March 2021 Hilltop Highlights Oceana Garden Club

Happy Spring to you all. March 20 is the first day of spring , and work continues in the gardens to get ready for a big growing season.

We are in the process of expanding our orchard in the back area, which has been raised to stop the flooding. Bruce Pahl has donated 3 avocado trees, Peggie Moore, a Mexican lime tree, and Christine Forster , an apple tree.

Club members have been reconfiguring a few garden enclosures thanks to Casey Fitzpatrick, Kevin Immel, and our new member, Peter Cornog. This will result in the addition of more garden plots. More work has been done to expand the succulent cactus garden over on the dog park side, and some special mix from Corazon was donated along with some rocks. It's going to be a spectacular little corner over there and also double as a nursery for plants.

In order to kick start our new succulent nursery project, we encourage any Oceana resident who wants to donate pots, potted plants, succulents and cactus to contact Diane Harris (dianee3808@att.net) or Casey Fitzpatrick, (fitzfreck@gmail.com) by email. We will then make arrangements to pick up these items at their houses.

The vote is in, and kudos to our men for their work to control the flooding that occurs during the rainy season. They dug trenches and placed rocks at strategic points to redirect the flow off of the hillside. Previously, most of the pathways and garden plots at the lower end of the hill were underwater after the rain, and gardeners needed rubber boots to get around in the ankle-deep water. The first test came when three storms in succession passed through at the end of January; there was no visible flooding.

Casey has come thru again and curated 9 yards of topsoil, 9 yards of humic mulch and 9 yards of topping mulch. All was donated by Corazon's Mary Matava, including delivery.

I hope you planted your spring bulbs a couple of months ago. If so, they should be showing their color.

Fun Fact: After WWII, plants were bombarded with radiation to produce useful mutations known as Atomic Gardening, which resulted in today's peppermint and red grapefruit.

Diane Harris, Secretary