

# COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

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E-Issue V4 Issue 3

Editor: Kathy Batzkall

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## The 5 CRG Clubs:

Northern IL Daffodil Society  
Plantaholics  
Potpourri  
Seedlings  
Wildflowers

## Council Motto:

“Enjoy nature’s bounty  
and beauty through work  
and creativity.”

## Council Website:

[councilofrockfordgardeners.org](http://councilofrockfordgardeners.org)

## Upcoming Meetings:

(Per website,  
check with club to verify)

### Plantaholics

July 2

All About Monarchs

### Potpourri

June 11

Members Garden Walk

### Seedlings

June 17

Wind Ridge Herb Farm Tour

### Wildflower

June 27

Members Garden Walk



June 2019



## FROM THE PRESIDENT’S PEN

Co-Presidents: Ann Somers & Sarah Britton

Rain. That’s a big topic these days. Rainfall in May 2019 was 8.93 inches. Second only to May of 1996 when we had 11.75 inches. In the first few days of June we’ve added another 2 inches. While we are bemoaning our own time or lack of time in our gardens because of the wet, we need to appreciate the real implications to farmers and those who make a living off the land. We’ll hope summer goes longer and fall comes later and the crops planted late will have enough time to mature.

A huge thanks to Arch who has masterfully organized our FREE Garden Walk. You’ll find inspiration for your own garden and bask in the beauty of these great spaces. Please bring a neighbor, a friend, a grandchild along when you tour these gardens. The experience is always better when shared! You’ll find the map for the walk in this newsletter (pp 4-5) and on our website: [councilofrockfordgardeners.org](http://councilofrockfordgardeners.org).

See you in the gardens!

Keep playing in the dirt or... mud,

Sarah & Ann

JUNE  
2019

## In This Issue:

P1  
Club Information;  
President's Pen

P2  
New Editor;  
Garden Tips and Tricks

P3  
Garden Walk;  
Outdoor Adventures

P4-5  
Garden Walk Map

P6  
Horticulture  
Happenings

P7  
CRG Council Report

P8  
CR8IV Mural Map

P9  
Plant-a-Row

SUBMIT questions or  
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com

REMEMBER to keep your  
e-mail address current with  
your individual club and  
the Council.



# NEW CRG NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hello Council of Rockford Gardeners,

I would like to introduce myself as your new editor. I'm Kathy Batzkall and I have been a member of the Potpourri Garden Club for about 6 years. I also designed our membership directory and now maintain our Council website.

I would love to have your input! Any time you would like to submit photos, stories, ideas, garden jokes/quotes or anything else that would make good reading for us in the newsletter and/or the website, please contact me at: [CRGnews815@gmail.com](mailto:CRGnews815@gmail.com). This one email can now be used to submit to either entity.

Be sure to take a look at the CRG website from time to time. It is a great way to know what is going on with our clubs. Membership lists, meeting schedules for each club, back issues of the newsletters, as well as information on upcoming CRG events can be found at [www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org](http://www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org).



***You could win \$\$\$\$ by sending us  
your garden tips***

Submit a garden tip to [CRGnews815@gmail.com](mailto:CRGnews815@gmail.com). Your name will be included in a drawing for a \$25 gift card to Pepper Creek. Drawing will take place at the December CRG Luncheon and Scholarship Fundraiser.

Our first garden tip comes from **Stash Goral**, member of Plantaholics:

***"Use a nail brush as a soap holder in the bath/shower. It keeps the soap dry and keeps the nail brush soaped and ready to clean your nails after gardening!"***



# THE 2019 GARDEN WALK

Remember to mark your calendar!  
The Council of Rockford Gardeners

"FREE Garden Walk"

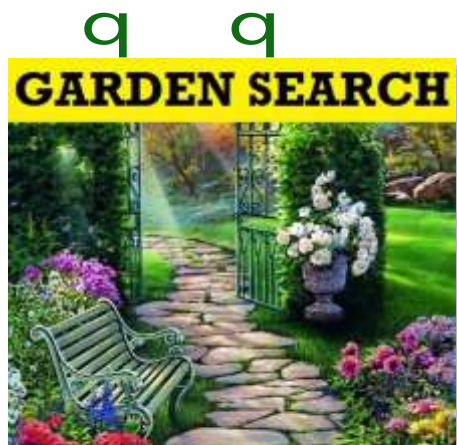
June 19th from 1pm to 8pm,  
rain or shine.

