



# DOWLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

SUMMER 2006  
GARDENING NEWS AND VIEWS

## newsletter

### HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL *is August 19*

**SATURDAY, 10 AM – 1 PM** Come to Dowling's Heirloom Festival, our yearly celebration of fruits, vegetables and flowers featuring varieties from your great-grandparents' garden. Taste tomatoes with old-fashioned flavor, sample summer foods, and get recipes for using your garden produce. We'll have displays of heirloom vegetables and flowers, information on saving seeds and sources for old-time varieties, and seeds saved at Dowling Garden to give away.

**SPOTLIGHT IS ON OLD-FASHIONED FLOWERS** Our focus for Heirloom Festival this year is flowers: growing, flower crafts and gifts, even eating them! We'll have a demonstration on how to make "tussie-mussies", small nosegays that convey secret messages, and information on drying flowers for wreath-making. Learn about fragrance flowers, and how to use them in your home. Find out which flowers are edible and get recipes for using them.

#### Schedule of events:

10-11:00 am	Flower arranging demonstration
10:30 am-1 pm	Tomato tasting
11-11:30 am	Seward Coop food samples

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 17: MINI CLEAN-UP** Please help tidy up the garden's common areas before Heirloom Festival. We'll meet from 6:30-8 pm.

We need your gardens looking their best for the Festival. All gardeners should have their gardens weeded and looking neat, paths mowed and clear. 46th Avenue gardeners, please make sure your sidewalks are well-weeded and swept of debris before the 19th.

**ARE YOU GROWING HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES OR FLOWERS?** Please donate vegetables and flowers to be part of our displays. Heirloom tomatoes are also needed for the tasting.

If you have heirloom varieties to donate to the festival (*display vegetables in good condition will be returned*), contact Susan at 612/722.8022 or srdesign@visi.com.

**WE NEED YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES!** Submit recipes that use seasonal produce, especially tomatoes (see *Susan's contact information above*). We'll publish recipes as space allows and have them available at the festival.

**PARADE OF COMMUNITY GARDENS** The Twin Cities will see open houses at community gardens on August 19, with elected officials and the public invited to come and enjoy the gardens. Let's show off our garden!

### THANK YOU TO...

**PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS** Our heirloom plant sale in May was a great success. Thanks to the gardeners who grew plants for the sale, and Camille and Sandy who worked hard on sale day. Proceeds are being used to present Heirloom Festival and support our seed-saving and distribution efforts.

**WATER SYSTEM WORKERS** Gary offered to make protective concrete collars for our water extension spigots. Thanks! Water barrel fillers have done a great job in this hot weather, and extra thanks go to Roland, Erica, Nicholas and Tim.

**OUR BENCH BUILDER** Jan has made us a new bench to replace the one destroyed by arson. Look for it in the garden by the large rock.

### Give Your EXTRA PRODUCE to the Food Shelf

Dowling Garden donated close to 1000 pounds of produce to local food shelves and meals programs last season. There were still lots of vegetables that went to waste. Please pick your garden regularly and put produce you can't use in the cooler on pickup days.

**HOW IT WORKS** A cooler is located on the west side of the shed, under the pine trees. Please place your produce here the evening before or early morning of the collection day, to avoid the heat of the day. Garden volunteers will collect items for delivery. The pick-up schedule for produce is posted in the bulletin board on the door of the shed.

### Take Note: GARDEN ALERTS

There have been a few incidents of arson in the garden in the last weeks (the bench by the garden, and an item in a garden plot), occurring overnight or very early in the morning. Juveniles have also been caught spray painting.

Now that our gardens are producing, gardeners are reporting thefts of produce. Get to know your gardening neighbors, and be alert for persons who engage in suspicious behavior. It is helpful to bring a cell phone to the garden.

**REPORT THEFTS AND VANDALISM** If you see anything suspicious, take note of the time and date, appearance and age of persons, and the vehicle they are driving. If possible, get the license plate number. Call 911, or the non-emergency number, **348-2345**. Give this address for the garden: 39th Street and 46th Avenue South (*a consistent address allows police to track incidents at the garden*). Insist that the call be dispatched/logged, so the SAFE officer can investigate. **Call the Dowling voice mail with the information, and the steps you have taken.** Alert others in the garden.



