

Main Street Fountain Report

9/2023 -9/2024

Unfortunately the most memorable event about the Main Street Fountain for this report is that it was knocked off its base by a white pick up truck on October 30, 2023. After being hit by a motorist in March 2020 and then taken away for seven months to get a full restoration by Cassidy Brothers Forge, it was good to have it return in March 2021. But then came the disappointment of the destruction done in October by a white Chevy Silverado truck that hit the fountain head on leaving the heavy steel structure in pieces on the cobble stones along with the many squash and pumpkins that decorated it.

The landmark Fountain had just been decorated for the Fall- with Harvest theme but once again there was a need for a makeshift structure to decorate the downtown. The DPW was very helpful, working with us and fulfilled our request for a big barrel that could be the focal point on Main for our Harvest decorations

Unanswered Guidelines

The transition between winter, spring and summer are complicated for most plants survival. The best way to solve this change in the fountain continues to be unanswered. There is no answer to the use of artificial items and decorations or just emptying the fountain of plant, leaving it empty in times when the weather is not able to support live plants.. Hopefully we can find a good solution to this problem.

There is no long range planning on how to continue staffing this activity. That is another area that should be addressed

Schedule and Roster for 2023-24

We are still working on the schedule for next year. We hope to have it filled soon but we have 7 months until we need someone to fill the spot

1. Autumn -The Harvest Fair through Thanksgiving - Bonnie Ford, Dottie Gennaro and Linda Fraker
2. Winter -Christmas Stroll through April – Bee Gonnella, Barbara Halsead, Ruth Plandowski
3. Spring – Daffodil Weekend through May -Jill Sandoli, Diane Deedle and Susan Gambie
4. Patriotic Display – Memorial Day until after July 4^h, Sarah Ann Miller, Daryl Westbrook and Ruthie Klinck
5. Summer- Mid July until the end of September- Anna Caspersen, Martha Perry, Robin Hammer

Thanksgiving- Last Thursday in November

Christmas – Friday after Thanksgiving for Stroll

Daffodil Festival-Last weekend in April;

Memorial Day-Last Monday in May

4th of July-Early Summer;

Cranberry Festival-A weekend in October

Useful information for reminding and sharing

Plant List

Autumn - All plants were successful

18-20 Gourds and pumpkins

4 - 12” to 15” Heads of Kale

5-10 Mini Green Kale

10-12 Mums

4 Tall grasses

10-12 Pansies

10-12 Mini Cabbage

Winter -

Christmas Tree since no Fountain,

Bows and ribbons, ornaments and flower pot to look like little men

Spring

600 Potted daffodil and tulip bulbs(Talk to Heidi Drew) and pansies

Patriotic

12 Red Geraniums

8 -10 Dusty Miller

12 Lobelia (blue)

8 - 10 Alyssum (white)

4 Euphorbia

7-8 White double Impatiens

12 Pericallis – Baby Senetti Blue

6 Red Verbena

Summer-

See enclosed report for list of plants and information about the plants used in the fountain

The Fountain info

Hose and faucet in cobble stone street by fountain

Electrical outlet in fountain structure

Dimensions of basin, 42” diameter with 10” column in center

Do not park for more than one hour at a time on Main Street.

Parking tickets will be issued even if you are there.

Suggestions for preparation of the Fountain for planting

- Refresh Basin before each planting especially spring
- Remove all plants, unless they are to be used again, from basin before starting
- Loosen remaining soil and remove any root balls in soil
- Add organic fertilizer and fresh soil if needed
- Use the basin of Fountain for the dominant part of designs.
- Use color, texture, size and shape to create interest
- Try to keep everything natural.

Shopping info and suggestions

-There is no set place to purchase plant but we do have a Bartlett’s account that gives us a landscaper’s 20% discount

-Charge number for Bartlett’s 8195 973-768-6108

I was disappointed with the choice and quality of Bartlett’s

Tools to bring

- Gloves
- Clippers
- Spade and other hand tools
- Step stool
- Ladder
- Container to hold waste and/or plastic bag
- Broom
- Dust pan and brush
- Tarp

List of Members interested in working on the Main Street Fountain:

,Susan Boling

Ruth Klinck

Martha Polachi

Robin Youngman

Cathy Ward

I think sharing the work on the Main Street Fountain is team building, fun and displays one of the many ways the Nantucket Garden Club is involved in the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dottie Gennaro

MAIN STREET FOUNTAIN SUMMER REPORT 2024

Anna Caspersen, Robin Hammer, and I had the pleasure of planting and caring for the Main Street Fountain from the

week after July 4th through September.

