



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc

2004, Volume 62, Number 12

# December 7, 2004 Holiday Party



## SNOWFLAKE GALA



**When:** Tuesday, December 7th

**Where:** At Lake Harriet Methodist Church.

**What:** 6PM

Social time, silent auction bidding, punch and hors d' oeuvres.

**Dinner:** 6:30 PM

**The Program:** Awards

**Entertainment:** 'The Mouldy Figs'

Reservations a must - See page 11 for a reservation form and where to send it.



Lynda at the welcome table



Jan lighting the candles

### Scenes from Last Year's Holiday Party



Margaret getting the auction ready



Smoozing at the social time



# My Final Hurrah

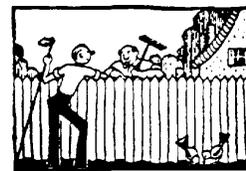
By Chuck Carlson

Well time has come to let someone else have the fun of being the editor. Seven years have gone by so quickly so it must have been enjoyable. But it is time to allow someone else the opportunity and to give the newsletter a new approach and some new blood. One tends to get in a rut when doing the same thing over and over and I hope you haven't been caught up in a "here it is again attitude". I am sure the new editor will bring something new to the table and it will go on better than ever. Thanks for the opportunity, I have learned from the experience and I would recommend the task to anyone.

You probably noticed this final addition under my editorship has a new masthead and page headings. I did this as my last parting congratulations to all the women in the club. They now make up about 30% and maybe for the new year a bit more. But in my opinion they contribute more than that to the club. The club's name relates to our past which has been one of the great garden clubs of the area. My only hope is that it maintains that status as a garden club and not just a social organization. For if it does, in my opinion, it will go downhill into oblivion.

My only disappointment that I have noticed is that few are willing to take leadership roles particularly in willing to serve on the board. When I served on the board, I learned more about the club and the people in the club and had fun doing it. Please step up and respond next year to the call. Also serve on as many committees as you can and allow the tour committee to list your garden as one of the tour gardens. Every garden big or small is welcomed and is a delight to see.

I also want to thank all of you who have provided copy for the newsletter. The presi-



dents for their monthly article, the chairs of the committees for their inputs and any who have provided articles. Without these articles, the newsletter is less interesting and becomes a calendar of club events. Two people who helped me the most by supplying numerous articles were Mary Maynard and Phil Smith. Phil who lives in Montana & Florida did a service with his articles and Mary has gone above and beyond with her many "Confessions". Thanks to both of you for your inputs.

I encourage each of you in the club to think very hard and provide the new editor with some copy. Maybe it is your favorite plant, a disappointment in your garden, something that grew beyond your expectations, ideas you used in the garden or saw in other gardens, garden places to see etc.

I also hope that a number of you will help the new editor with the mundane tasks of typing, folding, labeling, stamping and mailing. Just sign up for the committee or if you haven't signed up tell the new newsletter chair you will volunteer.

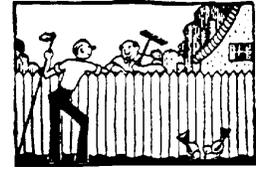
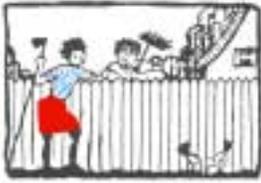


## Will You Remember

By Chuck Carlson

**Will this be a December,  
To remember?  
Or just another month of shoveling snow,  
And hope the winds won't blow & blow.**

**We will have our holiday fun.  
With parties and presents, to keep us on the run.  
But we should remember, that in December,  
It is Christmas, we should remember.**



# The Presidents Final Message

By Ellyn Hosch MGCM President

## December 2004

This is my last column as President. I don't know whether future Presidents will struggle every month to write a column and submit it by the publication deadline. I'm not sure because Chuck Carlson is stepping down as Editor-in-Chief of the MGCM Garden Spray. New blood is coming in to take the Spray and make it their own. While I've always delighted in receiving Chuck's Spray, I am equally excited to see what the new editors will bring to our newsletter.

