



# The Garden Club of Newtown

*Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and The Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc.*



## Quarterly Newsletter: Oct - Dec 2025 Edition

Welcome Members,

We are delighted to bring you the Fall 2025 edition of our new quarterly newsletter. As Autumn arrives and the landscape transforms, we celebrate the vibrant spirit of our gardening community. In the newsletter you will find news, updates, and inspiration for the season ahead – designed to help you make the most of your garden this fall. This newsletter is a tribute to the dedication, creativity, and camaraderie that defines the Garden Club of Newtown. We hope you enjoy the articles and find inspiration for your own gardens this season.

### In This Issue

- **Key Highlights:** Explore the club's recent projects, gardens in bloom, and notable programs and events planned for this fall quarter.

### VICTORY GARDEN SPOTLIGHT - A TRADITION OF COMMUNITY AND RESILIENCE

The Garden Club of Newtown has been part of the vibrant Victory Garden tradition since 2011. Located on the Fairfield Hills Campus, our Victory Garden mission is simple, but powerful, to grow and deliver fresh vegetables to Newtown's food pantries, supporting neighbors in need and fostering community spirit. Each year Jeannette Del Vento, Louise Zierzow, Peggy Townsend and club volunteers and friends, design, purchase supplies, plant, and maintain throughout the growing season. By the Fall, volunteers have harvested tomatoes, beans, squash, peppers, and a variety of other vegetables and herbs. In 2025 alone, our Victory Garden has produced approximately 600-800 pounds of produce to be donated to local organizations such as the Faith Food Pantry, Nunnawauk Meadows Retirement Community, Newtown Senior Center, and the Newtown Congregational Church Food Pantry.



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## VICTORY GARDENS: A LEGACY OF HOPE

Victory Gardens have a rich history, dating back to World Wars I and II, when Americans grew food at home to support the war effort and boost morale. Today the tradition continues as a symbol of self-reliance, sustainability, and community collaboration. By growing your own food- even a little- you help the environment, enjoy fresh produce, and strengthen local bonds.

**Upcoming Events** - This autumn, we invite all members to participate in a series of engaging workshops focused on design and horticulture. These events have been thoughtfully planned to help us enhance our gardening skills and deepen our appreciation for the art and science of horticulture. Mark your calendars and join us as we explore new techniques, share creative ideas, and prepare for a vibrant fall season in our gardens. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or just starting out, these workshops are designed to inspire and support everyone in our community.

**Spotlight Stories:** Bring friends and family to meet inspiring members, learn about their favorite plants, and discover the joy they bring to our group.

**Resources & Tips:** Find expert advice on seasonal planting, garden care, and eco-friendly practices for fall and beyond. “Learning is forever.” This year we will focus on Design elements of horticulture and garden exhibits. These efforts will help us to prepare for the Hartford Flower Show and our own in-house flower show, to be held at the Newtown Community Center, in April of 2026.

## Save the Dates

### October 28

Board Meeting at 10:00 am. Club Meeting at the Municipal Center – no lunch, dessert provided.

- 12:00 p.m. Club Meeting
- 1:00 pm Program: Alyssa Mancini – Transform Your Health with Herbs and Intro to Chair Yoga.

### Nov 4

Greens Sale Workshop, 10:00 am

Vicki Boccuzzi's Home, 57 Queen St., Newtown



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## **November 18**

Board Meeting, 10:00 am at Vicki Boccuzzi's home

Holiday luncheon, All members-12 Noon at the **Ranch Pub**, Newtown, 60 South Main St. , Newtown

## **December 4 & 5**

Greens Sale Workshops, 9:00 am -2:00 pm at Newtown Congregational Church

- All greens are to be delivered December 4 to the Newtown Congregational Church.

## **December 6**

Greens & Gifts Sale, Newtown Congregational Church, 14 West Street, Newtown

- We rely heavily on everyone, to help to put this event together and make it a fun and successful annual fundraiser. Thanking you in advance to all who volunteered their time and talent to this event. We look forward to seeing you there and at our other events.

## **Stay Connected**

We cherish your involvement and feedback. If you have stories, suggestions, or announcements for future editions, please contact our editorial team. Thank you for helping our club flourish—one season, and one garden, at a time.

