

District VIII

Cynthia Ritter, GCI District Director

Oak Lawn Garden Club Greetings from the Oak Lawn Garden Club. We have had an exciting 2024-2025 year. We had an election of new officers and on April 24, we had our installation luncheon at the Ridge Country Club. A great time was had by all. May 17 was our annual plant sale held at Wolfe Wildlife Refuge. It was a tremendous success. June 22, we held our annual garden walk, which also happened to be the hottest day of the year. Five beautiful and unique gardens were featured. In July, we had our annual share my garden, where five members showed their lovely gardens. Our speaker for our September meeting was Mike Nowak who spoke on climate changes which will affect our gardens and the entire world. Our fall trip to the Chicago Botanic Gardens was October 11. It was a cool, bright, sunny day. The beautiful hanging mums and carved pumpkins were a big attraction. We also visited the Model Railroad Garden. The miniature trains passed through tunnels, across bridges, and past replicas of American landmarks. Our garden club makes donations to many of the food pantries and needy organizations in the Oak Lawn area. Heather Prince was our speaker for our October meeting and was very knowledgeable about "Nifty Plants for Shady Places". Heather teaches at the Chicago Botanic Gardens and the Morton Arboretum and presented us with a great list of plants for many different areas of shade. On December 4, we will have our annual Christmas luncheon at Ridge Country Club. Next year, the Oak Lawn Garden Club will be seventy years old. We will be planning a huge celebration. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Oak Lawn Garden Club.

The South Holland Garden Club has been busy this year for sure. Along with the South Holland Education Commission and help from the Village of South Holland, we, altogether, were able to utilize an old cement storage area and put in 16 outside raised garden beds and four raised beds inside two greenhouses. Seed packets that were handed out by the garden club in the Memorial Day parade were also planted in these beds. We were also able to secure a \$350.00 garden grant from the Cook County Farm Bureau for supplies and plants. Ribbon cutting of this year's first time Kids Community Garden took place September 2 with all village officials present. Labor Day we sold tulip bulbs as our fall fundraiser.