We will showcase 6 of the most beautiful gardens this year. This self-guided tour features great gardening ideas, annuals/perennial plants, sun/shade plants, water features, garden art, statuary, etc. Maps are available on pages 4-5 of this newsletter and on our website:

[www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org/](http://www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org/)

and the full size printed maps will also be available at the following locations:

Ack Ack Nursery, Ambrose Nursery, Anderson Gardens, Benson Stone, Didier Greenhouse, J. Carlson Growers, Gensler Gardens, Klehm Arboretum, Landscape Connection, Mary's By Design, Meridian Nursery, Nelson's Flowers, Nicholas Conservatory, Pepper Creek, Poska, Rock Valley Garden Center, Shear Perfection, Village Green Home & Garden, and Woman Space.



If you have a beautiful garden or can recommend someone who does, it might be perfect to be showcased at a future Garden Walk. We are always looking for unique area gardens, large or small to be a part of our annual Free Garden Walk. Sharing your garden can be a very rewarding experience and a great gift to the gardening community. If you would be interested in finding out more details, **contact Arch Smith: [racs71@yahoo.com](mailto:racs71@yahoo.com).**

# OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

## Severson Dells Wildflower Walkabouts

<http://www.seversondells.com/guided-walks>

### Harlem Hills

Tuesday, June 18 6:00 -7:30 PM

### Searles Prairie

Wednesday, June 26 6:00 -7:30 PM

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## Have you heard about "815 Outside"?

*"Find your place to get OUTSIDE in 815"*

Check out the new website: [815outside.com](http://815outside.com).

It offers many ideas for enjoying the outdoors in Winnebago County such as maps with trail locations for biking and hiking, fishing, paddling, picknicking, camping and winter activities. There are also downloadable documents on numerous subjects.

Sign up today to get the latest news for 815 recreation.

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## Nature at the Confluence

306 Dickop Street

South Beloit

<https://natureattheconfluence.com/>

### Cameras At The Confluence: Night Lights

June 25 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Free monthly program that features a new photography topic each month with special guest speakers and experts.

### A Celebration of American Indian Culture through Music and Dance

July 14 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**SUGGESTED DRIVING DIRECTIONS**

**A. McQueary Garden** 7490 Ryebrook Road  
Beginning at the intersection of east Spring Creek Rd and North Perryville Rd.

- Start out on N Perryville Rd. toward Spring Brook Rd.
- Turn right onto Spring Brook Rd.
- Turn left onto Springwheat Rd.
- Turn right onto Ryebrook Rd.
- 7490 RYEBROOK RD. is on the left.

**B. Gibby Garden** 1857 Wedgewood Way  
Start out going south on Ryebrook Rd. toward Ryebrook Ct.

- Turn left onto Springwheat.
- Turn right onto Spring Brook Rd.
- Turn left onto N Mulford Rd.
- Turn right onto Spring Creek Rd.
- Turn left onto Dior Dr.
- Turn right onto Rainsford Way.
- Turn slight left onto Wedgewood Way.
- 1857 WEDGEWOOD WAY is on the left.

**C. Holm Garden** 5309 Arbutus Road  
Start out going south on Wedgewood Way toward Bellingham Rd.

- Wedgewood Way becomes Bellingham Rd.
- Turn left onto Shaw Woods Dr.
- Turn right onto Arbutus Rd.
- 5309 ARBUTUS RD. is on the left.

**D. Orput Garden** 2130 Clinton Street  
Start out going west on Arbutus Rd. toward Madron Rd.

- Turn left onto Williamsburg Rd.
- Turn right onto Larkspur Dr.
- Turn right onto Highcrest Rd.
- Turn left onto Spring Creek Rd.
- Turn right onto Harlem Blvd.
- Turn left onto Harper Ave.
- Turn right onto Clinton St.
- 2130 CLINTON ST. is on the left.

