

# It's All About Spring!

## GENEROUS GARDENERS MERGES WITH THE GLOUCESTER CIVIC AND GARDEN COUNCIL

Generous Gardeners is pleased to announce our merger with the Gloucester Civic and Garden Council (GCGC). The GCGC was founded in 1967 and was a voice for preservation of open spaces and the planting of trees and flowers at a time when a combination of urban renewal and a lack of any wetlands protections was destroying much of Gloucester. The founder, Betty Smith, was an advocate and leader who was instrumental in preserving significant locations in Gloucester.

One of GCGC's great accomplishments was fighting a proposed motel development along Route 128 at the entrance to Gloucester. The group succeeded in purchasing the land and donating it to the Essex County Greenbelt Association known as the "Window on the Marsh." They then successfully fought the installation of cement barriers blocking that view. The trees on Main Street and traffic islands on Rogers Street are a reminder of what a dedicated group of volunteers can accomplish. The Betty Smith Park on Stacy Boulevard with the Walter Hancock "Triton" sculpture was dedicated to her in 1989.

We thank their longtime treasurer, Adah Marker, for facilitating the merger and welcome their board member, Helen McCabe, to our board of directors. While Generous Gardeners does not have the political mission



of the GCGC, our mission of beautification with gardens and trees makes the merger a "win" for the city. For a more comprehensive history of the organization, please see former director Martin Ray's piece on his Enduring Gloucester blog.

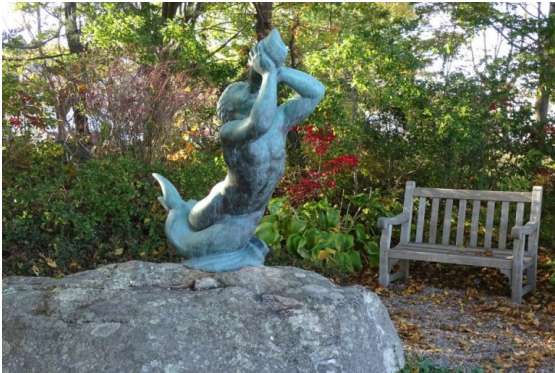
<http://enduringgloucester.com>

## Important Generous Gardeners Event Dates

- \* April/May Don't miss the 27,000 tulips blooming on Stacy Boulevard.
- \* May 18th Annual Plant Sale on the Boulevard by the Tennis Courts 9-12.
- \* July 6, 10-4 Gloucester Garden Tour on the Back Shore. Tickets available at [GloucesterGardenTour.org](http://GloucesterGardenTour.org) or at the Stop and Shop parking lot 6 Thatcher Road on that date.



## REVITALIZATION PLANNED FOR THE BETTY SMITH PARK



The Betty Smith Park was dedicated in 1989 surrounding the Walker Hancock “Triton” sculpture on Stacy Boulevard. As part of the merger with the Gloucester Civic and Garden Council, Generous Gardeners is planning a complete renovation of the area. The large maple tree will be removed because it is diseased and a public hazard. Many other shrubs and trees have become unsightly and infested with poison ivy. Working with the Gloucester DPW and landscape designer Ann Gilardi Johnson, a plan is in place for a garden with flowering trees and plants that will brighten the boulevard and be a worthy surrounding for the centerpiece sculpture.

*There are no happier folks than plant lovers and none more generous than those who garden. - Ernest "Chinese" Wilson*

### DID YOU KNOW?

Generous Gardeners has planted over 2,000 daylilies in the Stacy Boulevard Gardens. Daylilies are a beautiful, hardy and generous perennial flower. To remain healthy, each plant needs to be divided every few years. By donating for daylilies, gardeners get healthy, locally grown plants and support the Generous Gardeners’ vision of Philanthropy through Gardening.

### DAYLILIES FOR DONATIONS

When Generous Gardeners began planting the Stacy Boulevard Gardens as part of the seawall reconstruction project, we didn’t know how much money we could raise for flowers. We did know that daylilies, when purchased as bareroot plants, are extremely economical and very hardy for the harsh conditions on the boulevard. In fact, after the multiple Nor’easters in the winter of 2017-18, the daylilies were the only plant to consistently survive. Not only have they survived, they have thrived.

