

2020 Virtual Gloucester Garden Tour

Saturday July 11, 2020



Generous Gardeners.org

Philanthropy through gardening

Volunteer

2020 VIRTUAL GLOUCESTER GARDEN TOUR

GENEROUS GARDENERS VOLUNTEERS' GARDENS

Generous Gardeners welcomes you to our 8th annual tour of Gloucester gardens. This year we introduce you to the gardens of many of our volunteers.

As part of our annual tour we will have an online game of chance for many donated items until 4 pm on July 11th.

The East Gloucester walking tour has been rescheduled for July 10, 2021.

Proceeds from the garden tour support our effort to maintain over 40 public garden spaces in Gloucester, including thousands of plantings in the Stacy Boulevard flowerbeds.

For more information, contact **Susan Kelly** susan@generousgardeners.org or **781-346-1363**. Please visit our web site www.generousgardeners.org for details about our gardening and organization.

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Your program includes:

- A description of each garden
- Advertisements and a list of our generous sponsors
- A list of donated items

Our normal issues of parking, tripping hazards and restrooms are not applicable for this tour.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken, DPW Director Michael Hale, and Chief of Police Edward Conley for their support of our many beautification projects.



GENEROUS GARDENS GLOUCESTER GARDEN TOUR COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Susan Kelly and Ann Gilardi Johnson

Committee Members: Lisa Alcock, Judy Caulkett, Beth Chianciola, Cyndi Deal, Rosemary Lundberg, Nancy Mertens, Elizabeth Neumeier, Terese O'Connell, Maggie Rosa, Sheryl Smith, Anne Talbot and Hazel Watkinson

Generous Gardeners is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission of the beautification of Gloucester, MA through gardens. We are all volunteers who care for over 40 public gardens in Gloucester and welcome anyone to join us. No experience is necessary, and it is a great way to meet people and learn about flower gardening. We welcome donations to Generous Gardeners which can be sent to 101 Western Ave, Gloucester, MA 01930 or made online through our website.

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Watercolor by Ed Touchette is an item on the Garden Tour 'Game of Chance'
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Garden #1 Stacy Boulevard and Elizabeth Gordon Smith Gardens

Our flagship gardens are the quarter acre of formal gardens on Stacy Boulevard surrounding the Fishermen's Wives Memorial. Designed by Generous Gardeners volunteer, Ann Gilardi Johnson, they were installed as part of the seawall reconstruction project in 2016.

Generous Gardeners planted thousands of perennials, and each year we plant thousands of annuals and dahlias. David has been photographing these flowers for us and generously gives us hundreds of photos each year. This presentation is a sample of his work.

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Garden #2 Leslie's East Gloucester Gardens

Leslie and her husband Dale have been working on their gardens for 27 years, doing the planting, landscape construction, and maintenance themselves. After a "tulip trip" to the Netherlands, they began planting hundreds of tulips, daffodils and other spring flowers. Flowering trees and shrubs also enhance the yard.

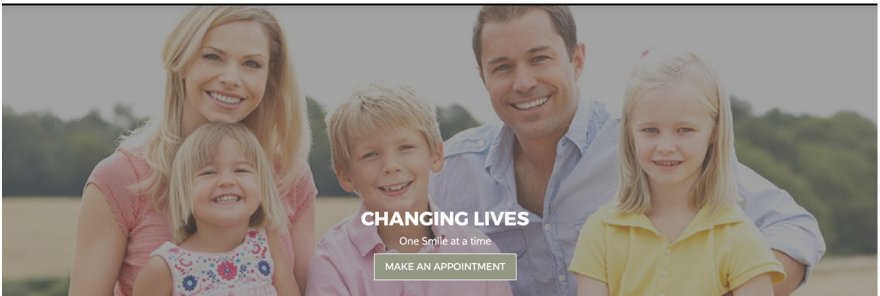
Once the bulbs have passed, the peonies and irises take center stage, followed by an extensive cutting garden of dahlias, zinnias and other annuals, many raised in their greenhouse. The primary goal in the garden is to always have something colorful in bloom.