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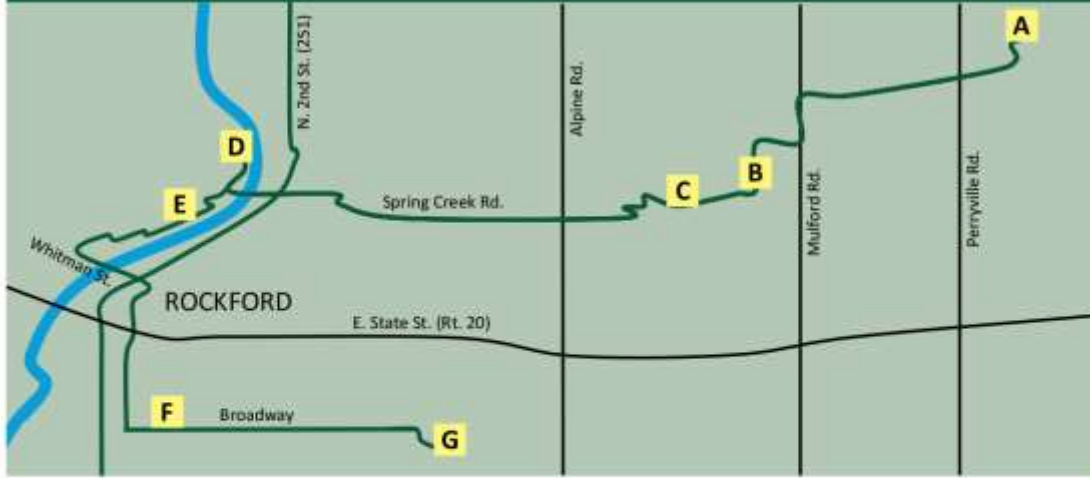
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# Council of Rockford Gardeners

[www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org](http://www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org)

FREE Garden Walk

WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 19, 2019  
1-8 P.M.



**E. Behr Garden** 1631 National Avenue

- Start out going south on Clinton St. toward Harper Ave.
- Turn left onto Harper Ave.
- Turn right onto Harlem Blvd.
- Turn right onto Auburn St.
- Turn slight left onto Harlem Blvd.
- Turn left onto Douglas St.
- Turn right onto National Ave.
- 1631 NATIONAL AVE. is on the left.

**F. Rubeck Garden** 3114 Broadway

- Start out going northeast on National Ave. toward Logan St.
- Turn right onto Auburn St.
- Turn right onto Parkway Ave.
- Turn left onto Rural St.
- Turn right onto Calvin Park Blvd.
- Turn left E. State St.
- Turn right onto Fairview Ave.
- Turn right onto Broadway
- 3114 BROADWAY is on the left.

**G. Person Garden** 1820 East Gate Parkway

- Start out going east on Broadway toward W. Gate Pkwy.
- Turn right on ~~cancelled~~ **Gate Pkwy.** Pass through one roundabout.
- Turn left on ~~cancelled~~ **Gate Pkwy.**
- 1820 E. GATE PKWY. is on the right.

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Specializing in  
Fine Garden Plants

## GARDEN WALK DESCRIPTIONS

2019 Council of Rockford Gardeners FREE Garden Walk

2019 Council of Rockford Gardeners FREE Garden Walk

### A. McQueary Garden 7490 Ryebrook Rd.



Gardening is without doubt therapy and nourishment for the soul. Our gardens provide that nourishment and have evolved from what once was a cornfield forty-three years ago to ever-expanding gardens today. Our spring garden is a rainbow of color including hundreds of daffodils, tulips, bluebells, and hyacinth. Moving into summer, our perennial gardens continue the colorscape with iris, ground covers, flowering shrubs, and selected annuals. More than sixty hosta varieties including miniatures intermingle with ferns and shade perennials. A variety of garden statuary, a bubbling boulder, a garden shed, and a potting table on our patio complete the scene.

### B. Gibby Garden

1857 Wedgewood Way  
*Pilgrimage in Old Shaw Woods*

Partially



The joy and challenge of a shade garden is the protective embrace of Mother Earth! Purchased in late 2011, this grassless acreage was wildly overgrown and in need of loving stewardship. A "new" weeping hemlock greets you at the front door and screens the giant elephant ears. Other additions are graceful Japanese maples plus the Velazquez Maple near the front steps. Scattered throughout are a zillion hostas (never enough!) and pathways around huge raised containers of color.