Gardening is about change. If you are a vegetable gardener, you rotate what you plant and where you plant it. If you are an annual flower gardener, every year brings a new set of plants to try. If you are a perennial flower gardener, you are always looking for a new and better plant to try or splitting and moving them to a new location. The tree you planted years ago is now tall and shading what used to be your sun garden. You dig up your sun plants and switch to hostas and heuchera.

A garden club also needs to be about change if it is to grow and thrive. What is our future? Have we gotten into a rut as a garden club? Doing the same things year after year simply because we've always done them? What club activities add value to your life and to the members of the club? What activities should the club stop doing because they don't add value commensurate with their cost? Only you can decide.

I urge each of you to think about the

club—what do you want from the club and what can you do for the club? Things change one small step at a time. Join a committee you find interesting: speak up, give ideas, take initiative, volunteer, or even chair the committee. Make a change for the better by providing positive leadership. As we look to a new year, let's decide what we want for the future of the club and make it happen.

*"I cannot say whether things will be better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better." Georg Christoph Lichtenberg*

Happy Gardening!

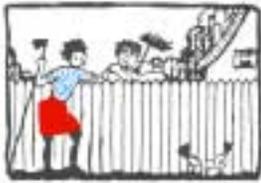


*Ellyn Hosch receiving her presidential mantle*

## New Editors

By Chuck Carlson, your outgoing editor

Yes we have a change in editorship starting with the January issue. We are very pleased to have two volunteers, Jason Rathy & Mary Maynard. They will act as co-chairs for the newsletter committee and will split up the tasks to fit their own skills and with those on the committee. I not only urge the committee members but all in the club to provide the help they need. Be it writing, labeling, stamping, mailing or whatever, just tell them you will help.



# The November Program

By Chuck Carlson

Do you wish your neighbors leaves don't come on your yard? Or, how about shade predominating in your yard because of a neighbor's tree. Worse yet, if he caused your shade with a big soft maple and you landscaped your yard with hundreds of dollars of shade plants and then he cut down the tree. How would you feel? Better yet is there any laws regarding this? Well all these questions and more were answered by our November program.

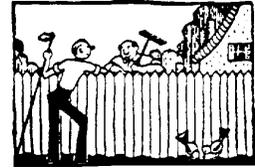
Lorrie Stromme, attorney- master gardener and tree care advisor, answered these questions and many more.

## Subjects covered included;

- What is a boundary tree and who owns it.
- Definition of a nuisance tree.
- Pruning of a boundary tree
- Using "self help" on branches or roots that encroach on your property.
- Is tree debris(leaves, twigs, fruit etc.) considered a nuisance?
- Treble damage for wrongful tree cutting.
- Trees that fall and caused damage.
- What if the owner of a defective tree won't address the problem.

My take on the program was use common sense, talk with you neighbor, use mediation if necessary and finally as a last resort go to court. But remember, as Ambrose Bierce once said, "You go in as a pig and come out as a sausage."

Remember, "leaves happen" so just pick



them up for compost. If you want to trim on your side of the lot line go ahead but talk to your neighbor and cut at the most one third of the trees extremities and remember if the tree dies you may be held responsible. If there is damage caused by a tree falling in a wind storm or by lightning, it may not be an act of God particularly if there is previous damage or if it could be prevented by using reasonable tree care.

I just scratched the surface of this program and if you need more information, there was a handout provided. If you need a copy let me know.

## New Board Elected

During the November annual meeting the following were elected to the 2005 Board.

President	Dave McKeen,
Vice President	Kristine Deters
Recording Secretary	Denise Rust
Membership Sect.	Don Stuewe
Treasurer	Leroy Cech
Past President	Ellyn Hosch
Director	Don Trocke
Director	Rudy Allebach
Director	Elizabeth Hamilton

They were also were installed by Duane Reynolds in an extremely lively and interesting ritual. Congratulations and thanks for agreeing to serve on the board.