We met at Bartlett's Farm the week after the fourth to purchase our plant material. As in prior years we selected flowers

and plants that could tolerate full sun and would provide "a visual punch" whether the fountain was viewed from a

distance or up close.

Consistent with 2023 there was good availability of flowers of all types and Harriett in the garden center was a

wonderful help.

This year, at Harriett's suggestion, we tried to do a mockup so we knew what plants would go where. In addition, we

packed the flowers more tightly than we had in the past. This created a full and pleasing design with color from the top

through the mid-level to the edge of the container. We "built up" the top level with extra potting soil and worked from

there down to the edge of the fountain to ensure the heights were right. For the top layers we used a variety of taller

"thrillers" that were as tall as the lower level of the fountain light, for the middle layers we used flowers and coleus

which provide a strong visual punch of color and for the lowest level we use a variety of spillers – both greens as well as

flowers.

We purchased A LOT OF PLANTS in order to tightly pack the fountain so it would grow full and lush. Anything we did not

need could be returned but we used it all. We roughly used:

Base of Fountain

24 Sedum “Yellow Bouquet” (best plant we have used to date at the base – stood up very well all summer)

Main Fountain

Top Level:

Guara – used two tall perennial guara as the annuals were no longer available. Did well but prefer annual if can get it

(Top Level)

Angelonia – two sizes – (excellent top and second level plants). Added more as summer progressed

One additional Tall Everblooming Plant (can’t remember the name – it was dark purple!)

Mid Level:

SunPatiens “Compact Purple (did very well massing color)

Supertunia “Vista Bubblegum” (excellent flowering)

Coleus Main Street Chartres Street (did well)

Ageratum Bumble Blue (didn’t do that well as the other plants grew taller it didn’t get enough sun)

Helichrysum “Silver Ribbon” (very pretty but short so needs to be in front if used)

Verbena Hybrid “Superbena Royale Plum Wine” (excellent lower level plant which is upright but also trails)

Trailers:

4-6 Trailing Scavola -Bombay Dark Blue Improved (excellent trailer)

4 - 6 Ipomoea – Potato Vine “Sidekick Black Heart” (excellent trailer)

4-6 Helichrysum “Limelight (excellent trailer)

We filled in a few more plants week of the house tour as some flowers become leggy, and others died off. However the

number of plants that needed replacing was far fewer this year than prior years because we initially used more plants

and packed them VERY tightly.

Given the wetter than normal summer we watered every three days and dead headed at that time as well. Since Martha

lives in town and Anna was often in for activities the watering worked fine.

Planting Notes:

We refreshed the soil by adding extra and incorporated Plant Tone Slow-Release Flower fertilizer to the soil in the

fountain prior to planting. We think this helped the plants retain their vibrancy throughout the summer.

When planting bring a broom and dustpan, tarp (ideal to minimize dirt in the cobblestones), gloves, trowels, and

clippers, step ladder and electric blower if available.

We replaced the 25 foot hose which was leaking. This appears to be an annual need.

Thank you for the opportunity to steward the Main Street Fountain this summer. It was an honor to do it and we

thoroughly enjoyed working together.

Sincerely,

Anna, Robin, and Martha

Main Street Fountain - Autumn Report 2024

Christine Dean had been the third person on our team but had a medical issue she needed to address and had to leave for home. Bonnie Ford and I started to plan our Fountain design in mid September. This was the third time we had done this and felt comfortable using large cabbages, squash and pumpkins as th base for the design. Then we mixed in the smaller mums, cabbages and kale as filler around the squash and pumpkins. We also worked at incorporating the beautiful purple potato vine that remained from the summer arrangement. We used corn stalks to give height and small mums fill the base.

Unfortunately our work was in vain. On October 30th a white Silverado drove down Main Street and leveled the fountain as well as our squash, pumpkins, cabbage and mum all over Main Street. In order to have a decorative downtown for Thanksgiving we came up with the idea that we could use one of the large barrels that is used around the island as the base for the new display. Thanks to the DPW and Andrew Patnode assistance this plan materialized as well as the addition of several bales of hay and many pumpkins. Several bags of dirt were put into the barrel to create a surface to place potted mums and the hay was distributed around the barrel and the pumpkins were artfully placed on them.

Ready for thanksgiving!!!!

Sincerely,

Dottie Gennaro, Bonnie Ford