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Garden #3 Hazel's East Gloucester Gardens

This compact garden is five years old and has undergone extensive new landscaping and plantings since they bought their home. They originally inherited a dark and bare garden with an old retaining wall which they have since transformed. The garden site is primarily ledge. There are two levels to this garden allowing height as well as depth to the landscape. The flower gardens, lawn, paths and deck on the lower level are adjacent to the back of the house and the second level comprises ledge which has provided the site for the rock garden.

On the lower level a small gated pathway leads into a grassed area with side gardens planted with clematis, David Austin roses (Eglantyne and Monkswood), a pretty orange shrub rose called 'Spice' with yellow yarrow, shasta daisy (Becky) and tall white phlox interplanted with salvia, geranium (Johnson's Blue), nepeta (Walkers Low) and blue hydrangea (Twist n' Shout). A retaining wall has been battened with trellis for climbing roses. The little blue gate leads up the steps to the rock garden. Gardens to the right of the blue gate are planted with hydrangea petiolaris, penstemon, hardy geraniums (Rozanne and Bikova), anemones, clematis (Josephine) and an oak leaf hydrangea (Pee Wee).

The rock garden has a waterfall which enhances the surrounding granite ledge. Plantings include many varieties of sedums, daylilies, hardy geraniums, ground phlox, sibirica irises, chicks n' hens, blue-eyed grass, silver mound artemisa, festuca blue grass, clematis, santolina, pink yarrow, amsonia, liatris, aubretia, coreopsis, baby's breathe, lamium, lavender, soapwort, snow in summer, honeysuckle, hostas, ferns and assorted dwarf conifers.

Garden #4 Roy's East Gloucester Gardens

Hidden behind tall vegetation on Atlantic Road is a gem of a Japanese-style garden. Bisected by a wood and cobble stone path, the garden contains a myriad of zen details. Raked patterns in the crushed stone surround rock cairns, Buddha statues, a stone dragon, small shrubs and slender grasses. Thoughtful arrangements of plantings highlight the natural outcroppings of granite. The eye is drawn towards two Japanese maples and also a flowering mimosa tree, the latter a rarity on Cape Ann. Just beyond the mimosa tree is small pond with recirculating water and fountain. A couple of vibrant rose bushes provide a burst of color, while discretely placed benches offer comfortable spots to sit and enjoy the garden's sense of serenity . . . and privacy. It's intimate nature is made more so by the use of tall screenings of honeysuckle on one side of the property, while common knotweed, which most gardeners would consider a nuisance, is carefully controlled to mimic a bamboo screen. What is not obvious to the casual observer is the network of underground drainage pipes that crisscross under the garden. Water, which nourishes most gardens, here has a tendency to damage the hand drawn patterns in the gravel.

What makes this enchanting space even more impressive is the owner acquired his love for Japanese gardening while stationed in Okinawa after World War II.

It will come as no surprise that keeping the body moving, the brain engaged, and enjoying an inspiring, and calming environment all contributes to a long and healthy life.

Any questions? Feel free to ask our favorite soon-to-be 93 year old zen gardener!

BARBARA FREDRICKSON

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Garden #5 Lisa's West Gloucester Garden

This West Gloucester garden enjoys an up-close view on the Annisquam marshes. There are a number of climbing flowering plants, ranging from clematis to hydrangea. A small rose garden blends the traditional with the knockout variety. Yucca throw up their creamy white blooms in the first week of July. The garden features also a wide variety of blue and white hydrangeas that peak in early to late summer. The overall scene is one of abundance and clutter of color and floral type that evolves over the growing season. The goal is to blend easily the cultivated with the wild, indigenous shrubs and flowers that have settled in and staked their claim.

A black and white portrait of Judith Sargent Murray, a woman with dark hair styled in a bun, wearing a dark dress with a white bodice. She is looking slightly to the left of the camera.

sargenthouse.org

The Sargent House Museum

Judith Sargent Murray, one of America's earliest advocates of women's rights, lived here during the Revolutionary War. Now a museum, the building houses works by John Singer Sargent and his extended family, who helped found the museum.

