

District II

Linda Groble, GCI District Director

Bloomington Garden Club Come see what we're all about at Bloomington Garden Club! The new year begins with our annual business meeting on February 17. Agenda items will include a review of 2025 activities, upcoming events for 2026 (including our popular annual flower and plant sale in May), and a discussion about our charitable donations. The club will also be making lanyards for name badges at this meeting. Bloomington Garden Club's annual flower and plant sale will be May 8 at 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm and May 9 at 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Bloomington Park District Maintenance Building (south of Rt. 20 on Springfield). We'll feature annuals, plants, vegetables, herbs, and perennials. Monthly meetings are on the third Tuesday from 6:15 to 8:00 pm at Cornerstone Faith Community Church. May 19, S.C.A.R.C.E. environmental recycling; June 16, monarch and pollinator waystations; July 21, "Don't Squash That Bug!"; and August 18, indoor gardening to extend the season. We gather at Cornerstone Faith Community Church, 118 First Street in Bloomington at 6:15 pm for social time; announcements at 6:45 pm; and at 7:00 pm our meeting begins. Visitors are always welcome. Hope to see you there! bloomingtongardenclub.org

Bolingbrook Garden Club is off to a great start for the 2026 year. Recently, we had our first meeting of the new year. Our club meets on the second Thursday of the month except for July and August. Our annual plant sale is tentatively set for May 9. We will be selling annuals, perennials, vegetables, tomatoes, and herbs. With new officers in place, the club will be focusing on gardening issues as well as related topics. We will continue to support projects for the benefit of the community, but we want to honor our initial mission which is to "promote & encourage the exchange of horticultural knowledge." Upcoming scheduled events include a seed expo at the Fountaindale Library on April 11. Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 25. Look for our booth as we join the celebration on the village grounds. Further details on our club and our various activities can be found on Facebook or bolingbrookgardenclub.org.

Brookfield Garden Club will have their annual plant sale June 6. This typically coincides with the first farmer's market in town. This is our one and only fundraiser. Funds received go towards the speakers. The Brookfield Garden Club will once again be around town with their annual garden walk. The event is scheduled for June 27, followed by a summer get together. August 29, the club will be hosting their very own Tasty Creations. The club comes together to celebrate their garden wins by showcasing fruits, herbs, or vegetables they grew and creates a tasty dish for all members to try. For the next year, we already have a few speakers lined up, and some fun road trips. We will meet at the end of the month to finalize our field trips.

Cress Creek Garden Club of Naperville celebrated the success of their November fundraiser, 'Hats off to 50 Years' at their monthly December meeting. The club raised a

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substantial amount of money to provide scholarships and charitable donations to deserving individuals and nonprofit organizations in Naperville and surrounding areas. Members of the club celebrated February by donating to our Share the Love Campaign, Necessities, Drive to benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry. Personal products including shampoo, bar soap, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary pads, tampons, and toilet paper were donated by members to benefit the clients of the Interfaith Food Pantry located in Carol Stream. The pantry serves residents in six communities including Carol Stream, Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Warrenville, Wheaton, and Winfield. Over 250 families are assisted each month. Monetary donations were made as well. Native plant sales were done in February and all other plant sale items will be available at the May plant sale. Scholarship applications were accepted and the Cress Creek Garden Club Scholarship Committee reviewed applications, essays, transcripts, and letters of recommendation submitted by high school seniors and/or college students who plan on majoring in fields associated with horticulture and whose goals parallel those of the club. Majors included horticulture, landscape design, conservation, agriculture, forestry, ecology, botany, environmental studies, and related fields. Scholarship recipients will be announced and celebrated at a luncheon in June.

Crestview Garden Club of Elmhurst Please stop by the Crestview Garden Club of Elmhurst 46th annual plant sale on May 16 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Depot at Wild Meadows Trace, 511 S. York St., Elmhurst. We have many plant offerings and varieties that include sun and shade perennials, natives, herbs, groundcovers, and plants to attract pollinators. Join our upcoming meetings: April 7, "Home Composting Made Simple by David Brooks and May 5, "The Lyme Disease Epidemic and What Gardeners Need to Know" by Dr. Owen Kramer. Meetings at 7 pm at the Community Bank of Elmhurst, 330 W. Butterfield/Spring Rd., Second Fl., Elmhurst. For more, visit crestviewgardenclub.com

The **Darien Garden Club** is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2026. The first few months of the year have been busy planning and hosting our spring gardening inspiration event. On May 16 at 11:00 am, we will dedicate our Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker. We are planting red/white/blue perennial plants this spring to spruce up the area along with some additional native bushes. We are also dedicating a brick at Indian Prairie Public Library (IPPL) and in our monarch garden on the St. John Lutheran Church property to commemorate our 25th anniversary. We will decorate the IPPL indoor display case with our historical information and upcoming National Garden Week presentation as well as plant the outdoor planters in red, white, and blue flowers. We will host our pollinator month outreach event at IPPL on June 14 for the community. It

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will be a very busy 2026 as we celebrate our 25th anniversary all year long. Please join us at the celebrations and other events. All are welcome.