Wishing you a beautiful autumn and a fruitful quarter!



Co-Presidents  
Sue Greco and Paula Toi





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## VICTORY GARDEN: What timing!

**Tuesday, October 7th** was a beautiful, crisp autumn day. Ten of us descended on the Victory Garden for our final workday of the season. We harvested and delivered the last of the tomatoes, peppers, Swiss chard, and eggplants.

Who's ready for Fried Green Tomatoes and Green Tomato Relish? Remaining for now are beautiful marigolds and a few stalwart herbs.



Thanks to Joan Alexander, Vicki Boccuzzi, Jeannette DelVento, Sue Greco, Eileen Holleran, Doris Naughton, Hope Sim, Paula Toi, Peggy Townsend, and Louise Zierzow



**Wednesday, October 8th....It Rained. Then on Thursday, October 9th...First Frost!**



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## Congratulations to Peggy Townsend!

On **October 10 and 11** the Wilton Garden Club held an NGC Holiday Standard Flower Show. There were many lovely entries in this show as well as youth and group entries. Peggy Townsend received the Blue Ribbon for her Bountiful Harvest Still Life Design.



Her design incorporated seasonal pumpkins, many varieties of squash, pumpkin and sunflower seeds and fresh sunflowers. Her staging included a wood stool, wooden pillar candle stick, beeswax pillar candle, natural woven basket, and a very hungry turkey all set within a harvest gold backing!





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*Source: Newtown Village Cemetery Assoc*

## Daffodil Bulb Planting at Ram Pasture

On **Friday, Oct 17** an energetic group of Club members met at 9:30 am to continue our beautification of Ram Pasture with the planting of 500 daffodil bulbs. As one of the first spring flowers daffodils provide early nourishment for pollinators. Plus, daffodils are not desirable to our deer friends!

***Thank you, Peggy Jepsen, for all your work to coordinate this project!***



*Right to Left: Peggy J, Linda D, Sue G, Paula T, Doris N*



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## *Oct-Nov-Dec Club Calendar and Events*

*(For complete details please refer to your 2025-2026 Yearbook)*

### **A Friendly Reminder Regarding the Change to the Club Meeting Location**

**Due to the on-going HVAC updates at C. H. Booth Library, we will be moving our meeting location for the entire 2025-2026 Club year to Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose St, Newtown. Meetings will be held in the Selectman's meeting room. For easy access park in the spaces across from the Community and Senior Centers.**

### *Balance of OCTOBER*

#### **October 28, 2025**

Board Meeting: 10:00, Club Meeting: 12:00--bring your own lunch

Program: 1:00 pm

Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown

**Program: Transform Your Health with Herbs**

**Presenter: Alyssa Mancini, Owner of Herbs, Love & Yoga in Sandy Hook**

### *NOVEMBER*

#### **Tuesday, November 4, 2024**

**Greens Sale Workshop**

**Vicki Boccuzzi's home: 57 Queen St., Newtown**

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

This is the opportunity to make the items that help to make the Greens Sale such a success! There will be instruction on how to make items. Ask past participants...it's a fun time!

#### **Tuesday November 18, 2025**

Board Meeting: 10:00 am, Vicki Boccuzzi's home, 57 Queen St., Newtown

All member holiday lunch at 12:00 noon

The Ranch

160 South Main St

Newtown, CT



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## DECEMBER

**Thursday, Dec. 4 & Friday, Dec 5, 2025**

**Greens Sale Workshops, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Newtown Congregational Church, Newtown, CT**

Club members of all skill levels create decorations for the Holiday Greens & Gifts Sale held at the Congregational Church on West Street. Great fun and camaraderie!

**Saturday, December 6, 2025**

**Greens & Gifts Sale**

**9:00-12:00 pm**

**Newtown Congregational Church, Newtown, CT**

Welcome family, friends, and neighbors to support our annual sale. Plan to join us, many hands are needed with setup, sales, transport, supplies, and cleanup. All club members are encouraged to attend and support our most important annual fundraiser, as many people in town, and others rely on us for holiday wreaths, decorations, and gifts.

## HORTICULTURE

### WHAT'S A GARDENER TO DO BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR!

By Eileen Holleran



## OCTOBER

1. Save **geraniums** during the winter
  - Either bring pots into the house and treat them as house plants or store them in a cold basement or garage that doesn't freeze.
  - For the last 5 years I've had great success, cutting back the stems and keeping them in the garage.