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Garden #6 Mary Ethel's Wheeler's Point Garden

We bought our house in Gloucester in 2010 because of the property; it had sun, shade, old stone walls, and glacial boulders. Then we spent the next six summers clearing vines and deeply entrenched weeds.

The property naturally lent itself to different areas or "rooms". Getting a woodland garden going was easiest; there were clusters of Indian pipes already growing there.

But after several summers of hard work, and not too much to show for it, I knew I needed help designing the other garden areas. Jim Brennan, a landscaper I met on a Generous Garden tour, agreed to move rocks, bring in soil and design new garden areas for me. I wanted to do all the planting and garden maintenance myself. In this regard, CV19 has accelerated my garden improvements. Since March, I've spent three to four hours a day planting and weeding. Although there is still lots to do, now I have an idea of what direction to move in. This is a garden "to be continued."

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Garden Tour***



Garden #7 Pam's Wheeler Point Garden

My backyard perennial garden replaced our grandchildren's swimming pool about eight years ago when they reached an age to go to the beach with friends. We did it in phases: the roses first, then the peonies and sedum. More recently we added lilies and iris. This year I added a border of begonias. The arbor is covered with green Concord grapes along with some red wine grapes. We generally have a great crop. The front yard gardens are bursting with gorgeous lilies and hydrangeas that grow along the fences. The wisteria has filled out, and when in bloom, spreads out across the patio arbor.

Garden #8 Carol's Wheeler Point Garden

My gardens have been a work ever-changing over the last 30 years. The design, style, and colors have been altered several times. I have now downsized to four distinct, smaller more manageable gardens. A country flower garden, a fern garden, a lily garden, and fish pond with an Asian theme. The flower garden consists of old heirloom varieties of hollyhock, indigo, primrose, daisy, clematis, etc. The lily garden blooms early, mid and late. The fern garden includes European wild ginger, painted fern, and a selection of local Cape Ann ferns which I have found on my hikes. The pond features a pagoda, statue, water hyacinths and shubunkin fish.

Garden #9 Nina's Essex Gardens

I have been gardening for 50 years, mostly in New England and in California. My mother and grandmother were both avid gardeners. Creating a garden is like painting in slow motion except ephemeral, constantly changing, and of course, never done. My circle garden started out 15 years ago as a wildflower garden and has morphed over the years into a chaotic crush of perennials, annuals and volunteers. The key is the balance.

Garden #10 Nancy's Downtown Gardens

Our home in downtown Gloucester has a city-sized garden. One of the first things we did was remove the lawn and overgrown euonymous in the front. We planted evergreens, deciduous shrubs, perennials and annuals to add texture, color, and scent, attracting birds, pollinators and people. Gloucesterites are not shy and passersby let us know what they like and don't. Many of the comments are insightful, lively and amusing. The back of the house is our secret garden featuring climbing clematis, roses, and trumpet vine, but the star of the courtyard is hydrangea petiolaris, which is in full glorious bloom in mid-June, just in time for a garden party.



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***David Cox is the official
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Garden #11 Sheila's West Gloucester Gardens