The Garden Club of Bensenville It's spring and time to blossom. During our May 7 meeting, we'll be getting ready for our annual plant and bakery sale that takes place on May 16 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. It's held at the Bensenville library, and there will be all kinds of plants and perennials, plus home baked goods, garden items, kids' activities, and gift baskets to take a chance on.

On Friday evening, June 5, our club will help the library kick-off their summer reading program, "Plant a Seed". We're looking forward to cultivating young readers with a fun garden activity while they check out their books.

On June 9, we'll celebrate our club with lunch while making plans to plant red, white, and blue flowers to surround our Blue Star Memorial marker at Redmond Park. It's time to get ready for our country's 250th birthday on July 4th. Breiter Palm Park is our club's picnic lunch destination on July 9, to enjoy the outdoors, talk gardens while admiring the native plants, and enjoy the friendship we all share. August is usually a time we take a tour. Perhaps, we'll stay local and tour the gardens of some of our members and then end the day with lunch.

Garden Club of Downers Grove Our general meetings are on the third Monday of the month at 12:15 pm at the American Legion Post 80, 4000 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, and we welcome the public to attend. Meetings begin with social time from 12:15 until 12:45 followed by our general meeting which includes updates from our president, treasurer, secretary and committee chairs. Short presentations are given by our Conservation & Environment and Horticulture chairs and the general meeting concludes with awarding door prizes. Featured programs begin at 1:45 until 3:00.

On May 18, Nina Koziol will present "The American Home Garden Design 1830-Present." In June, the club will receive from Downers Grove Mayor Bob Barnett a proclamation to kick off the celebration for National Garden Week (June 7-13). To celebrate this occasion, the Downers Grove Library and the club will co-sponsor a program. Please see our website for additional information as you need to register. On June 14, the club will participate in the garden party and ice cream social sponsored by the Westmont Park District at the Gregg House Museum. We will help the children make take-home flower containers. We will have a member's only potluck luncheon followed by a program and container plant raffle at our June 15 meeting. As there are no general meetings in July and August, the club and guests will take field trips. Check our website for additional information. For more information on our winter meetings, visit our website

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gardenclubofdownersgrove.net/ and like us on Facebook at facebook.com/gardenclubdownersgrove

Garden Club of Galewood Montclare

Spring Reset, getting your garden ready

Perennial Care in Spring

Pollinators, Native plants

Tomatoes 101: pruning, training and maximizing yield

Midseason Garden triage, what's working, what's not and why

Harvest, Preserve and extend: getting more from what you grew

Fall planning & garden design for next year.

We maintain a community garden at a neighborhood park, and we usually clean winter debris and get it ready for spring sometime in April, have a booth at our neighborhood summer fest Galewoodstock, and put the garden to rest in November.

The Garden Club of Oak Park/River Forest has a busy spring schedule ahead. We will host five online and in-person club meetings featuring gardening presentations and a floral demonstration. Topics include garden philosophy, conservation through the University of Illinois Extension Service, Japanese garden design, and garden rejuvenation. This year will be our 32nd annual garden walk which funds our scholarships major fundraiser.

Garden Study Club of Hinsdale members will show off their green thumbs in early May as they dig and pot plants from their home gardens in preparation for their annual plant sale. The plant sale will be held on May 9 at the Hinsdale History Museum, 15 South Clay Street, Hinsdale, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Save the date, and plan to come early for the best selection! On May 11, members will turn out, gardening gloves in hand, for an afternoon of spring maintenance at the Victorian garden, also at the Hinsdale History Museum. The club year concludes with a summer garden party social at a member's home in mid-June. The Garden Study Club of Hinsdale meets monthly from September through June, generally the third Monday of the month, at various locations in the greater Hinsdale/Oak Brook area. We welcome new members. For more information, please visit GSCH.clubexpress.com.

Geneva Garden Club continues to grow and thrive. In May, we will feature the annual scholarship winners presentation of awards at our luncheon meeting. One week after that is our spring plant sale on May 16. The tradition of AOT's, Always on Tuesday, continues during the summer season as we meet weekly at member homes/gardens. In addition, our many community beautification efforts are on-going, e.g., maintaining planters throughout the downtown area for CASA, the Geneva History Museum and the

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American Legion, as well as the Marklund Hyde Center and weekly maintenance at the Japanese Garden and Garden Club Park both on the Fox River. This summer will mark our sixth season volunteering at the jail garden outreach program at the Kane County Jail, where our members enthusiastically share their time, expertise, and passion. As the growing season progresses, the vegetables are harvested and donated back to the community. To learn more, visit us on Facebook and genevagardenclub.com.

