

April 2010 Dowling Community Garden Newsletter

Greetings fellow gardeners. The 2010 season is underway! This month's newsletter is a long one, but we have used headlines and tried to cover the points as succinctly as possible.

Service Assignments

Service assignments for 2010 have been posted on the inside of the tool shed door. The list is sorted by plot number. Only the plot number, first name of the primary gardener and the service assignment are given. Your contact information (full name, phone number and e-mail address) will be given to your task coordinator. Unless you are assigned to clean-up (see below) your coordinator will contact you to schedule the tasks to be completed.

As in past years, the primary gardener will be the contact point for service hours and will be responsible for the completion of at least 4 service hours per year. Garden partners (or anyone else) may perform the service hours, but a service time reporting form must be completed and placed in the box inside the shed door within 2 weeks of the service. We strongly recommend that the form be completed immediately after finishing the task. That form must include the plot number to assure that hours are properly credited.

Clean-up Days

Because of the shortness of time until the May 8 cleanup, this event will be by invitation only, with a random selection from among gardeners who are assigned to clean-up. If you are selected, you will receive a separate invitation message. Invited gardeners will NOT be required to attend, but we hope that they will choose to do so. The other 6 cleanup days will be available for open sign-up approximately three weeks before each event. As previously announced, clean-up days are: May 8, June 5, July 10, August 7, September 11, October 2, and October 30, from 10:00 AM - Noon. To fulfill your 4 hour service obligation, you will need to attend 2 clean-up days.

Meet and Greet: May 8

Join new fellow gardeners at the garden on Saturday, May 8th, 10-11:30 AM and enjoy some coffee & donuts. Bring any seeds you have to share as there will be a small seed giveaway. There will also be a demonstration of the water system and barrel filling. This event will take place at the same time as the May 8 clean-up.

Plant Sale: May 15

The Dowling Community Garden plant sale will be held in the garden on May 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A list of plants that will be available is posted in the kiosk outside the tool shed door. Arrive early for the best selection.

Food Shelf Donations

We remind gardeners that the recession has greatly increased demand on food shelves. Last year Dowling gardeners contributed over 3,500 pounds of much-appreciated fresh vegetables to area food shelves. With your help, we will exceed that

total in 2010. Consider planting a "row for the hungry" this year. Food shelf pickups have already begun. Watch for a pickup schedule in the kiosk on the outside of the tool shed door.

Looking forward to seeing you in the garden!

Eric, Jeffrey, Jerry, Joan, Kirsten, and Steve