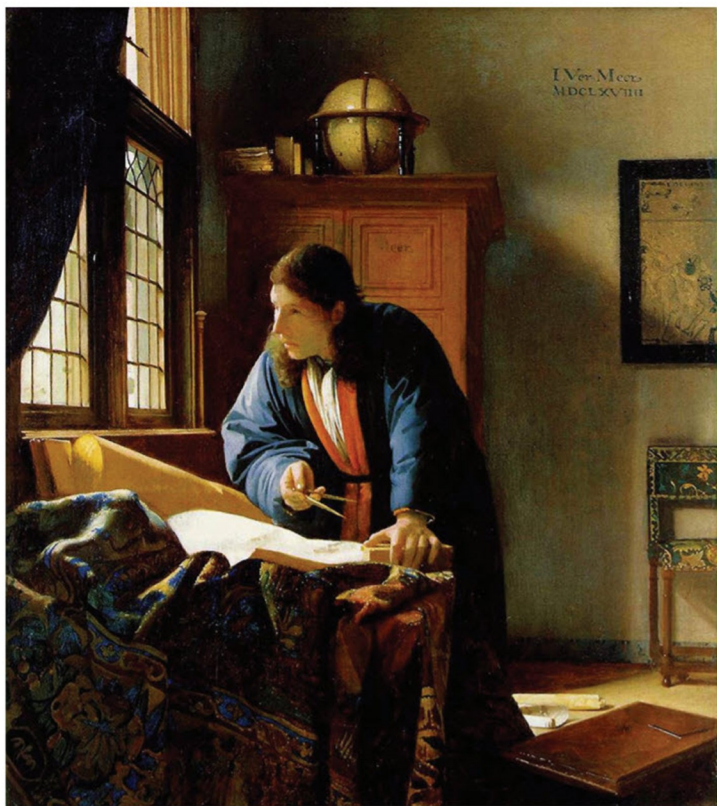
Rocks of all sizes made into small protective walls protected the peonies and roses so well that I continued to make more walls, carving out each foot of rock to make paths. The spring sun heats the rocks and set into early bloom the hundreds of flowering tulips, muscari, lilies, and daffodils behind each wall. Successful plantings of azalea, German iris, clematis, weigela and day-lilies loved the same protection. Another walled path was carved out to gain access to higher ground until there were red-buds, magnolia, dogwoods and lilacs to provide shade for hydrangeas, ligularia, astilbe, bleeding heart and tender perennials. With so much rock, I took it upon myself to learn how to use mortar and include designs into the rock walls creating mosaics and incorporated colored glass, decorative china and beach pebbles. I have since run out of land, but now have a street garden lined with nepeta, Siberian iris, Russian sage and roses. Another area above the street garden has arborvitae, rhododendron, inkberry, two peach trees in the front, two delicious red and green pear trees in the back, with huge boulders jutting out randomly forming my Concord Street Eden.



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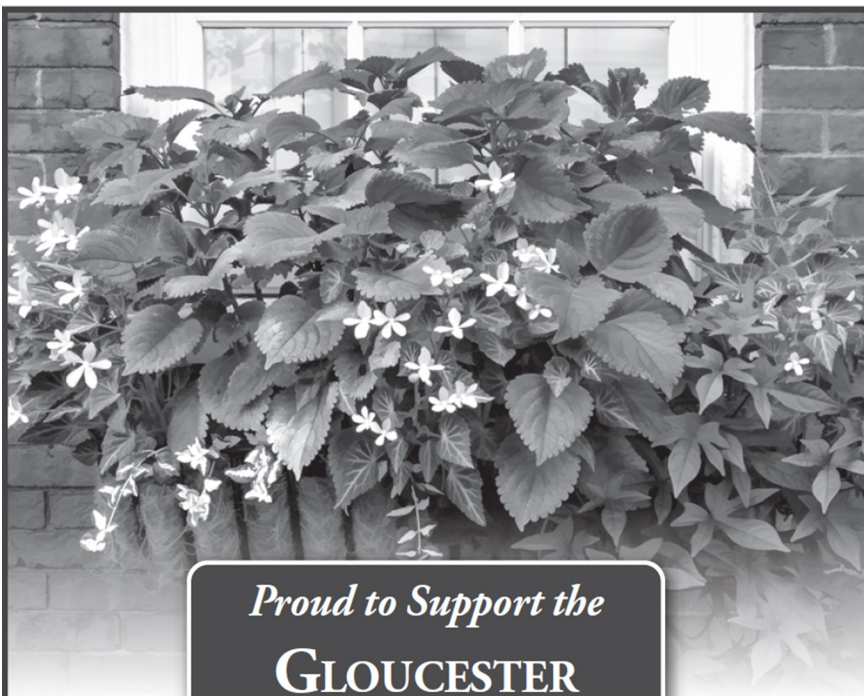
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#12 Judy's East Gloucester Gardens