The chartreuse Sum & Substance hostas are favorites, repeating their color on the house doors. This garden avoids red, but sun-dappled interruptions are replete with gifted yellow dogwood, fritillaria, pink dragon-wing begonia, orange and violet impatiens plus the ever-spreading Mrs. Moon pulmonaria. Old peonies and phlox behind the fence were transplanted from the family Kansas City garden.

Fern varieties are from Rockford friends, Canadian hemlocks and spruce from Pennsylvania. Other shade-loving perennials love this woody yard. Unusual in this garden is the ancient labyrinth design, a winding meditation path and metaphor for life's journey. Feel free to walk as a reflective pilgrim. (Information there).

Take a Tea Break on the porch, celebrating vintage finds and topiaries.

-Barrie & Alan Gibby

### C. Holm Garden 5309 Arbutus Road



Our Spanish style house, with weeping Serbian spruces at the corners, sits on an acre. The east yard displays a Colorado/Pacific theme with Japanese maples, weeping white pine, blue spruces, weeping hemlock, Korean fir, Ricki magnolia, and rock outcroppings. In the southern exposure, wildlife may be enjoyed from the pond/waterfall and from the deck. Here also are lilacs, red twig dogwoods, roses, and raised vegetable beds. A blue-stone path leads to the yard, pond, and a dry creek bed in the southeast corner. Our western yard is landscaped for privacy and a peaceful distance view. An Alaskan spruce, weeping larch, assorted perennials, and a weeping Serbian spruce that resembles a giraffe border our driveway. The northern side features rhododendrons, azaleas, Douglas fir, ferns, and hydrangeas. The front stone walkway passes coneflowers, ninebark, hydrangeas, roses, two boxwood rows, and arborvitae. A three-tier fountain has benches for viewing a tricolor beech set off by summersweet bushes. We welcome garden visitors!

### D. Orput Garden

2130 Clinton Street



This garden located at 2130 Clinton Street is mostly shaded. The front, home to Pachysandra, Hostas and colorful pots. In the backyard, shaded by three very tall pine trees, are a large variety of Hostas, Hydrangeas and other shade loving plants. Sunny areas boast Cone Flowers and Black Eyed Susan. Many potted Annuals add color. Four water features allow for the tranquil sound of gurgling water.

### E. Behr Garden

1631 National Avenue

Partially



The Behr garden was started by Jeff and Diana in 1986, two blocks down the road and across the street. In 2006, 142 specimen trees were moved from the original garden to this current one acre location. Jeff oversaw the design and construction of the new garden's hardscape (two- to six-ton accent boulders, extensive retaining walls, boulder river stairs, chairs, and a naturalized pond). The front and back garden beds, along with unique Pennsylvania blue farm-stone edging in the back gardens, were created and planted by Diana. She cares for all the garden beds which are

95% perennials; the beds contain both sun and shade perennials nurtured by Diana's special garden mix.

There are several complementary container plantings, which are a combination of annuals and perennials which Diana designs and plants anew each spring. Jeff maintains the specimen trees. Their collection includes 250 varieties of Japanese maples and 250 varieties of specimen conifers and deciduous trees. The combination of Diana's passion and knowledge of all things floriferous along with Jeff's love of unusual and ornamental arboreal plants has resulted in a garden they anticipate and hope everyone will enjoy.

### F. Rubeck Garden

3114 Broadway

Partially



When you visit our garden, we would like you to imagine our corner lot as it was 25 years ago with just a few trees, several evergreens, lilac bushes, and an odd planting of daffodils. Fast forward through years of hard, but very satisfying, work to the present day. We hope you'll enjoy the many raised beds full of perennials and yard art, including farm implements, aged rusted statues, and various other found items. Included in the beds are many containers full of annuals that add color and texture. As you walk down Broadway Street you'll notice our natural "fence" created with many perennials, grasses, and a sprinkle of colorful annuals along with more sculptures. Several mature trees create nice areas for shade-loving hostas and assorted ground covers. As you wander through the backyard you'll pass by a goldfish pond. A dry creek bed will lead you to more perennials and antique garden tools. Feel free to take a seat on the shady patio that is surrounded by Impatiens and Coleus. We hope you'll find peace, pleasure, and a few unexpected surprises in our rustic, free flowing garden.

