



Las Flores Community Garden

Newsletter

November 2021 - Volume 1, Issue 1

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News from the Garden

From the President's Desk:

New Straw from CRPD

Thank you Conejo Recreation and Parks District for giving us the straw from the House of Terror. They have not held this event for two years, and it was a huge success. Pictured are Jeffrey and Jess who delivered the straw behind where we have soil deliveries. Straw mulch can be used inside plots to help retain moisture and keep down the weeds. It is not recommended for pathways because it gets quite slippery when wet. Help yourself to the new straw.



Board of Directors:

- Susan Sundell**
- President
- Diana Lovejoy**
- Vice President
- Jan Fang**
- Secretary
- Debbie Newell**
- Treasurer

Plot Mgmt. Team

- Betty Kruse**
- Leasing
- Taty Valladares**
- Task List
- Jim Hervieux**
- Walk Through

This Issue's Contributors:


Susan Sundell
Roberta Rials

Thank You!

Susan Sundell - Editor
Roberta Rials - Publisher



Annual Pumpkin Painting and Carving Party

 ur pumpkin party is a huge success each year, and this was our 5th year! Young and young-at-heart enjoyed this event with a record amount of pumpkins painted and carved.

A HUGE thank you goes out to Evelyn, who hosts this fun time. Debbie R and Jayden help with decorating the Pergola, and that alone is stellar, but mostly it is the laughter and thrill from the wee ones that make this a day to remember. Evelyn and Hank (pictured below) birthdays are on Halloween, so this is always a prelude to celebrations.



Hoses, Nozzles and Irrigation

Do you need a hose or a nozzle? Susan has a few, so please let her know. Please Please use water wisely, make sure the faucet is turned off, and release the pressure in the hose after each use. We had many irrigation system problems last year. It is your responsibility to check your lines each month. It is not favorable to get multiple messages from our Plot Management team regarding blow outs and leaks. The Board reserves the right to revoke timers or systems if not properly maintained.

Reminder

All plots must be planted year-round. Our website has many options for planting. www.lasfloresgarden.com Go to Member Resources and then Fall Planting at LFCG.

Upcoming Events - Save the Date

December 4th, 10:00 a.m. Rain date, December 11th same time.

- 20th Anniversary Party

- Election of Officers - We will have secret ballot election of the 2022 Executive Committee. Please consider joining our wonderful Board of Directors. It is definitely more than "one hour" a month, but it is extremely rewarding to see our community garden thrive year after year.

- Member Recognition - We will recognize our members who have gone above and beyond in 2021. There are many, so please come help celebrate our successes. Baked goods, pastries, and fruit will be provided. Please bring yourself and your coffee or tea. Maybe, just maybe, Susan will bring a sampling of her hibiscus tea, from the plant she grew in her plot. This will be a fun day, so please mark your calendars now.

November 15th:

Plot fee renewals are going out via email November 15th. All fees must be paid by December 31st @ noon. If you received multiple warnings in 2021, your plot may not be renewed. Also, no late fees will be accepted.

Our Butterfly Habitat

Have you ever visited our own certified Monarch Way Station Habitat on the North side of the Children's Garden? This area is so important to California because of the extreme decline in the Western Monarch Butterfly. Since 1980, our monarchs declined by 99.9%. How is this even possible? Loss of native habitat was the beginning, and the more we built a concrete jungle, the fewer Monarch adorned our state. Monarchs are as much pollinators as our beloved bees, which are severely declining too.

After the 2020 count, the U.S, Fish and Wildlife Service announced that listing the monarch as endangered or threatened is warranted, BUT precluded by higher priority listings. They will assess each year, now that the monarch is a candidate.

Our Monarchs do not migrate to Mexico; they overwinter on our Central Coast. Each year the Xerces Society partners with local scientists that volunteer to count Monarchs from Nov. 13 - Dec. 5th. Last year, they counted only 1,914. Total! We had 30 million in 1980. There is some good news however.

Our Butterfly Habitat - continued

Although the count hasn't started, monarchs are already showing larger numbers. Pacific Grove did not have a single monarch overwinter there last year. As of October 16th, they had over 1300. Pismo beach Monarch Butterfly Grove counted over 8,000 migrating monarch.

This is why we, Las Flores Community Garden, provides food and nectar for our Western Monarchs. Visit the habitat. It'll be a zen moment for you, guaranteed.

Giving Garden

Thank you to a large group of our members who helped bring this idea to light. This is part of our Capital Improvement grant from CRPD. A committee of 5 members planted and will maintain it. The white ice chest at the front is for you to share your produce. Anything you grow in excess will go to our local pantries, but 100% planted in the Giving Garden will be donated.

In the green cabinets are seeds to share. You may take some, and please give some as well. As we get more seeds donated, we will be packaging seeds for the Simi Valley Battered Women's Shelter. Please bring your seeds and place them in our cabinets.



Scout Projects

Our local scouts continue to help on projects, and do a fantastic job! Ongoing projects to be completed early 2022:

- Monarch Butterfly Observation House - Eagle Scout Project by friend of one of our members
- Memorial/Friendship Garden - Eagle Scout Project by a member's son
- Extending stepping stone pathway to trash bins - Girl Scout Troop

Roberta Rials volunteered to format the newsletter. She needs articles, recipes, gardening tips, everything to make our newsletter informative and helpful to each member. Thank you, Roberta!

Please email her: robertalrials@gmail.com

Recipe Corner

By: **Roberta Rials**

This recipe has been a staple in my family since I was a kid. It was always served as a side dish along with poultry, meats, or by itself. Hard to believe how much crusty bread we ate after eating pasta as our first course. Enjoy!

Peperonata (Medley of Bell Peppers)

Ingredients:

- 2 Red Bell Peppers, seeds and tops removed, broken up in large pieces
- 2 Yellow Bell Peppers, seeds and tops removed, broken up in large pieces
- 2 Green Bell Peppers (or Orange), seeds and tops removed, broken up in large pieces
- 3 Garlic cloves peeled
- 1/4 Cup Olive Oil
- 2 Yellow or White Onions, quarter inch sliced
- 6-7 Roma tomatoes quartered and halved
- Salt, Pepper
- Vegetable bouillon (optional)

Method:

In a large non-stick frying pan sauté the garlic cloves in the olive oil. Add the onion and sauté on medium heat until translucent. Remove onions and set aside. Add peppers to olive oil and garlic and stir fry on medium heat until lightly brown. Add tomatoes and cook for about ten minutes, tossing with two wooden spoons. Add sautéed onions and cook on low heat until most of the liquid has evaporated. Add vegetable bouillon and adjust with salt and pepper.

Happy Thanksgiving!

