

The Gardener

By
Kay
Melia



When it became sufficiently clear that it was time to make up my mind about whether or not to embark upon another year of writing stuff about gardening, or permanently retire from such foolishness because of my advanced years, I chose the former. The decision wasn't as easy as you might think. The idea of just sitting around on my duff, watching television and reading books and papers was quite tempting. But in reality, my love of writing, particularly about a timely subject like gardening, was the deciding factor.

I have to say I surprised myself a bit by my decision. If you have read this blog in past years, you are surely aware that I am nothing more than a highly experienced, common sense, plain backyard dirt gardener who knows nothing about the finer points of plant breeding or infinite soil structures, or even of the vitamin content of kale and kohlrabi. But in this case, the consideration of over seven decades of experience, in some people's eyes, may outweigh any other considerations on the table. If you do something long enough, you may have sufficient grounds for believability, as opposed to someone new to the game.

And then there is the conundrum of old age, a state of existence that nearly everyone sooner or later will hopefully enjoy. In my case, the state is so late that I probably won't plant much of a garden

this year due to various stages of stenosis and rototiller disrepair.

Therein lies the main reason for continuing my effort of putting words on paper. If I can't get out there and capably perform with rake and hoe in hand, then I will continue to take out my frenzy on newspaper editors and other friends who enjoy the healthful goodness of fresh food, as well as growing a bit of their own.

I have spent the winter months reading a couple dozen garden catalogs from cover to cover, learning what the seed companies have declared to be the very finest of the things they would love to share with you and I. I have thoroughly re-read the finer points of the contents of my Master Gardener's handbook that was prepared for me several years ago by the people who REALLY know what they are talking about. And I have thoroughly enjoyed partaking of the contents of many jars and frozen packets of last year's garden production, as well as the stored potatoes, onions, and carrots.

And, I have successfully grown and enjoyed a gorgeous amaryllis plant through the holiday season. It's beauty and very existence has sharpened my desire to get started on another season of sharing my thoughts with you. Your response is always appreciated!



JENNA CONFER, left, received a balloon and stuffed bear while St. Francis high school students sang to her. Pictured, Mckayla Rogers, Sydney Sundstrum and Wade Jones are some of the students bringing Singing Valentines to the community.

Sainty students sell singing telegrams

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, music students at St. Francis Community High School can be heard practicing love songs in preparation for their annual "Singing Valentine" delivery on Feb. 14. A singing Valentine consists of a balloon with a small bag of candy and a love song. Students are also offering the option of an

additional gift (small plush Valentine animal, larger bag of candy, etc.) for a few extra dollars.

The students who are participating in the singing Valentine project will be using the proceeds to attend a dinner theatre production in Fort Collins on April 17.

Order forms for singing Valentines are

available in posters at the high school office, grade school, and the post office bulletin board. High school vocal, band and advanced music students can also take orders and answer questions about the project.

Check the advertisement in this issue for more information.

Administrator gives December report

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners met with the nursing home administrator at the Friday meeting. Again, the administrator reported that in the month of December, there was a profit.

Jeff Paulsen, administrator of the Good Samaritan Village, had the accounting report for December. He noted that nursing home had shown a profit of \$2,641, and the independent living apartments had a profit of \$3,062. The total profit for the month was \$5,703.

He said the Village had been awarded a grant to help fund the renovation of the west entrance of the nursing home. Roger Jensen,

St. Francis contractor, will do the work.

Kick plate covers for the hall doors have arrived and Travis Milne, St. Francis contractor, will put them on. Mr. Paulsen said the county had saved \$500 by ordering now instead of three months earlier.

The older wing of the nursing home has had window air conditioners. Mr. Paulsen had done some research on air conditioning systems, and had talked to Ed Marin, Heartland Heating and Air Conditioning, St. Francis. Mr. Marin said one unit could cool four rooms. There are 16 rooms in that wing (the newer rooms already have air conditioning as

does the rest of the building).

After discussion, the commissioners agreed that Mr. Paulsen should get estimates on four units. They also asked that he advertise for bids to install them.

Brett Poling, commissioner, asking about the apartments, wanted to know if all of them were rented, because they have shown a profit throughout the year.

Mr. Paulsen said all but three were rented. Two are available now, and one is still being remodeled. He said it had been suggested that the apartments might rent quicker if there was a carport for their vehicle. Mr. Paulsen was asked to get prices on carports.

Karan Thadani, county attorney, suggested that there be more confirmation to see if that would help fill the apartments.

Dr. Poling asked if the vacant apartments were advertised? Mr. Paulsen said in the past, he had placed an advertisement in the newspaper. He also had a sign near the apartments. Dr. Poling requested that he do more advertising to fill the apartments.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said he had gone to Sharon Springs and looked at their six units of assisted living. He thought that having this service is something that should be looked in to. Mr. Paulsen suggested doing a feasibility study.

Apply at local office by March 15 deadline

The final date to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for feed crops such as cane, sorghum dual purpose, and millet, is March 15. Crops eligible for the benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county.

The application and service

fee is \$250 per crop, up to \$750 per county, and not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.



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