A long expanse of grass welcomes you onto this half acre property in East Gloucester. It is especially inviting in early spring when the forsythia is in bloom. The wide path is lined with rhododendrons, azaleas and several evergreens including a large blue spruce and a Serbian pine. The backyard gardens are meticulously planted with spring bulbs and perennials. Dahlias and annuals are added for extended color and make great cutting flowers. First to bloom in early spring are the Lenten Rose. Sometimes, if there is a late winter, the snow will have to melt to reveal the beautiful flowers underneath. Tiny Katherine Hodgkin iris are next. These irises naturalize beautifully. Several varieties of both day and Oriental lilies bring summer color into the gardens. Rose of Sharon and giant hibiscus bloom later in the season. It is interesting to watch the hydrangea flowers turn from pink to a very dark maroon as the summer progresses toward fall. Oak and maple trees surround the property so the homeowners use lemon grass, painted fern and hosta to add color in the shady areas. There is also an abundance of juniper and holly on the property, which is used for holiday decorating.



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Garden #13 Kathy's Rockport Gardens

This relatively small garden has areas with different conditions, as most gardens do. There is a sunny area, a rock wall, and a partly shady border garden. My goals are to always have something in bloom, plenty of flowers to cut and bring indoors, a variety of forms and textures, and as much as possible, easy maintenance (good luck with that one!). In the three years I have lived here, I have been slowly working the gardens to contain more of my favorite plants and to meet these goals. The sunny area contains a jumble of colorful perennials and bulbs including tulips, daffodils, lilies, iris, black-eyed Susan, sedum, Montauk daisies, dianthus, phlox and campanula. The area bordering the street is planted with three varieties of baptisia, which does well in the harsher roadside conditions. These lie alongside a white rugosa (beach rose). I have been enhancing the rock wall by planting sedum, sempervivum (hens and chicks), and herbs such as thyme and oregano. They are thriving in the wall and filling in all of the available spaces. Above the rock wall is a repeating pattern of nepeta (catmint) and artemisia (silver mound) providing a soft delineation to gently wave in the sea breeze. The shadier border area hosts a variety of perennials including hosta, heuchera (coral bells), phlox, columbine, astilbe, brunnera and Solomon's seal. All the areas are planted with annuals such as impatiens, zinnia, begonia, lobelia and coleus to fill in and add color throughout the summer season. My favorite garden reference book is *The Well-Designed Mixed Garden* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust.

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Garden #14 Anne and Paul's East Gloucester Gardens

Paul and Anne started their gardens in 2009 in an area that was previously a bituminous parking lot which created many growing problems. They began by putting in topsoil and planting grass allowing some areas for them to create small gardens. It is still a work in progress as they figure out which perennial plants and annual plants will work and look nice together from spring to fall. They are sharing what they have accomplished so far in this spring of 2020.

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#15 Mary's Rocky Neck Gardens

Our 1850's beach house has been a labor of love for us for over 44 years. It was a run-down overgrown disaster, which took us two years to fix up even before we could move in. The gardens at one time had beautiful hollyhocks, tiger lilies, peonies and roses. The property became neglected and climbing vines, weeds and junk shrubs eventually overtook the yard. It has evolved into pockets of border gardens that wrap around the house. Being on the ocean has its challenges with wind, sea water and sea spray. I personally designed and laid out the gardens, which were all trial and error. It has adapted over the years due to environmental conditions. It is now relatively established with plants that seem to thrive or at least tolerate the elements. Hosta, lilies, peonies, roses, Shasta daisy, hydrangea, Japanese anemone, astilbe, and Queen Ann's lace are the cornerstone of the gardens, many of which were gifts. My annual favorites are dahlias, cosmos, blue salvia and zinnias. This is an informal English type of garden. If it likes it, it can stay; there is a surprise around every corner.

