

Garden Club Fundraiser Will Help Beautify Town

By Michael Walsh
Staff Writer

The Farmington Garden Club was already thinking spring during its annual auction fundraiser, on Dec. 11.

Snow may have been covering the ground that day, but the members of the garden club were ready to raise money that will go a long way toward beautifying the town when the weather warms back up.

Sandy Goralnick, the garden club's president, said the money raised during the auction would go toward various projects, including the flower baskets that are hung from the Vincent Dipietro Memorial Bridge in the spring, the pocket parks across town, and the holiday kissing balls that are currently in place.

"That's sort of why we are here and why we have the garden club," Goralnick said. "It's all about beautifying Farmington and doing what we can. There are a lot of things we do hands-on, like weeding and the pocket parks. This is just another aspect of that."

Joan Bomann was part of the auction's organization committee this year. She said it's an event that represents the fact that the garden club members all come together with the same goal in mind.

"We all have the same core values. We all have the same goal," Bomann said. "Farmington does a great job making it look perfect. We just want to add to that."

The auction is very much a self-generated fundraiser. Garden club members provide the items to be bid on and garden club members then bid on those items. In 2016,

they raised around \$3,500 from the auction. They had the same goal for this year.

Ann Mullen has been involved with beautification projects, like the holiday kissing balls, since its inception.

"Part of the mission statement of the Farmington Garden Club is to give back to the town," Mullen said. "Not only do we do it with the holiday balls, one of the largest things we do is take care of the pocket parks. The auction is a great thing because it allows us to get all of our members to come together."

Martha Cheshire is also heavily involved in beautification projects and said the efforts to take care of things like that can go a long way toward improving the town.

"It enhances the character of the town," Cheshire said. "It trickles down towards property values. And the hands-on aspect of this is important for the community spirit and the camaraderie."

"It does add to the fact that when people come look at our town to live here, and they see that we are taking care of the town, and there are flowers on the bridge, it's one of the many things that they say to themselves would be nice about living in Farmington," Mullen said. "It's good when you take care of the small things."

The garden club was also hosting a collection for Farmington's food pantry, during the auction. The club's civic and community service committee, co-chaired by Gloria Shusdock and Lynne Creed, oversees that effort.

At this year's event, members donated 136 pounds of food and \$515 in monetary donations.



Michael Walsh/Courant Community

The Farmington Garden Club hosted an auction fundraiser, on Dec. 11, that will help the members continue to beautify the town.