

OGC March 2020 Hilltops Newsletter for submission

New Officers for 2020: Chairman: Casey Fitzpatrick, Treasurer: Beth Mushovic, Secretary: Peggie Moore

We all feel immense appreciation to Nancy McAdams, Connie Ferguson, Stephen Ashworth and Frank Danczyk for setting the example of bringing community together last year to solve difficult problems, organize and get the work done to create a beautiful garden. Peggie, Casey and Beth share the commitment in making this year even better!

Community gardens are great at building bonds among gardeners and neighbors.

Congratulations to OGC Gardener Darrah Glynn who submitted the winning photo at January's meeting. Take a look at the beautiful photo and an array of photos on the OGC Website: <https://oceanaseniors.org./activities/garden-club/>

THREE GARDEN PLANNING MISTAKES TO AVOID

- 1. Overcrowding Plants** need room to grow and produce the best harvest. If they're planted too close together each plant's root system must compete with its neighbors for water and nutrients from the soil, resulting in a poor harvest. The solution is to only grow your plants at the recommended spacing shown on the seed packet.
- 2. Ignoring Nature Pests** are an inevitable part of vegetable gardening, and the routine use of pesticides isn't the answer. Instead, work with nature to outwit pests. • Mix in several different companion planting flowers to attract beneficial insects such as hoverflies so that, when pests descend, these natural predators will control them without you having to lift a finger. • Mixing up crop families helps to confuse flying insect pests, but for some crops it's necessary to use further protective measures. For example, prevent cabbage white butterflies from laying their eggs on your brassicas by covering them with fine netting, or cover carrots with fine netting or garden fleece to eliminate carrot fly attacks.
- 3. Planting Everything at the Same Time** Sow seeds in small batches every two or three weeks. This also spreads your harvest out over a longer period which is better for you! No one wants everything to mature at the same time or you'll have a glut of vegetables that you won't be able to eat. If you can avoid these common mistakes, you'll save yourself some hard work and heartache, and get your vegetable garden off to a great start! (Excerpt from "The Old Farmer's Almanac Companion Newsletter" Jan. 20, 2020)

HAPPY GARDENING IN 2020!