### SUMMER GARDENING TIP

**Conserving Water** It's not too late to mulch! Put a 3-inch layer of straw, leaves or dried grass clippings on your garden to hold in moisture. You can also add 3 layers of black newsprint under the organic mulch. Water in the morning or early evening (so plants dry before night-fall), when less water is lost to evaporation. Direct the water at the base of your plants, and avoid wetting foliage. A deep soaking is better than more frequent, shallow watering, except for newly planted crops.

## GARDEN AREAS *that Need Attention*

**DON'T LEAVE UNWANTED MATERIALS BY SHED!** Remove trash to your home garbage can. Weeds and other garden debris go to the compost pile east of the apple trees. Reuseable garden items may be offered on spring and fall clean-up days only.

**RESPECT OUR TOOLS** Put away all tools and watering equipment when you are finished. Put them neatly in the shed, in the spots where they belong. Treat tools kindly and only use them for the purpose they were intended. There have been far too many broken tools this season.

**PATHWAYS** Keep your path mowed, weeded, and free of rocks. Don't put weeds in your path; remove them to the compost pile by the orchard. Make sure garden plants (especially vines and raspberries) are within your plot boundary.

**PLOT INSPECTIONS** Gardens will be inspected for weeds and other violations at these times; be prepared and avoid a citation: July 29-August 6 and September 2-9.

## *How to Use the* WATER SPIGOTS

Water lines were extended farther into the garden on the north and south this spring. New water wands have two valves, so more than one person can access water from the same spigot at the same time. We've purchased new hoses also. This means that up to eight gardeners can water or fill barrels at the same time!

**HOW IT WORKS** There are separate water wands for the north garden and south garden. North garden wands are in the white box near barrels; south garden wands are in the shed. The wands have Y-valves attached; each valve has a shut-off control lever. (Don't detach the valves from the wand.)

Attach hose(s) to valve. Make sure the valve shut-off levers are in the closed position before inserting wand into spigot. When you are ready to water, turn control lever to the open position. When you are finished watering, remember to close valve before removing wand from spigot. Neatly coil hoses and put away hoses and wands.

If you have never used the system before, ask a gardener to show you how the wands and spigots work. These are expensive parts and need to be treated carefully!

## GARDENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

*"The Useful Art of Pickling"* August 18-20, 10am-5pm Friday and Saturday, noon-5pm Sunday at the Oliver Kelley Farm. 2.5 miles SE of Elk River on Hwy. 10. Call 763/441-6896 for information.

*Midtown Farmers' Market* May 6-July 8, open Saturdays 8am-1pm; July 11-October 24, open Saturdays 8am-1pm and Tuesdays 3:30-7:30pm.

*Minnesota State Fair* Enter your vegetables or food you have preserved in the fair! Pickles, jams and preserved foods compete under Creative Activities; vegetables under Ag-Hort-Bee/Farm Crops. Competition rules books are available by calling the Competition Office at 651/288-4417 or online at: [www.mnstatefair.org](http://www.mnstatefair.org). Registration deadlines are early to mid-August. Let us know if you win any prizes!

If it's your job to fill the barrels, check water levels morning and evening as they may need to be filled twice per day in hot weather. Flush the system into the woods (south) or lawn (north) for 5 minutes before filling barrels.

## *New* PERENNIAL GARDEN *Needs Plants*

The new perennial flower garden near the 46th Street entrance is off to a good start, thanks to the help of our flower garden volunteers! We're looking for a few specific donations. If you have low-growing thymes or similar plants for filling gaps between flagstone, or interesting native plants (especially short-grass prairie types) to share, please talk to Shelley or send an email message to her through the 'Contact Us' link on our web site ([www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org](http://www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org)). Also, if you're checking out the garden and notice plants wilting in the hot sun, please feel free to give them a bit of water. Thanks!

**IN MEMORY** We were sad to learn of the recent passing of long-time gardener Julia Markus. We will miss her conversations and tidbits of gardening advice.

**TO CONTACT THE GARDEN, CALL: 651/255-6607**

GO TO [WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDENING.ORG](http://WWW.DOWLINGCOMMUNITYGARDENING.ORG) FOR SEED-SAVING INFORMATION, GARDENING TIPS, RECIPES AND PHOTOS!

## Dowling Community Garden

PO Box 6757  
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651/255-6607

## HEIRLOOM FESTIVAL

AUGUST 19, 10AM - 1PM!

*Return Service Requested*