We were saddened with the loss of founding member Judy Hanson. In 2026, we'll start off with our annual business meeting, a program on invasive plants with master gardener, Shey Lowman, and a trip to Jung's in Middleton. The club will also celebrate 20 years of existence in August!

District I

Debbie Nagy, GCI District Director

The **Women's Garden Club of Boone County** typically sponsors a Christmas tree for the Hometown Christmas in Belvidere the first week of December. In keeping with a garden theme, the club made angel ornaments using a small acorn, pine cone, split milkweed pod, gold lame pipe cleaner, golf tee, gold ribbon, regular pipe cleaner, and gold spray paint. The host of the September meeting assembled a kit for each ornament prior to the meeting and everyone took some home to put together. They were spray painted at the October meeting. The tree will be donated to a family in need after the event.