## Do You Have Christmas?

May you have the gladness of Christmas

which is hope;

The spirit of Christmas

which is peace;

The heart of Christmas

which is love.

Ada V. Hendricks



# Board Meeting Summary

By Secretary Mary Oelke

October 26, 2004

Board Members Present :Rudy Allebach, Leroy Cech, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Mary Oelke, Don Steuwe, Don Trocke Absent: Nancy Bjerke  
Guests: Denise Rust, M. T. Pulley

The meeting was called to order by President Ellyn Hosch. The secretary's minutes were approved as sent.

## Treasurer's Report:

Yearly donations were made to Minnesota State Horticultural Society, Horticultural Research Center, U of M Landscape Arboretum, and Minneapolis Parks Legacy Society. The total of these donations was \$900. The treasurer's report was approved.

## Membership Secretary:

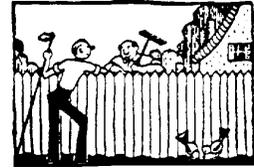
The current membership is 120. 20% of the members joined the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. To help with record keeping, Don asks that separate checks be written for membership.

A question was received as to the availability of the monthly financial report of MGCM. In the future a copy of the report will be available at the registration table. Copies of the year end report will be available at the January meeting.

The closet at Lake Harriet Methodist Church has been cleaned and organized. New member packets have been assembled and are stored in the closet.

Don had suggestions for increasing MGCM membership:

- Promote public attendance at the plant sale by offering plants at less than retail
- Members should invite guests to the monthly meetings
- Reduce the number of MGCM committees



## Scholarship Committee:

M. T. Pulley read thank you notes from two of the three scholarship recipients. They plan to attend the holiday party in December. At that time, a Scholarship Award Certificate will be given to each recipient.

This year there were ten scholarship applications. The Scholarship Committee requests a sense of direction for next year. Alternative ways of raising scholarship money might be a topic for future discussion. For the year 2005, \$3000 is available for scholarships.

## New Business:

### Rookie

The Rookie of the Year Award will be given at the December Meeting.

### Budget

Budget Recommendations for the year 2005 were made by Dave McKeen, Ellyn Hosch, and Dave Johnson. Each item was discussed and approved by the board. The budget will be voted upon at the January General Meeting.

## Board Meetings:

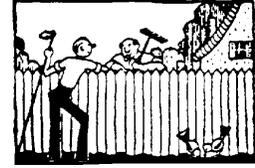
The December 28 board meeting is cancelled.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, November 30 at 7 PM at the home of Rudy Allebach.

**Since in Latin decem means ten. Why then is the last month of the year called December, when it is the twelfth month? Because in the oldest Roman calendar there were only Ten months.**



## 2005 MGCM BUDGET



COMMITTEE OR FUNCTION	INCOME	EXPENSE
Arbor Day		\$ 100.00
Awards and Trophies		200.00
FFF		700.00
Garden Spray		1000.00
Holiday Party	\$2000.00	2400.00
Holiday Party - Silent Auction	1000.00	
Hospitality	4000.00	5000.00
Membership		300.00
Perennial Garden		300.00
Photography		50.00
Plant Auction	8800.00	5100.00
Program		700.00
Slide Show	200.00	50.00
Sunshine		300.00
Tour - Public (July Biennial)	Not scheduled	in 2005
Tours - Club	1000.00	1200.00
Tour Other (Field/Bachman)		200.00
Valley Fair	400.00	
MGCM Dues	1200.00	
MSSH Dues	1400.00	1400.00
MSSH Donation		200.00
Arbor. Membership		60.00
Arbor. Donation		300.00
HRC Donation		300.00
Mpls Parks Legacy Society		100.00
Bank Interest	300.00	
Bank Charges		300.00
Honorary Members Dues		100.00
Insurance		500.00
Preident Contingency		250.00
Office Supplies		150.00
Legal/Filing Expenses		100.00
Raffles	50.00	
Scholarships	*	3000.00
Historian		250.00
Miscellaneous		100.00
Memorials	*	1000.00
Youth Gardening		100.00
Web Site		250.00
Totals	20350.00	26060.00
* + carry-over of designated funds (scholarship - 2073; memorial - 422)	2495.00	
 Grand Totals	 22845.00	 26060.00 (-3215)