Spring is a time of rebirth and the **Grassroots Garden Group**, founded in 2015, enters its 12th season continuing our focus on beautifying the Village of Westchester and supporting the Westchester Food Pantry whom we've donated over \$40,000 to since 2018. We are in the planning stages for our two biggest annual fundraisers—our plant sale on May 9, and the Westchester Garden Walk on July 18. Proceeds from our popular GGG Market are reinvested into community beautification projects, such as our now-thriving native pollinator garden. Lastly, for the first time, Grassroots Garden Group is offering a \$1000 scholarship to a local high school senior who intends to pursue studies in a horticultural field. For more information about our events and activities, please visit grassrootsgardengroup.org or find us on Facebook at @GrassrootsGardenGroup or Instagram at @grassroots_garden_group.

Hilltop Gardeners Garden Club Please join us in celebrating our 60th annual plant sale fundraiser on May 9 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Fox Bend Golf Course Pavillion, 3s16 US-34, Oswego. The sale features about 1000 plants offering a variety of perennials, vegetables, and herbs starters grown and donated by our members.

Itasca Garden Club All are welcomed. April 28, spring luncheon 10:30 am to 3:00 pm, Chandler's Chophouse & Grill; "Container Design 101" presented by Stephanie Dalton. cost is \$50 per person; May 5 at noon Itasca Park District, "Landscaping with Native Plants" presented by David Brooks. For more information about the IGC contact ItascaGardenPresident@gmail.com

LaGrange Garden Club The club meets on the first Monday of the month from September to May (no meeting in January and second Monday in Sept) at 12:15 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange, starting with hospitality and a meeting followed by a program. In June, we always have an outing.

The club will be busy in May with their Members & Friends Annual Plant Sale and many community projects, including planting all the village business district containers, working on our post office garden and the historical society and retirement home containers. We also have a member outing to Elawa Farms. Summertime includes weekly small flower arrangements for local nursing and retirement homes. lagrangegardenclub.org.

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If you are interested in joining our club, contact our membership chair Helen at (708) 579-5913. For further information about our activities check our website www.lagrangegardenclub.org.

Lombard Garden Club Our summer events will be: April 24 Centennial Celebration luncheon at The Carlisle in Lombard with the Roaring 20s theme. Dr. Annette Bochenek will give a special presentation on Hollywood in bloom and how Hollywood films have long been inspired by nature; May 7 Lilac Sale, 12:00 pm to 7 :00 pm at Lilacia Park in Lombard; May 15 program with Bob Zei Tomato Man; June 26 Lombard Garden Club traditional birthday party at the log cabin in Lombard. The Archives Committee will share the club's history along with cake, ice cream, and all the trimmings; and, in July, we will host an informal ice cream social at Lilacia Park. Throughout the summer, we will continue our series of garden walks.

Pleasantdale Garden Club in Burr Ridge May 6 is the club's spring fundraiser luncheon at Crowne Plaza Chicago SW in Burr Ridge with live entertainment! We'd love for other clubs and guests to join us! It's a fun event with lots of raffle prizes and baskets. Call Nancy at 630-455-4265 for tickets and questions. In June, we'll have a member field trip and lunch. Summer brings time to work in the Robert Vial House Garden on Wolf Road and a break to enjoy working in our own gardens and visiting gardens and plant nurseries. pleasantdalegardenclub.org

The **Pottawatomie Garden Club** will hold meetings each month from March until October which will include an educational program followed by a business meeting. This spring, the club will award two \$4,000 scholarships to applicants from the St. Charles school district and will support local charities from the area. The club will also plant flowers in downtown St. Charles around the municipal building and across the bridges in the spring. Thank you for supporting our club!

Schaumburg Community Garden Club had a great start to 2026 with monthly meetings providing an opportunity to learn more about local farms, Arlington Crest Farm and Spring Valley Heritage Farm, and to hear more great ideas on how to use native plants. While the online part of our annual native plant sale was completed in April, a tent sale will be available for anyone who'd like to stop by Spring Valley Nature Center May 16 or 17. Also in May, we will award two scholarships to worthy graduates from Township High School District 211, and we'll once again support Schaumburg School District 54 Prairie Partners in their efforts to set up and maintain youth-led native gardens. The volunteer team for the club's food pantry garden is busy with cool season vegetables and plans to have all its warm season plantings in by early June. All produce is directed to our local township food pantries—average annual donation has been

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around 3000 pounds! The club also has volunteers who help tend the architecturally-significant Schweikher House peony and iris beds and the Schaumburg Township Heritage Garden at the Town Hall. We look forward to a summer of interesting speakers at our monthly meetings (second Wednesday of each month at Spring Valley Nature Center) as well as our annual member garden walk and assorted field trips. For more details, check out Facebook or our website Schaumburggardenclub.org.