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2. Weed
  - Lessen your springtime chores by starting with weed free planting areas.
3. Perennial care
  - Some common perennials NOT to cut back in the fall are cone flowers, black eyed Susans, Joe Pye weed, bee balm and milkweed.
    - Their seeds provide valuable food sources for birds during the winter months.
    - Some also offer protected habitat for pollinators such as Monarch butterflies.
4. Do, however, cut some of these seed pods and other suitable plant material to dry for wreath decorations.

## NOVEMBER

1. Dig up **dahlias**, if you haven't already done so, before a hard frost. Their corms need the same cold storage as geraniums
2. Plant more bulbs if soil is still friable. I've successfully planted them as late as December during a mild autumn.
3. **Enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends, counting your blessings.**

## DECEMBER

1. **Greens Sale** Workshops
  - A day or two before our Greens Sale workshops on 12/4 and 12/5, cut lots of greens (NO large branches and NO hemlock) and berries to bring on Thursday when we work on our many creative designs.
2. Attend our Club's Workshops
  - Attend either or ideally both of our club's workshops on Tues, 12/4 and Wed, 12/5
  - The Thursday workshop focus is making lovely, creative greens arrangements.
  - Bring any holiday decorations that could be used with our greens to enhance their appeal, such as baskets, pots, vases, candlestick holders, sleds, ribbons, candy canes, snowmen, candy canes, etc.
  - On Friday the wreaths are decorated with ribbons and other adornments.
3. Green Sale, Dec. 6, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Newtown Congregational Church
  - ❖ Come and help at the Greens Sale---it's a lot of FUN!!
4. Rest on your laurels (pun intended)...well deserved!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY HANUKKA!**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



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## GARDEN CLUB OF NEWTOWN GREENS & GIFT SALE

### A LOOK BACK: 2017 through 2024

*Text and Photos by Louise Zierzow*

For decades, the Garden Club of Newtown has presented an annual Greens & Gift Sale for the Newtown community on the first Saturday of December, as the holiday season gets underway. Proceeds from this sale have provided funds for our Scholarship awards, and maintenance of several community gardens, including the Victory Garden at Fairfield Hills.

For years, members gathered in the lower level of the **Meeting House** to create all manner of wreaths, arrangements, then welcomed shoppers upstairs in the sanctuary.



2017-Meeting House



2018-Meeting House



2019-Meeting House

Joyce DeWolfe, Club Historian, advises that the Greens & Gift Sale has run continuously since 1987 with one exception in 2020. Due to the Covid pandemic the 2020 Greens Sale was canceled---the only miss in 37 years!

In 2021 the Sale relocated to the lower-level of **Edmond Town Hall** where we enjoyed customers from the Pancake Breakfast held on the upper floor of the Hall on the same day.



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For 2022, 2023, and 2024 the Greens Sale moved to the Great Room of the **Newtown Congregational Church**. With this move our creative efforts are presented in a spacious, sunlit room, with convenient parking, and close-by restrooms.



We are fortunate to have secured this wonderful space again for the 2025 Greens Sale scheduled for Saturday, December 6.

Over the years, in addition to wreaths, kissing balls, seasonal arrangements (fresh/dried), we have added raffles, then a Silent Auction.







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- ❖ The extremely popular Eiffel Tower Wine is always a real showstopper at the Raffle event



- ❖ Bird Cage arrangements year after year









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❖ Try your skill with this “Name that Member” challenge from Joyce DeWolfe:

*The Greens Sale lives on at 37-years-strong! Only the members change. How many can YOU name?*





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*Greens Sale is Community, Friendship and Fun*

## 2021 Edmond Town Hall



## 2022 Newtown Congregational Church







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## 2023 Newtown Congregational Church



## 2024 Newton Congregational Church





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## *Member Photo Gallery*



*Taken by Vicki Boccuzzi on Oct. 2 in her back garden*





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## *In Memoriam*



Vernice Murphy, a Club member since 2012, passed away in September.

We will miss her engaging smile and many contributions to our Club.

Please hold her family in your thoughts and prayers.

