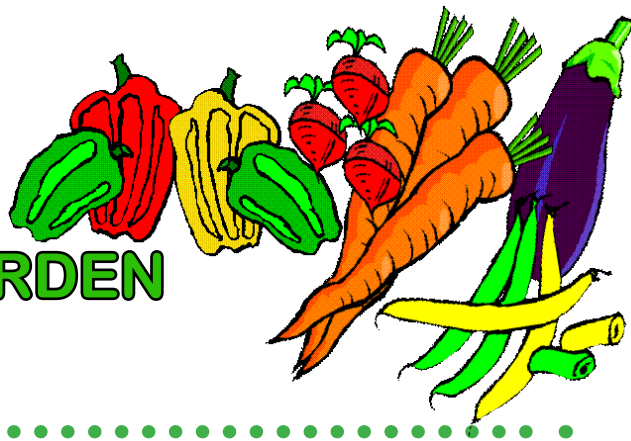


August 6, 2012

INDIANA COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS



Great News from the Garden

The first season of the Indiana Community Garden can be considered very successful. A great location, a rich soil, and an abundance of sunshine transform the gardens week by week in a beautiful organic mesh giving us nutritious and delicious produce. We are harvesting Swiss chard, beets, green beans, green peppers, banana peppers, okra, broccoli-cauliflowers, all sorts of tomatoes, and some corn from the three community plots. Many different herbs can also be harvested from the Indiana Garden Club plot. All the individual plots are thriving as well, and it is certainly a great pleasure to navigate through the different beds.

To complete the garden design, Care Free Garden built two flower beds next to the entrance arch. Next year we can expect to see wisteria and hibiscus twinning all along the

arch. A beautiful lean-to pavilion was built by Mennonite carpenter Daryl Martin. An attractive toolshed is attached to its back, and we can now accept donations for gardening hand tools, watering cans, and a simple push lawn mower. With G. Smith installing a rain water collection system to the pavilion and Charlie Venturella building the compost bins, the main structure of the garden will be almost complete. Rebecca Slack of the Indiana Art Council will coordinate the creation of a mural around the gas well with the artistic talents of the youth community.

Thanks to Jill Fiore from Sun Flower Yoga; we had a second yoga session at the park. In mid July, Kay Snyder and Tom Novak coordinated a service project by students from the Upward Bound Project. Under their supervision, they attended to the community plots, tasted some veggies and learned quite a few things about gardening. The July 28 picnic under

the newly built pavilion was a great success. Despite the threatening weather, eighteen people came and we all enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner made largely from garden produce.

Upcoming Events

Nicole Dann Payne and Jodie Seybold, both IUP Food & Nutrition instructors and Registered Dietitians, will be conducting a Food Demonstration series. The first one "Summer Appetizers & Salads" is scheduled for August 15 at 5:30 under the pavilion. Tasting will be a component of their demonstration so signing up will be necessary. They will also have recipes available.

To celebrate our first season, we are hoping to organize a catered candlelight dinner in the park in mid September. Please see the details for all of our events on our website www.indianacommunitygarden.org.

We are already starting to think about next year. We will most likely extend our garden by building additional plots. If you are interested in sponsoring a bed for \$100 and/or renting one, fill out one of our brochure available in the garden box and send it back to us. Priority for a plot will be for the people who have been involved and volunteering in the gardens this year. The community garden needs a lot of attention and volunteer help is crucial. We now have a sign up list in our pavilion for the tasks that need to be done. Please check it out and see if you can help. Finally, remember that Wednesdays 6PM and Saturdays 10 AM are regular times in the garden, times where we can work together, share tips, and harvest.

