

Northwest District Director  
Mariellen Smith  
MCL Cafeteria, Dec. 2024  
Indianapolis, IN

### **Crown Point Garden Club**

This year, the pollinator garden planted over 500 early Spring Blooming bulbs with the help of the Boy Scouts in November. The club also purchased over 85% of the necessary supplies to irrigate the garden in the future saving the members having to drag garden hoses when the gardens needs watering.

The club had a successful Meals on Wheels flower arrangement meeting in October with a generous \$500 flowers donation from Strack and VanTils supermarket. It allowed us to make over 70 floral arrangements for those receiving meals, as well as the volunteers who deliver them.

In the past two years, our club has welcomed 21 new members! They have formed a membership committee to help introduce and welcome each new members and show them how they can participate actively in the club.

### **Duneland Garden Club**

The Duneland Garden Club created a relationship with the Gabis Arboretum to prune non-deciduous trees and shrubs for the Chesterton downtown holiday planters. Additionally, 80 boxwoods were transplanted from Brinca Cross Gardens and were replanted by a few members and husbands at Thomas Centennial Park. Several members also scraped and painted the gazebo at the same park. In November, members spent four days filling 20 planters and 20 hanging baskets for the holidays in downtown Chesterton. December saw us make cookie trays for the Westchester meals for the homebound residents. For the holidays, the club will be holding a potluck luncheon. The president has prepared 10 raffle baskets for members. Members received tickets throughout the year based on participation in club activities. Some members have 100 participation tickets!

## **Hobart Garden Club**

The Hobart Garden Club received 1<sup>st</sup> place and \$50 for their National Garden Club Week Activities from the Central Region.

The club also played Halloween Bingo with 30 seniors at the Maria Rhiner Center.

They collected underwear, socks and t-shirts for the Kiwanis Christmas giveaway.

The club decorated 9 trees at the Hobart Chamber of Commerce. The club will host picture with Santa there as well.

The club plants to decorate the Hobart Historical Society inside and out with information about the club.

The club applied for the ESPOMA grant and several awards offered through TGCI and NGC.

It also contributed to the TGCI Scholarship, land trust and civic development.

The Hobart Garden Club will finish the year with its annual Christmas party.

## **Munster Garden Club**

In the fall, the club had a table at the Monarch Festival where we handed out membership materials and had a craft for children to make.

Nine members traveled to Marion Indiana for the Wildflower Workshop, as well as attended the district meeting.

In September, the town of Munster gave the Munster Garden Club a proclamation appreciating all the civic projects we have completed in town.

The club is presently planning to make membership a top priority in 2025, as we have seen our membership drop this past year.

In December, we once again entered a decorated tree in the Festival of Trees competition. This year our theme was Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle. Many members helped recover ornaments with things like old jewelry, buttons, thread spools and yarn. The club came in third place.

The club ended 2024, with a holiday party at Little Italy restaurant.

## **Vale of Paradise Garden Club**

It was a busy Fall at the Vale of Paradise Garden Club. We participated in the YMCA Senior Resource Day and also the YMCA Christmas sale.

The director of the Porter County Recycling and Waste Reduction gave an informative presentation to the club and at another meeting, we had a presentation on putting our gardens to rest for the winter.

Several members attended the Wildflower workshop in Marion and we hosted the district Fall meeting at the Silo at the county park where we maintain four gardens.

The Club made leaf castings for next year's plant sale, as well as decorated ornaments for the YMCA Christmas Market.

The club is now preparing for the January Porter County Master Gardener Garden Show where we will have a table for a membership drive and also offer a raffle basket.

November was our last formal meeting for 2024.