### G. Person Garden

1820 East 1st  
Cape Harbor Parkway



Our garden is an urban haven through which visitors may stroll. This peace garden was changed a great deal in the last few years and we now have full sun, dappled shade, and some areas of full shade. Many perennials provide texture, foliage, and a continually changing palette of color. Annuals in containers provide bright pops of interest. Our garden is an eclectic mix of annuals, perennials, shrubs, roses, vines, and vegetables. Visitors will find yard ornaments we have collected during our travels, or which we ourselves have crafted. Local wildlife visits our garden; numerous birds, chipmunks, and squirrels enjoy our feeder and birdbaths.

# HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

Gina Ross, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

## History of Tomatoes

With summer in high gear and our plants are in the ground. What better time than now to learn about the history of tomatoes as we wait for them to ripen!



Scientifically speaking, the tomato is a fruit, since true fruits are developed from the ovary in the base of the flower and contain the seeds of the plant. (Cultivated varieties, however, may be seedless.)

Tomatoes originated in the Andes, in lands we now know as Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador, where they grew wild. They were first cultivated by the Aztecs and Incas as early as 700 AD. It was not until around the 16th century that Spanish Conquistadors, seeking new lands, introduced tomatoes to Europe. Throughout Southern Europe, the tomato was quickly accepted into the kitchen, yet as it moved north, more resistance was apparent. It was the European immigrants who introduced the tomato to North America.

Early American colonists wouldn't put tomatoes near their mouths, let alone try to eat one. Folklore had it that poisons in tomatoes would turn your blood into acid. Instead, the colonists grew tomatoes purely for decoration. This could be because tomatoes held a close resemblance to deadly nightshade (so close that the two were mistaken for each other.) Because of that resemblance, many early botanists recognized the relationship of tomatoes to the [Solanaceae family](#), the name deriving from the Latin *Solanum* for "the nightshade plant" *Solanum* itself became a finer division (what was later called a genus) under *Solanaceae*. Eggplant, potatoes and peppers are additional members of the Solanaceae family.

Tomatoes were grown primarily in the south. The tomato gained fame when Thomas Jefferson grew them with his family and included them in numerous recipes. What Jefferson and his family may have helped start, Joseph Campbell of Campbell's soup fame finished. The tomato had made steady

progress through the 19th century, and by the 1870s and 80s, seed catalogues often offered several varieties of tomatoes. When Campbell came out with condensed tomato soup in 1897, the tomato's place in American culinary history was assured.

Tomatoes come in two categories: Determinate and indeterminate.

Determinate tomatoes, or "bush" tomatoes, are varieties that grow to a compact height (generally 3 - 4'). Determinates stop growing when fruit sets on the top bud. Example: Better Boy

Indeterminate tomatoes will grow and produce fruit until killed by frost. They can reach heights of up to 12 feet although 6 feet is normal. Example: Cherry Tomatoes

Today there are more than 3,000 varieties of heirloom or heritage tomatoes in active cultivation worldwide and more than 15,000 known varieties. Whether you call it pomodoro, (Italian for "fruit of gold") or pomme d'amour, (French for "love apple"), there is nothing like picking a ripe, sun-kissed tomato from the garden!

**Tomatoes** are low in **calories** and low in carbs. **Tomatoes** provide vitamins and minerals including vitamin C, vitamin A, vitamin K, and potassium. The **red** pigment in the tomato is lycopene. Lycopene is an antioxidant and is believed to be a chemical that reduces the risk of cancer and heart attacks.

### Delicious tomato recipes

<https://www.bonappetit.com/recipes/slideshow/tomato-recipes-slideshow>

Gardening is cheaper  
than therapy  
and you get tomatoes!