## Give Thanks

*I received this poem from Kak Koopmans, she found it on a napkin. It would have been appropriate for November (Thanksgiving) but I think we could use it for the end of the year*

**For these things we give our thanks  
For gifts of the earth,  
Brought forth by rains from the skies  
And sun from the heavens  
We are greatly thankful.**

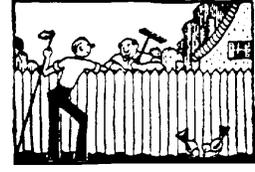
**For the bounty of the vine,  
The fruit of the tree,  
The grain of the stalk,  
The treasures of the soil  
We offer our thanks.**

**For the forest and the stream,  
Which greatly provide,  
We are humbly thankful.**

**For freedom from need  
And the blessing of love and kindness,  
Which have been bestowed upon us,  
It is for these things that,  
We are truly thankful.**

**I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!**

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



## Slugfest

*Found in the Tiller, the newsletter of the Garden Club of Green Bay contributed by Pat Kaster*

### A Slug Solution

Found on the Internet: "I came across a cure for the slug problem quite by accident. My two dogs loved frozen yogurt, so I put some in a dish for them, but they were too busy to eat it. It melted and during the night the slugs came in droves and overdosed on the melted frozen yogurt. I had tried the beer before and it does work, but this was sort of like seeing how many people you can pack into a VW, only how many slugs can get in the yogurt dish. I was amazed at how many were in there. If you are a little squeamish, don't do it."

*Editors comment: This seems like a perfect solution when cleaning out the refrigerator and find a out of date package of yogurt in the back of one of the shelves. Even a new yogurt may be better than wasting a good beer to catch those slimy critters.*

## The Beer Slugs Prefer.....

In 1987, Colorado State University Entomology Professor Whitney Cranshaw had his students conduct a test for the beverage most favored by local slugs: Here's the results of that experiment. Budweiser was chosen as the test standard and the number of slugs choosing bud represented one Slug Unit. Kingsbury Malt Beverage was the winner! Below show the beverage and its preference rate.

Budweiser	1.00	Bud Light	.89
Coors	.56	Coors Light	.79
Fort Collins CO tap water			.06
Gallo Pink Chablis			.09
<b>Kingsbury Malt Beverage</b>			<b>1.14</b>
Michelob	1.04	Miller	.68
Miller Lite	.57	Old Milwaukee	.81
Schaefer	.69		
Sugar-water and yeast			.52



# Gardening in Containers

**HYG-1254-00**

By Jane C. Martin

**Extension Agent, Horticulture**

Many gardeners do not have the space or energy to garden on a grand scale. They may be limited by the boundaries of their property, or limited by time and energy. But, they can still have a garden that is colorful, productive, and adds to the enjoyment of life. Why not garden in containers?

## Choosing a Container

Consider these characteristics of containers to make sure they are suitable for your garden:

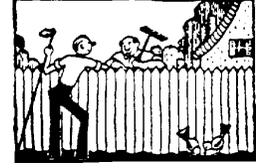
*\*Non-porous or porous* - Glazed pots, plastic, metal, and glass containers are non-porous and hold moisture longer, but are not as "natural" as some other materials. Clay pots are porous and will lose moisture quickly in dry weather. Wooden window boxes, planters, and baskets are often lined with plastic sheeting to protect the wood, and thereby become non-porous.

*\*Drainage holes* - Every container should drain to ensure the health of the plant(s). If holes don't exist in a container's bottom, drill a few.

*\*Susceptibility to frost damage* - Some containers can be left outdoors over winter and will not be damaged, while most clay pots will crack or flake.