#16 Susan's West Gloucester Gardens

Susan's four acres of gardens in West Gloucester have been evolving over 20 years. There is a one acre shade garden full of columbine, corydalis, trillium, bloodroot and Solomon's seal. The property sits at the confluence of the Annisquam and Little Rivers with hundreds of "Becky" leucanthemum bordering the water. Inspired by the Stacy Boulevard gardens, many the beds are organized by color; flowers are everywhere. Even the roof of the guesthouse is a succulent garden!

#17 Cyndi's Gardens at the Police Station

The gardens at the Gloucester police station was the first public space installed by Generous Gardeners. In 2013 Susan Kelly, our GG leader, was approached by the police chief to plant on the newly created embankment which had replaced the public embarrassment of crumbling stairs and hazard tape for over a decade. There was no budget so we offered daisies and daylilies from Susan's garden. The chief asked for blue flowers so the initial installation included a river of blue petunias flowing down the hill. The gardens have evolved and expanded to include flowerbeds on the plaza and Main Street. There are now hundreds of colorful perennials, shrubs, grasses and bulbs that brighten up both Rogers and Main Street.

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#18 Mary's Puerto Rico Gardens

After caretaking the Bakers Island Light Station in Salem Harbor, we moved to Magnolia in 2015. I have been an intermittent Generous Gardener since 2016 as we divide our time between Magnolia, Bakers Island and Vieques, Puerto Rico.

We moved permanently to our home in Vieques in the fall of 2019. The one-third acre we own was planted with multiple fruit trees by the previous owner. I have been slowly been adding flowering trees and shrubs as we do not need any more fruit!

So far most of my flowers are in pots but I hope for many more flowers as the shrubs are overcome by tropical droughts and rains. I want flowers everywhere!



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#19 Our Gardened Spaces

Currently Generous Gardeners volunteers care for over 40 public garden spaces in Gloucester. Because of the COVID pandemic this year, we began assigning individual or small groups of gardeners to care for specific locations. This presentation includes a photograph of each of the spaces and the names of the volunteers who are caring for them. Although Stacy Boulevard counts as a single location, there are 20 individual beds assigned to volunteers. The gardens we care are listed in the in the order of when we started caring for them.

- Police station garden embankment on Rogers Street (2013)
- Fishermen's Wives Memorial Garden (2013)
- Sargent House Museum (2013)
- Median strip on Washington Street (2014)
- Gardens near Pavilion Beach on Stacy Boulevard (2014)
- Ten Pound Island Memorial (2014)
- Traffic island by St. Peter's Square (2014)
- American Legion (2015)
- O'Maley Middle School front entrance (2015)
- Gardens at Middle and Pleasant Street (2015)
- Traffic islands on Railroad Avenue (2015)
- Traffic islands by Bass Avenue (2015)
- Traffic islands by Eastern Avenue (2015)
- Traffic island by Centennial Avenue (2015)
- Ancillary traffic islands by Grant Circle (2015)
- Magnolia Library (2016)
- Gus Foote Park (2016)
- Stacy Boulevard flowerbeds (2016)
- Main Street planters (2016)

- Planters on Stacy Boulevard by Blynman Bridge (2018)
- Planters at the “Man at the Wheel” Memorial on Stacy Boulevard (2017)
- O’Maley Middle School second entrance (2017)
- HarborWalk Butterfly Gardens (2017)
- Good Harbor Beach foot wash station (2017)
- Gardens at public parking lot on Rogers Street (2018)
- War Memorial at the corner of Prospect and Pleasant (2018)
- Planted McPherson Park gardens on Prospect Street (2018)
- Garden behind the tennis courts on Stacy Boulevard (2018)
- Rocky Neck Memorial (2018)
- Elizabeth Gordon Smith Garden on Stacy Boulevard (2019)
- The Visitors Center at Stage Fort Park (2019)
- Maritime Center Compass Rose (2019)
- Main Street in front of the Michael Swift Gallery (2019)
- Cripple Cove planters (2019)
- John Alto Park (2019)
- Grant Circle (2019)
- Washington Street pocket gardens in Lanesville (2019)
- Collins and Flanagan’s Square traffic islands (2019)
- Tennis court beds on Stacy Boulevard (2019)
- Planter at The Cupboard at Stage Fort Park (2020)
- Rocky Neck planters (2020)
- Fitz Henry Lane Park (2020)
- Hesperus Triangle (2020)
- Cripple Cove traffic island (2020)
- Magnolia Cemetery (2020)

