

Club makes town more beautiful

By Laura Paine
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On a Sunday this June, three members of the Maynard Community Gardeners met at Town Hall to begin a planting project geared towards beautifying the town.

That day, MCG president Lisa Lines, Margaret Abells and Janice Rosenberg planted 60 gladioli bulbs, that were donated to the club by Aubuchon Hardware, who received the bulbs as a part of GE's Earth Day initiative, Plant a Bulb.

More bulbs were planted and maintained courtesy of MCG.

"We got a total of about 150 bulbs, some of which were put in the downtown bucket planters along Main and Nason streets," Lines said. "We have a lot of areas around town that we maintain, including Maplebrook Park, the fire station, Outdoor Store alley and the

gateway planters. Town Hall hasn't gotten a lot of attention because we only have so many volunteers and a limited budget."

Lines said that the donation of bulbs gave the club — which works to plant and keep gardens throughout town — a chance to get a low-maintenance planting into a "bare area"

"It will have a pretty big visual impact for a pretty small level of effort, and that's important because of our limited resources," Lines said. "In any club like this, the same few people do most of the work for years, and so it's hard to add anything new to our maintenance program. Flowers add so much to an area. They soften and brighten the look of a building, they bring smiles to people's faces, and they inspire us to marvel at nature's beauty. We all need beauty in our lives."

MCG, founded in 1995, is

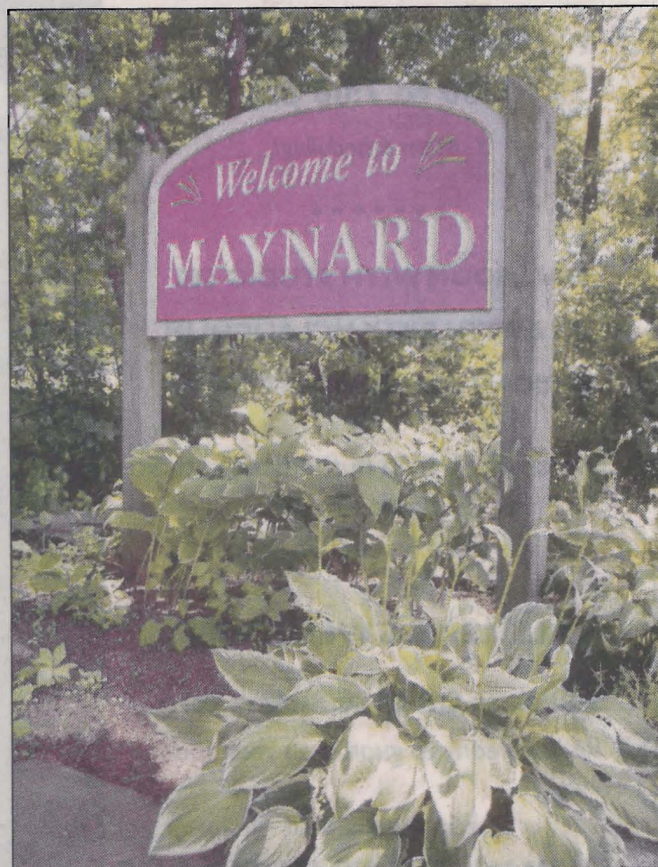
More online

To see photos of the Maynard Community Gardeners' work around town, and a map of their projects, go to Wicked-Local.com/Maynard.

celebrating its 15th year and now has more than 100 members. The club is dedicated to sharing a common interest in horticultural activities, promoting town beautification and creating gardening opportunities for every community member.

"Many of our members have a strong interest in the environment and conservation, and many are strongly civic-minded and volunteer in other organizations such as the Friends of the Maynard Public Library, the Litter League, and the Farmers' Market," Lines said. "We generally hold one or two free educational

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The Maynard Community Gardeners maintain plantings around welcome signs at Maynard's borders. COURTESY PHOTO.

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programs for the public each year, along with two or three hands-on workshops or field trips and four to six social events for our members.”

The club is funded by member dues, which are \$20 a year, the annual May plant sale and donations meant to support specific programs, such the program to create and maintain bucket planters in downtown Maynard.

The MGC will begin participating in the Plant a Row for the Hungry program.

“Our members donate extra produce from their gardens to Open Table and/or the Maynard Food Pantry,” Lines said. “Later this year, we’ll be celebrating Kitchen Garden Day to share the joys of growing our own food.”

MGC donates Garden in

the Woods passes to the Maynard Public Library for use by all residents. The group also founded the Maynard Farmers Market in 1996, which is now its own independent organization and they began the annual town-wide clean-up in 1998, which is now run by the Litter League.

But according to Lines, at the end of the day, the club’s members still have more work to do in getting town support and in their planting projects.

“We’re not quite done,” Lines said of the project started at Town Hall. “Glads are best planted in a staggered fashion over several weeks to maximize the bloom time. We’ll be going back in a week or two to plant the rest — we’ll put in about 120 total. These kinds of projects are part of MCG’s mission of promoting town beautification. As MCG’s president, I’m really grateful



A Maynard Community Gardeners’ planting welcoming people to Maynard. COURTESY PHOTO

that we were able to get these donated bulbs into a spot where they’ll bring a beautiful splash of color later in the summer.”

To learn more about the Maynard Community

Gardeners, visit online at MaynardGardeners.org, or stop by their table at the Farmers’ Market, every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Clocktower Place starting June 26.



A MGC maintained bucket in downtown Maynard. COURTESY PHOTO



Maynard Community Gardener’s plantings in the alley next to the Outdoor Store in downtown Maynard. COURTESY PHOTO