

July 2010 Dowling Community Garden Newsletter

We are into the heart of summer! Plants (and weeds) are growing rapidly. The first tomatoes are here! It is time to tend your plot regularly and harvest the fruits of your labor.

Garden Theft

Again this year, we are having ongoing problems with theft from Garden plots. All gardeners can help deter this problem by getting to know their neighbors. If you know your neighbors and you see someone unfamiliar harvesting in their plot, ask who they are, and why they are there. If you see anyone going from plot to plot picking, they are stealing. Going uninvited onto rented space and taking things of value without permission is theft. Call 911 and report a "theft in progress." **The address of the Garden is 3901 46th Avenue South.** Then follow the thief. Try to get a physical description and (if possible) a license plate number. Provide the information to a responding officer, or call Shun Tillman, Community Policing Specialist, Third Precinct, 612-673-2846.

August Clean-Up Day

The next clean-up day will be held on August 7, from 10 a.m. to noon. If you are assigned to clean-up duty, a sign-up sheet will be on the inside of the tool shed door starting on or about July 17. **Only** those gardeners assigned to cleanup should use the sign-up sheet. This clean-up will be limited to 15 gardeners assigned to clean-up, so sign up early. Note that signing up allows you to work on the specified day. To get credit for your service time, you must submit a Service Reporting form after you complete your service. Remaining clean-up days are September 11, October 2, and October 30.

Keep Our Garden Looking Good!

As we move into the heart of summer, everything is growing rapidly. By far the most common problems that result in citations for rule violations are path obstruction (raspberries, rhubarb, etc.) and excessive weeds. Let's all do our part to make the whole Garden look good for our neighbors, our visitors, and ourselves! Please review the rules that you received with your registration materials and follow them. A copy of the rules is available online at:

<http://www.dowlingcommunitygarden.org/pages/rules.htm>

Food Donation

We are entering the peak period of garden productivity. This is what we have all been waiting for! But when friends and neighbors begin pulling down the shades and not answering the door when they see you coming, it is time to begin participating in the Garden's extensive food shelf donation program. Check the pickup schedule in the kiosk on the shed door and get your produce to the coolers and buckets as close as possible to the pickup time. Put leafy produce in buckets with some water in the bottom. Be sure all of the stems reach the water. A quote from a coordinator at a food shelf we deliver to: "This stuff flies out of here. It is gone within an hour or two of when it is delivered."

Dowling Community Garden Facebook Page

As announced in last month's newsletter, the Garden has its own Facebook page. If you are a Facebook member, search for "Dowling Community Garden", then submit a request to join the group. Once you are a group member, you can read and post comments on any Garden-related topic. In addition to general comments on the group wall, there are currently 3 discussion topics: Beginner Questions, Gardening with Kids, and Connecting with Other Gardeners. Check it out!

Tip of the Month

The rainy weather seems to have affected the tomatoes in the garden. Many of the tomatoes leaves have blight (a fungal disease) on them, especially on the lower leaves. It is a good practice to cut off the leaves with blight on them so it does not transfer to other parts of the plant or to other plants. For more information on how to deal with insects and diseases in your garden, see <http://www.dowlingcommunitygarden.org/pages/insectDisease.htm>