Each variety of daylily is grouped together and marked with a plant tag that shows the Latin name, the common name, and the name of a generous sponsor who donated \$250 for the purchase of flowers. There is also a QR code that smartphone users can scan to link to a web page with more information about the variety. There are no sponsorships remaining for the main gardens, but there is availability for the new Betty Smith Park to be renovated.

Since the daylilies now need to be divided and we have too many of some varieties, we are offering a gift with donation program. For every \$25 donated to Generous Gardeners, we will give the donor a daylily from the gardens. Since there is a limited supply of some varieties, the color, but not the cultivar can be chosen by the donor. This is a program for 2019, so new donations are eligible. Plants will be dug in the spring or fall.





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**KUDOS TO MAYOR SEFATIA ROMEO THEKEN, DPW DIRECTOR, MIKE HALE AND ALL OF THE HELPFUL CITY EMPLOYEES WHO SUPPORT OUR WORK.**

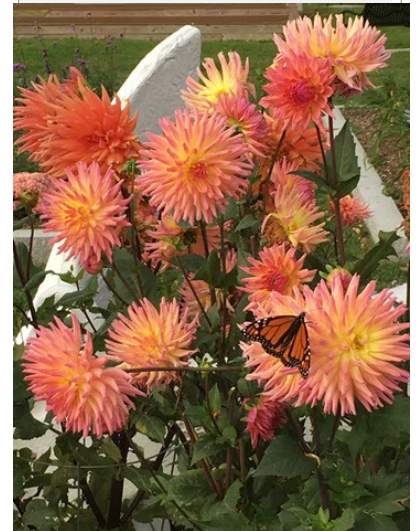
In 2019, look for a small number of garden improvements on the 'Man at the Wheel' side of Stacy Boulevard. Also enjoy more hanging baskets on Main Street.

## GENEROUS GARDENERS ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 18, 2019 9 AM to noon on Stacy Boulevard

*"What's your garden worth?"*

When Generous Gardeners first started as a social media website for selling, swapping or donating plants, we wanted people to understand that their gardens had value. Our first plant sale in 2011 raised over \$2,000 that was donated to the Gloucester Education Foundation for plant-related projects. Although Generous Gardeners no longer has that mission and a very different website, we still realize that plants should be divided and shared. Our seventh annual plant sale will be on Stacy Boulevard on May 18th from 9 AM to noon. There will be great bargains on plants from local gardeners. If you have a garden, please think about perennials that may need to be divided and donate plants to our cause! Plant identification is helpful, but not required. All usable gardening tools as well as plants are welcome and can be dropped off at the tennis courts on Friday May 17th, from 4:00-6:00 PM, or contact [susan@generousgardeners.org](mailto:susan@generousgardeners.org) to arrange pick-up or drop-off at an earlier date.



## Our Gardened Spaces

Although the Stacy Boulevard Gardens are our flagship gardens, we care for 28 other spaces in Gloucester. Please see our website

*GenerousGardeners.org*



Sedums at the footwash station  
at Good Harbor Beach

## VOLUNTEER WITH GENEROUS GARDENERS

We currently have over 50 volunteers associated with our organization and welcome new volunteers who are interested in our mission. Caring for our gardens takes the majority of our volunteer time. We plant, weed, rake, water and deadhead. Susan Kelly maintains an email list of interested helpers who are notified of the tasks, time and location each week (more often if necessary) and volunteers come when they are available to help. There is never any obligation or commitment. This is ongoing from early spring to late fall.

Our annual fundraising event is a summer garden tour in a neighborhood within our community. This is another way to volunteer with our organization by aiding with ticket sales or garden sitting. Many volunteers who find gardening physically taxing love to come and sit in a garden to guide visitors. Most years, over 600 people come from all over New England to experience our garden tour. We also have a volunteer board of directors which keep the organization focused on its mission, and work with sponsors, grants, garden designers, website review, and finances.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please email Susan Kelly at [susan@generousgardeners.org](mailto:susan@generousgardeners.org) and let her know of your interests!

### Generous Gardeners

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