# JUNE 3, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of April 30, 2019 .....	\$4,304.05
Receipts .....	00.00
Balance .....	4,304.05
Disbursements:	
Deb Kozak – engraving garden stones .....	175.00
Ending Balance as of May 31, 2019 .....	\$4,129.05

*Submitted by **Becki Dennis**, Treasurer*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Programs** – Deb Bieschke had no report. She is working on a speaker for the December luncheon.

**Publicity** – Ann Somers reported that we are still looking for someone to take over Publicity.

**Awards** - Elaine Parrovecchio had no report.

**Civic and Conservation** – Diane Donze reported that she received a text from someone at Habit for Humanity a few days before the dedication. She did a pot from Potpourri. The other clubs will do the pots in the fall.

**Garden Walk** – Arch Smith reported that everything is set for the garden walk. We have had one garden cancellation. He was able to have “canceled” printed across the garden on the brochure.

There was a correction made on the brochures for the Rubeck garden’s address .

Brochures were distributed to council members to deliver to garden centers and other stores .

**Horticulture** – Ann Somers reported that Gina Ross will write a Horticulture article for the newsletter.

**Hospitality** – Ann Somers reported that our next meeting will be on Monday, July 1st, here at Mary’s Café, unless they go to a “no wait staff” restaurant before that date. There is no meeting in August.

**Newsletter** – Kathy Batzkall reported that the newsletter is almost ready. She just needs the message from the President and the Secretary’s minutes. Right now she is up to 8 pages.

**Parliamentarian** – No report.

**Sunshine** – No report. Ann Somers reminded us to contact Peg Goral if we know of someone who is ill or has passed away.

**Ways & Means** – Karin Emery had no report.

**Website** – Kathy Batzkall reported that she received two letters requesting contributions. One was from Rock House Kids wanting us to buy a table for their benefit. There was also another request for contributions. She wanted to know how to respond to them. It was suggested that she inform them that we only give out money once a year. While it was great to make a donation to KFACT, we should limit donations to garden related organizations and scholarships.

Remember to check out our website:  
[councilofrockfordgardeners.org](http://councilofrockfordgardeners.org)

# NEW MURALS IN DOWNTOWN ROCKFORD

Nine murals were painted recently in downtown Rockford as a part of the CRE8IV: transformational Art festival that officially kicked off May 15. The name is pronounced “creative.” Most are painted on the sides of the buildings, but there are also painted pylons on the lower Jefferson Street Bridge.



Below is a map of the locations of these amazing artworks for you to enjoy!





University of Illinois Extension

# Plant-a-Row 2019

Share your Harvest with the Hungry



## Year Round Drop-off Sites in Rockford

### University of Illinois Extension

1040 North Second Street  
Monday-Friday, 9am to Noon

### Rock River Valley Pantry

421 South Rockton Street  
Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 3pm

### Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau

1925 South Meridian Road  
Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4pm

## Seasonal Drop-off Sites

mid-July — September

### NE Corner of Durand Town Square

Mondays, 10am to Noon

### Cherry Valley Public Library

755 East State Street, Cherry Valley  
Tuesdays, 3:30pm to 5:30pm

### Edgebrook Farmers Market

(Edgebrook Shopping Center, corner of North Alpine and Highcrest Roads, Rockford)

Wednesdays, 10am to Noon

### Talcott Library

101 East Main Street, Rockton  
Wednesdays, 3:30pm to 5:30pm

### The Landscape Connection

4472 South Mulford Road, Rockford  
Monday-Saturday, 9am to 6pm  
Sunday, 11am to 3pm

## What is Plant-a-Row for the Hungry?

- University of Illinois Extension-Winnebago County Master Gardeners work to raise awareness about the issues surrounding hunger in our community.
- Plant-a-Row for the Hungry provides a much needed outlet for vegetable gardeners to donate their over-abundance of produce, which helps to meet the increasing demands on local food pantries.
- U of I Extension inspires gardeners to “plant an extra row” of veggies in their gardens with the intent of donating that extra produce to help end hunger.



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### QUESTIONS? Contact

University of Illinois Extension-Winnebago County  
1040 North Second Street, Rockford, Illinois 61107  
**(815) 986-4357**

(visit our office on the Rock River—access via Ethel Avenue stoplight—south of the Nicholas Conservatory)

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw>

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