



WEEKLY WEEDER

Oct. 5, 2023

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September and Year to Date Sunshine Donations to Micah 6



Photo of apples and potatoes donated by Sunshine Gardeners. Photo by Walter Kuhl.

September / Year to Date

- Sunshine Produce -- 84.5 lbs / 2143.25 lbs
- Dry Goods & Non-Sunshine Produce -- 160 lbs / 673.75 lbs

No surprise, we've had a lot less produce donated directly from our gardens to the Micah 6 Food Pantry. As we all know, the last four months have been too hot for everyone and everything, including our plants. The good news is that **donations of both dry goods and purchased produce increased significantly in September.** See the photo of sacks of apples, potatoes, and onions that were donated. In addition, **160 pounds of dry goods were donated in September. This is the highest monthly dry goods donation total we've ever had. Thank you!**

Your donations are very much appreciated. Micah 6 Food Pantry is struggling to keep up with demand. Unfortunately, food prices are increasing faster than salaries. Austin is an expensive city to live in, especially for working families with children.

Fresh Produce Donations:

Please consider donating excess harvest or purchased produce to the Micah 6 Food Pantry. Donations of fresh produce may be left in the cool room (south end of the trailer) or in the trailer refrigerator.

Dry Goods Donations:

Please consider donating non-perishable items. Leave your donations in the cool room at the south end of the trailer.

Non-perishable donation suggestions:

- Canned meats such as tuna and stew (pop-up tops preferred)
- Canned vegetables and soup
- Dry beans and rice
- Healthy cereals
- Peanut butter

Delivery to the food bank will be once a week for the rest of the year. -- Saturdays at 9am.

Thank you for your generosity!

- Submitted by Walter Kuhl

Request for Volunteers for Plot Helpers

The garden is looking for volunteers for the Plot Helpers crew. This team of

people help gardeners who are sick or are caretaking. The work is rewarding and fun! If interested please contact both Bill

Gaventa: bill.gaventa@gmail.com and Bill Cason: Wccason@gmail.com

Reminder: Workday October 7th

The next workday will be Saturday, October 7th from 8 am to 10 am. Marsha Riti and Marilyn Landberg's workday will be removing the greenhouse plastic. Please bring gloves and a utility knife (if you have one). There will also be a Plot Helpers workday happening at the same time, they will be clearing out plots. If you are helping out with the Plot Helpers please bring work gloves. We will have some breakfast provided.

Meet our TikTok Creator Louis DeAngelis



Photo of Louis with a harvest of beets.

Hello Sunshine Gardeners!

My name is Louis and I will be helping out with some short-form videos on Instagram and TikTok for Sunshine! I am a freelance videographer/editor and

am excited to make some fun content at the garden.

My partner Jerry and I have had a quarter plot at Sunshine for just over a year, and as of a month ago we now live within walking distance! We're very excited about fall gardening and just planted some brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, and beets. When I'm not at the garden, I spend a lot of time rock climbing, paddle boarding, and riding around Austin on my bike!

If you see me around or want to help out with some video content please let me know! I would love to shoot some video of folks getting their gardens ready for fall, or showing off your seedlings as they grow, etc... It would be great to get a few folks willing to let me take some short videos and photos with you in your garden! If you have any ideas, I'd love to make them a reality!

Feel free to reach out anytime. I look forward to getting more involved at Sunshine!

You can view the Sunshine Garden Tiktok account [here](#).

Louis DeAngelis

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Garden Education by Ila Falvey

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension has an article this week on planting and preparing your October Vegetable garden. This month they feature information about planting garlic.

You can read more here: <https://travis-tx.tamu.edu/2023/10/03/in-the-october-vegetable-garden/>

Happy Gardening!

Garden Notes from Marsha Riti

The lovely icons for this section were created by Marsha Riti



Slack

Are you looking for a Sunshine Community Gardens social media space to chat with fellow gardeners? Look no further, we have Slack! This is not a new account for our garden.

What is new is that we have a Slack "Pro" account for non-profits as of this week. This means we are able to retain our message history past 90 days and we have other cool new features. Check out [this link to](#) see what

the pro account gets us. If you would like to be on our Slack account, please join! Only Sunshine Community Gardeners are allowed on our account, so I'll be checking new Slack members against our database. Just call me your friendly Slack Bouncer.



Help Needed!!!

Our community garden needs help with:

- A social media volunteer to help post to Facebook and Instagram. If interested contact marsha@marshariti.com
- An Entertainment Volunteer for the 2024 spring sale. If interested contact marsha@marshariti.com
- Volunteers for the Plot Helpers crew. This team of people help gardeners who are sick or are caretaking. The work is rewarding and fun! If interested please contact both Bill Gaventa: bill.gaventa@gmail.com and Bill Cason: Wccason@gmail.com

Volunteering for these roles counts towards your SCG service hours in the Green Binder.



General Workday

The next workday is October 7, from 8 am to 10 am. The focus will be removing the greenhouse plastic and helping the Plot Helpers Team.



Beautification Committee Workday

Need service hours? There is always a workday every Sunday (9-12pm) in the flower beds around the trailer. Hosted by Matthew Johnston.



Kid's Garden!

Thanks to the volunteerism of Sunshine gardeners, Sunshine is ready to get young members of the community gardening.

While there is more to come, in terms of tools for the kids and shade areas, the beds are ready for the kids to start planting!

Gardeners who made contact about sponsoring a child aged 5-11 will be contacted soon by the Children's Garden Zone Coordinator, Pam Kirby. We still have some available beds for children. If you are a garden member in good standing and wish to sponsor a child who would enjoy gardening in his or her own 3x3 bed, contact Pam for further information.



OMG, Cars, slow down!

Please drive slowly (3 MPH) in the garden. There are cats, kids, and gardeners who use this space, and we need it to be safe for everyone.



Mowers and Weed Whackers



Don't know how to use the gas or electric grass cutting equipment? Please contact:

Steve Camp (electric mowers / weed wackers)

Ray Porter (gas mowers)



More grass than garden?

Please clean up your plot. If you have health issues that are keeping you from working on your plot contact your Zone Coordinator or the Vice President for assistance. Also, if you'd like to fallow your plot for the rest of the summer, posted below is how to do that (taken from page 28 of the Handbook). Please make sure your Zone Coordinator or Vice President knows you are fallowing your plot.

Fallow Season or Cover Crop

Occasionally, members may choose to leave a plot fallow for a season. This is a good practice to provide the soil a break. Fallow plots should be cleared of plants and weeds, then covered completely with compost and then cardboard, a thick layer of leaves, or other material that allows water to permeate. Avoid using plastic as it creates a good environment for fire ants underneath, and water pools on top. An alternative to a fallow season is to plant a cover crop to serve as green manure; this can be turned under at the end of the season to condition the soil. Consult the literature or local garden center for details on this technique for soil improvement.

Garden news, seasonal recipes, photos of Sunshine and other content welcome! Contact all three Co-Editors: [Maria](#), [Maggie](#), & [Marianne](#) to contribute the *Weekly Weeder*. Please submit items at or before 5 p.m. on Wednesdays to be included in the current week.



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