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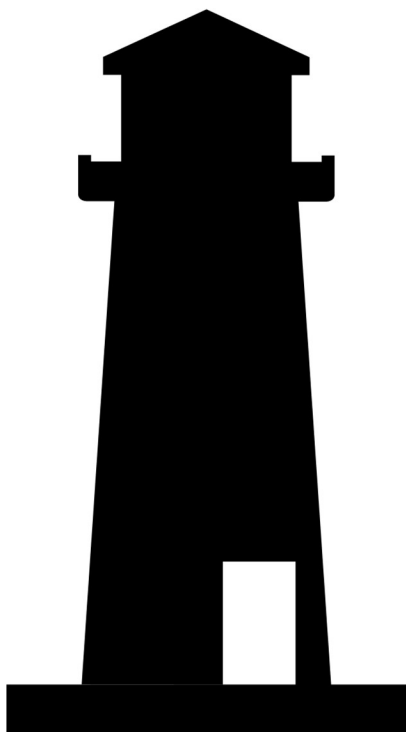
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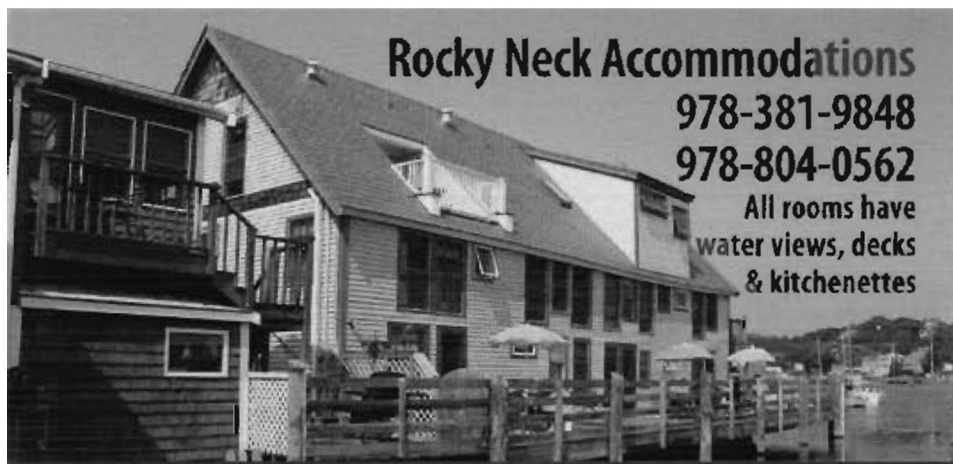
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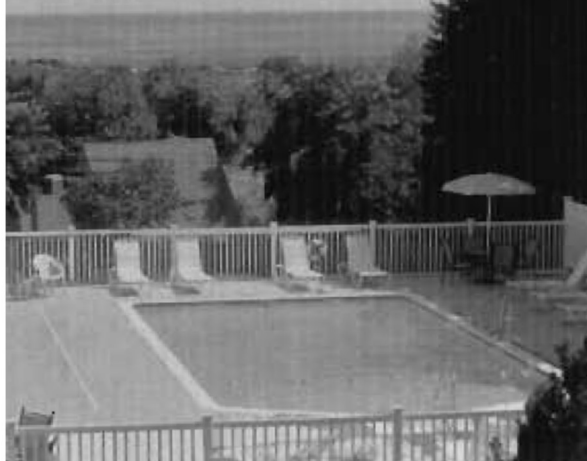
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