

Chinquapin Organic Gardens

Newsletter of the Chinquapin Organic Gardens Advisory Board, Alexandria, Va. • Fall 2008

AN END TO ANOTHER GREAT SEASON!

THE gardening season is quickly coming to a close. We thought it was a fairly good season and hope you agree. The 10th Annual Chinquapin Organic Gardens Potluck Picnic, held on Aug. 2, was a great success. Vice Mayor Del Pepper attended and helped us congratulate the winners of our outstanding gardens. Thanks to everyone who attended and took such great care of their gardens this year!

Unfortunately, we are still having difficulties with some gardeners not keeping their plots productive and well maintained. We are going to try something different next year to weed out the delinquent gardeners earlier. We have 30 prospective gardeners on the waiting list, we are told by city staff. It is not fair to leave those waiting for a chance to use their green thumb at gardening while others let their plots turn into weeds. The Chinquapin Organic Gardens Advisory Board will have a special meeting on Dec. 10 to review the results of the monitoring teams and make recommendations to the city as to which gardeners should not be allowed to renew their garden plots.

Remember, while the city occasionally helps to weed-whack the paths, it is still the responsibility of gardeners to keep the paths clear of weeds and to not store items there.

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10TH ANNUAL CHINQUAPIN ORGANIC GARDENS POTLUCK PICNIC FUN FOR ALL

THE 10TH annual Chinquapin Organic Gardens Picnic, held Aug. 2 at the Chinquapin Park pavilion, was a tremendous success. The picnic, sponsored by the Chinquapin Organic Gardens Advisory Board, included a potluck lunch, cookout, tomato taste-off and recognition of some of Chinquapin's best gardens.



Special guests at the picnic included Alexandria Vice Mayor Del Pepper and students from the Alexandria Project Discovery Program.

"It was great to see so many people come out and have fun at our milestone 10th anniversary picnic," said Chinquapin Organic Gardens Advisory Board Chair

Marlin G. Lord. The picnic included a first-ever raffle that raised money to support activities organized by the board, including picnic costs.

The picnic's annual Tomato Taste-Off attracted entries from gardeners. Judges tasted each tomato, awarding honors for best tasting, biggest, most appealing, smallest ripe and weirdest.

This year's taste-off contest winners, as chosen by judges Aaron Zollman, Jordan Wright and Karen Late, were:

Biggest Tomato
Jeanne Hogue Forni

Best Tasting
José Lovos

Most Appealing
José Lovos

Weirdest Tomato
Angela Wright & Jacob Clark

Smallest Ripe Tomato
Project Discovery

Awards were also given out during the picnic in recognition of this year's outstanding gardens. The winning gardens were chosen for their exemplary appearance and maintenance. See Page 2 for this year's winners!

The board is working to collect recipes from the picnic for a Chinquapin Organic Gardens cookbook. See Page 2 for the yummy details. ■



PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S POTLUCK PICNIC



SEND US YOUR RECIPES!

A highlight of the annual Chinquapin Organic Gardens Potluck Picnic is all the great food that gardeners make from produce grown in their plots. How about sharing those recipes with us?

We'd love to put them together in a recipe book we can sell and share with the community. Have a favorite squash or tomato recipe but didn't bring it to the picnic? That's fine too!

Send your recipes to mglai@aol.com.



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The Chinquapin Organic Gardens Advisory Board is reviewing the garden regulations and should have updated regulations for the new registration process, which will be starting at the end of the year. The 2008 regulations are on Chinquapin Organic Gardens Web site, online at www.chinquapingardens.org.

Our garden work days were successful and the wood chips on the paths really made the gardens look great. Other gardeners jumped in afterwards and added to the cross paths. Thanks to everyone who helped out! We look forward to getting this done again together next year.

Project Discovery created wonderful garden plots up at the top of the gardens and produced food for the hungry. Special thanks to Lorien McCauley and her T.C. Williams students, with assistance from gardeners Amber Kim Dewey, Dale May and Martha Brown.

Remember, the gardens are to be cleaned up by **Nov. 30**. The final monitoring team will be inspecting the garden plots on Dec. 6. Please review the regulations for related information.

See you all in the spring! ■

— Marlin G. Lord, chair, & Kathryn A. Brown, vice chair, Chinquapin Organic Gardens Advisory Board

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Don't forget that
Nov. 30 is the end of the
gardening season!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008 CHINQUAPIN OUTSTANDING GARDENS WINNERS!

AB1 Grace Owusu	GH3 Junior Bridge	KL2 Mary Fox	ST3 Jim Torretti
BC2 Megan Foxall	GH4 Dale May	KL5 Jean McKean	ST7 Susan Miller
BC3 Romon Kazanjian	GH6 James Kunder	LM7 Alex Lathers	ST9 Chuck Cisney
BC4 Lynn Gas	HU1 & HU2 Project Discovery	MN3 Trish Lese	TU1 Lori Hartman
DE1 Kathleen Agbayani	HI3 Margaret Slipek	MN7 Victoria Walchak	TU5 Ana Gonzalez
DE2 Beverly Johnson	HI4 George Robertson	NO1 Neal Fine	TU6 Amber Kim Dewey
DE3 Mildred Fajna	HI5 & HI6 José Lovos	NO5 Helen Jacobs	TU9 Bennita Wiley
DE4 Darcy Martinez	IJ2 Julio Mina	OP1 Rebecca Hobbs	UV1 Antoinette Kropf
EF7 Bonny Bell	IJ4 Susan Apgar	OP5 Bill Hohe	UV7 Bianca Beeks
FG4 Anthony Mauro	JK4 Annie Barlow	OP6 Judith Shapiro & Avery Moulton	VW5 Steve Lowe
FG5 James Kunder	JK5 Elizabeth Good	OP7 Maxine Sorenson	
FG6 Sara Hamburg	JK6 Patricia Rodgers	QR8 Charles Kellett	
FG7 Kim Hodgson	JK7 Sue Noisagan		

Have an idea for this newsletter?
Want to write an article? E-mail
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