## Container Size

Keep plants in proportion to the container, and the container in proportion to the location. Larger containers are usually placed on the ground for aesthetics, practicality of weight, and mobility. Smaller ones can be placed in raised positions. Also consider ease of plant care; soil nutrients and water are used up more quickly in smaller containers and must be maintained more often than larger containers.



## Other Aesthetic Considerations

Old, weathered, metal containers take on a verdigris effect over time; this is similar to the bluish-green appearance that copper acquires when weathered. You can purchase verdigris paint kits in craft stores to paint metal containers, or make your own by using white acrylic paint tinted with brown and green art acrylic colors. Make sure you seal the surface with an acrylic varnish to protect the painted surface. Experiment a little to achieve the look you want.

Clay pots can be weathered artificially by painting them with a thick layer of plain yogurt and leaving them outside to dry for 7 to 10 days before planting. Pots will gradually acquire a greenish patina.

## Container Potting Mixes

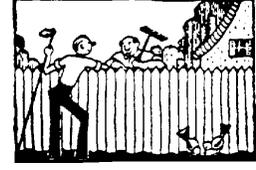
Because containers offer limited space for roots to thrive, the gardener must supply the best conditions possible. Potting mixes should have the proper structure to provide air and hold water, drain properly to prevent water-logging, and be heavy enough to support the plant.

Typical homemade mixes are made by combining equal parts of packaged "potting soil," sphagnum peat moss, and perlite. If the peat moss is dry, it is a good idea to moisten it before incorporating it in the mix. Do this by soaking it in a bucket of warm water, then squeeze out the excess moisture by hand. Avoid the temptation to fill the pots with native clay soil from the garden because it drains poorly, is heavy, and compacts over time. Native soil can be added as an amendment in some situations, such as to add weight to larger containers.

## Potting Soil and Soilless Mixes

Commercially available *potting mixes* and *soilless mixes* are usually made up of different organic ingredients including varying proportions of sphagnum peat moss, shredded bark, and sawdust, as well as mineral ingredients such as vermiculite, perlite, calcined clay, and

(Continued on page 9)



## Container Garden Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

sand. These are typically lightweight and weed and disease free. Many different brands and types of mixes are offered in garden stores, and quality varies widely. There is no regulation by state or federal agencies over the content of these mixes and there are no standards that define what constitutes a good potting mix.

Mixes for larger containers are rather coarse blends of finely ground and composted fir or pine bark and peat moss. For shrubs and small trees grown in containers, 5% to 10% soil or loam is usually added to support the heavier plant and provide a heavier, more stable container. Dry native soil can be sifted through 1/4-inch mesh and mixed with this potting mix.

### Evaluating Potting Mixes

An easy way to evaluate a potting soil mix is to wet it, plant in it, and then try watering the planted container. A good mix should wet relatively easily, and should not compact excessively when wet or when pressed into the container. And of course, it should hold water without water-logging. There should be no large particles over 1/4 inch in size, and a minimum of fine particles under 1/16 inch.

### Additions to Soilless Mixes

Fertilizer is the most obvious addition to potting mix. Use either a water-soluble fertilizer at regular watering intervals, or add a time-released fertilizer such as Osmocote®, to the mix at planting.

\* *Vermiculite and perlite* may also be added to potting mix to add volume without weight.

\* *Calcined clay* is a rigid, odorless mineral that resembles cat litter. Succulents and alpines that require excellent drainage can be grown more successfully if one part calcined clay is added to two parts native soil.

\* *Hydrogels* (hydrophilic polymers) are

hard, crystal-like polymers that absorb water. In theory, this absorbed water is then slowly made available to plant roots to prevent or delay water stress. Individual particles will absorb between 60 and 400 times their dry weight in water, depending on the specific type.

Caution is advised if you are incorporating hydrogels into the potting mix. Hydrogels are known to break down in the presence of fertilizer salts, so you will probably increase their usefulness by using only slow-release fertilizers.