Tri-Village Garden Club 2026 looks to be another year of growth and gardening for Tri-Village Garden Club! Our 2025 food pantry garden donated over 1,000 pounds of organically grown produce to food pantries servicing our communities: Bartlett, Hanover Park, and Streamwood. We launched a free seed library at Bartlett Library. Our Green Thumb Club had wonderful events with children at Bartlett Library, and we hosted our first Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest! We cared for and updated our four public gardens. We'll be doing all that and more in 2026! Please mark your calendars and join us if you can for the following:

March 7, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, Free Seed Library Spring Kick Off, Bartlett Library, 800 S. Bartlett Rd.

May 9, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Annual Plant Sale and Garden Bazaar. Bartlett Log Cabin, 102 N. Eastern Ave. We'll have a wide array of professionally grown annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetables as well as baskets. We're looking for artisans to display and sell their garden-related handmade items, so if you're artistic or know someone who is, please reach out.

Spring speakers will be:

Kathryn Mueller, March 18, Monarchs in the Spring

Sarah Christensen, April 15, Tree Care in Our Region

Barbara DeLee, May 20, Members will do a craft and will paint flower pots.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at Streamwood Fire Station, 1204 S. Park Ave. Meetings start at 6:30 pm.

Twig'n Bloom Garden Club You're invited! We meet on the second Tuesday of each month September through May except January. We break for the summer.

May 16, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Annual Plant Sale, 450 N. Elizabeth St. Lombard. Home grown perennials and natives.

June 9, Members potluck supper.

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In August, we plan a trip to walk the grounds of Ball Horticulture. Stay connected and updated at [facebook.com/groups/362415013929231](https://www.facebook.com/groups/362415013929231)

Members of the **Wayne Countryside Garden Club** are excited for winter to be over soon and are looking forward to a wonderful line up of programs for 2026. Our group gets together in early spring for a kickoff meeting and to start gearing up for a year of amazing events. Activities range from learning how to create magical centerpieces with the talented Anne Gardner, to taking field trips with picnic lunches to The Farmacy Farmstead in Newark, and also touring the gardens of Cantigny in Wheaton. One of the highlights is our annual luncheon which will feature Rebecca Tulloch, presenting "The Women Who Mesmerized the Stars." We always conclude the year with holly hanging throughout the Village of Wayne and then get ready to do it all again!

Western Springs Garden Club As our 100 year anniversary draws to a close, we are wrapping up the final celebrations, including summer field trips and gifts to Village entities. In May, we host our annual spring luncheon and election of officers, where members will receive a special memory book celebrating our club's history.

Our much-anticipated annual plant sale takes place on May 9, followed later in the month by the planting of a unique annual display in the Blue Star Memorial Garden. Summer activities also include the resumption of design and maintenance work in the Spring Rock Park perennial garden. We continue our year-round Floral Re-creation activities when families thoughtfully gift flowers from a local funeral home to our club. These are re-arranged into smaller bouquets and delivered to area senior facilities.

All are welcome to join our casual, friendly gatherings. For more information visit us at westernspringsgardenclub.org, on Facebook, or contact us at wspringsgardenclub@gmail.com.

Wheaton Garden Club was proud to sponsor the DuPage Monarch Project's program, The Buzz in Your Garden on Feb. 25 via zoom. The program focused on the essential contributions pollinating bees make to the health and productivity of gardens and ecosystems. Participants gained a new appreciation for how people and bees are helping each other while peacefully working and living side by side.

Members will celebrate warm sunny days with two inspirational field trips. In May, we will tour Lilacia Park in Lombard, a world-renowned horticultural showcase that features over 700 lilacs and 35,000 tulips. In June, we will tour Fabyan Japanese Gardens and Villa, a historical estate overlooking the Fox River in Geneva. The one-acre Japanese garden, designed in 1910, was featured as a serene oasis on many post cards in the

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1920s and 30s. June also marks the beginning of our inspirational and educational member garden walks, which continue on through August.

The Wheaton Garden Club plant sale is on Saturday May 16 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at 504 Hamilton Drive in Wheaton. The sale features professionally grown annuals many of which are 'Proven Winners'. Offerings include hanging baskets and individual pots of various sizes. Summer favorites available for purchase include a wide variety of geraniums, coleuses, salvias, zinnias, and petunias. A wide selection of red, white, and blue flowers are available in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. For more information, please email us at plantsale@wheatongardenclub.org.