

Local gardeners to help with Dover AFB memorial garden

By Maria Counts
Staff Reporter

The Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs (DFGC) – and its local affiliate, the Barefoot Gardeners – have undertaken a memorial garden project to be constructed at Dover Air Force Base. The garden will be planted adjoining the Center for Families of the Fallen, a facility on the base that provides support to the grieving families who travel to Dover for the transfer of the remains of their loved ones.

"The gardens were not very pretty, and they were not very soothing to the families. So, this was started by our state president, Alice Witterholt," said Linda Bunting, president of the Barefoot Gardeners.

"The goal is to create a therapeutic garden space for the visiting families that

is peaceful and private," explains the DFGC's Memorial Garden for the Fallen pamphlet. "The garden will be a private space exclusively for use by the families, not open to the public."

The concept was developed in 2010 and renowned landscape architect Rodney Robinson has since designed the secluded sanctuary. Located immediately to the left of the center's main entrance, the garden will include shading trees, flowering bushes and a water feature, as well as chairs and benches.

"It is a very worthwhile project, where the families can go to meditate or to think," said Bunting.

Funding for construction of the project has already been achieved, however DFGC and its 28 clubs intend to finance the garden's maintenance once it is completed this spring.

"We're all asked to help support this

project, which costs \$125,000. I think, with grants and whatnot, the money has been received – the needed money to construct the garden. But, of course, there is the maintenance. So that any money we raise now will help toward that," said Bunting.

Approached with the task, the Barefoot Gardeners have decided to hold a raffle for a week's stay in a Carimar Beach Club condo in Anguilla, in the British West Indies. A club member donated the use of the condo, and the prize does not include travel expenses, meals or any fees that may apply.

"It's a beautiful, beautiful site. It's not on the beach but within sight of the beach in Anguilla," Bunting said.

Only 600 tickets are available for purchase, at \$20 each, or six for \$100.

Bunting said she believes people will be moved to donate toward the garden's

upkeep because it will impact so many people.

"I think this touches the lives of everyone, because of the magnitude. I think everyone knows someone, or knows someone who knows someone, who has people coming back through Dover Air Force Base."

Although tickets have only been available for purchase a little over a week, Bunting said many club members were eager to raise money and have already sold their entire allotment of tickets.

"This is well-received," she said. "We just distributed the tickets a little over a week ago, and people have sold all of their tickets already and have money coming back in already. So, it was very well-received. Everyone wanted to do it. We just think it's such a good project and well worthwhile."

Letters

Continued from page A12

ing date is Feb. 23, and so you will have to act quickly.

Perry J. Mitchell, Councilman
Ocean View

Reader gets rescued in time of need

Editor:

I hope to inform readers of this letter that all companies we deal with are not caring about faithful customers. My oil company of over 20 years left me without heat after their service man informed me my furnace could not be fixed and would have to be replaced. This on Friday, Jan. 8, about 5 p.m., with my home already very cold.

I told him I am a very senior person, alone with family far away, and asked if they could put a new one in soon because snow and cold were predicted for Saturday, Jan. 9, and Sunday, Jan. 10. He made a call and was told they could do nothing before Monday or Tuesday, and suggested I stay somewhere else over the weekend. He left!

This was about 6 p.m. Friday evening. I was afraid my pipes would freeze, so I

let many of my spigots dripping and, feeling upset and cold, I bundled up under covers and quilts and spent a very uncomfortable Friday night.

Very early Saturday morning, I told a friend about my situation. He said he would get me some help; he called Top Notch Heating & Air Conditioning. I spoke with a very understanding person, and he told me to expect him to be here and take care of getting me warm.

He arrived in about 35 minutes. With him, he brought heaters to warm a few rooms while he measured everything, told me all the details and left to get a new furnace. In an hour or two, a new furnace arrived, with three great guys who took over immediately, and I had a warm house by Saturday, Jan. 9, in the afternoon.

Thank you, Top Notch Heating and Air Conditioning. You really are "Top Notch!"

Neva O'Hara
Ocean View

Ocean Farms resident discusses roadway

Editor:

The roadway improvement program for Ocean Farms is starting out on the

wrong foot.

The indication that a "vote" was taken to choose between a 10- or 15-year payback is misleading. The meeting held was presented to the homeowners as an "informational" meeting so that we could hear about the options that might be available through the Sussex County Engineering Department for road repair.

Options were presented and, after that, the County asked for a vote on the 10- or 15-year payback issue. County regulations allow their issues to be resolved by a "majority of those voting" – one vote over 50 percent.

The 10-year payback received the one vote over 50 percent of those present. However, the Ocean Farms Homeowners Association bylaws require a quorum of homeowners be present for voting on issues impacting the development. There was no quorum present for the vote.

I do not believe county rules on voting can circumvent filed association bylaws and regulations; therefore, the 10-year selection is invalid.

I advised the president of our association of that at the time of the meeting and later in an e-mail, and asked him to advise the county of the issue. If a selection of 10- or 15-year payback is needed, a meeting of the homeowners association

needs to be scheduled, then a quorum must be present to vote before the issue can move forward with the County.

The reality here is that this issue is trying to be initiated by a few within the homeowners association and that they are trying to circumvent the rules of the association by using County rules as the standards. This is not fair to the County or the homeowners.

Lou Scrivani
Ocean Farms

Mayor thankful for local hospitality

Editor:

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Richard and Susan Bloch for their generosity in hosting a live show at the Dickens's Parlour Theatre for the Millville Volunteer Group. It certainly was a night of magic, followed by desserts and beverages. It is rare that a small town like Millville can enjoy a live professional theater to add to the uniqueness of our town. Best wishes to Rich and Susan and the Dickens's Parlour Theatre.

Mayor Don Minyon
Millville

NEW FACE IN TOWN

Hair Studio for the Entire Family

20% off Service for New Clients

Welcoming Nanette to our staff.



Specializing in fine hair & the latest trends in haircuts & color while maintaining quality & affordability

Gift Certificates Available

Open Tues-Sat
Call for appt. 302.436.4949
Williamsville Ind. Pk., Rt. 54

Card of Thanks

The family of Scotta Murray would like to thank everyone for all the visits, cards, food, flowers, prayers and other acts of kindness during her illness and after her death. The list is endless!

Heartfelt gratitude and special thanks go to Patty Winneford and to Ella Joy of Delaware Hospice, to the volunteers of Meals on Wheels, to Pastor Weymouth, to Laura Mitchell, to the Daystar Fire Company volunteers and to Doug and Sharon Nelson.



Again, thank you and God Bless You All.

The Murray Family