### Container Maintenance

Steps in planting containers are relatively easy. Make sure the container is clean before planting, and soak clay pots in water for a few minutes before planting. Place a small stone, shard of pottery, or coffee filter paper over the pot's drainage hole to keep the potting mix in. The bottom few inches of large pots can be filled with crushed aluminum cans, plastic milk jugs, or Styrofoam® peanuts to reduce weight and the amount of potting mix needed.

Prepare your potting mix by adding amendments as desired, hydrogels, and slow-release fertilizers. Fill the container with this mix. Planting is then easy. Install plants just as you would plant in the ground. Water the container thoroughly after planting. Planting and watering should cause the media level to drop to one-half inch below the rim.

Once planted, watering will be your most frequent maintenance chore, especially if you are growing plants in clay containers. On hot, sunny days small containers may need watering twice. Water completely so that water drains through the drainage hole and runs off. Water early in the day.

If you incorporated a slow release fertilizer into the potting mix, you may not need to fertilize the rest of the season. You can also use a water-soluble fertilizer and apply it according to the label directions during the season.

*Editors note::*

*See last month for end of season container chores.*



# Help Others and Yourself

## Is It a Stroke?

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, this lack of awareness can spell disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

Ask the individual to smile.

Ask him or her to raise both arms.

Ask the person to speak a simple sentence.

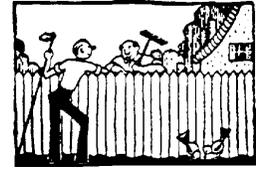
If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

## Heart Attack Self Help

A cardiologist says if everyone who reads this and tells 10 people, you can bet that at least one life will be saved. Let's say it's 6:15 p.m. and you're driving home (alone, of course) after an unusually hard day on the job. You're really tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw. You are only about five miles from the hospital nearest your home. Unfortunately, you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far. You have been trained in CPR, but the guy that taught the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself.

**Do the following when alone.**



The person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

**BE A FRIEND AND TELL THIS TO AS MANY FRIENDS AS POSSIBLE.**

## Old Fables

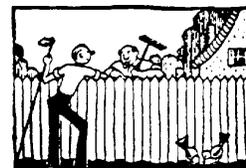
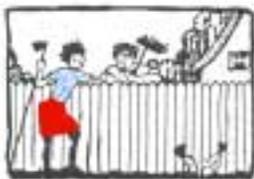
**A green Christmas means a white Easter.**

**If there's thunder during Christmas week, the winter will be anything but meek.**

**The nearer the new moon to Christmas day, the harder the winter.**

**If Christmas day be bright and clear, There will be two winters in the year.**

**Like in December like all year long**



# December Event



## HOLIDAY PARTY

### The Snowflake Gala

Tuesday, December 7th

Our annual Holiday Party tradition will, once again, be held at our regular meeting site at Lake Harriet Methodist Church. We've changed the dining format to a self-serve holiday buffet with two choices of entre. Assistance to your table will be provided for anyone who desires it.

Social time silent auction bidding, punch and hors d'oeuvres.

Dinner

Awards ceremony

Silent Auction

Entertainment: 'The Mouldy Figs'

This year's silent auction promises to be better than ever. And the reputation of our entertainment should solidify a most enjoyable evening for all. The deadline for reservations is December 1st but space is limited so get your reservations in early. We will also take reservations at our November 9th meeting. See below for reservations.

**The reservation must be in by December 1**

## SNOWFLAKE GALA HOLIDAY PARTY

December 7

Time: 6:00 PM

Cost : \$19.00

Location: Lake Harriet Methodist Church

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The reservation must be in by December 1

Send reservation forms and check made payable to MGCM to:

Jackie Overom

14024 Frontier Lane

Burnsville, MN. 55337-4728



# MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



## CLUB OFFICERS:

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## THE SPRAY

*The Garden Spray* is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc. for its members. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

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# The Garden Spray

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.  
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 Fridley, MN 55432-0463

**First Class Mail**



**December 7 MGCM Holiday Party**  
**December 25 Christmas Day**  
**Merry Christmas**  
**December 31 New Years Eve**