

Office of the Mayor
CITY OF MANITOWOC

Commendation

WHEREAS, Seventy-five years ago, forty-nine people interested in “intelligent gardening” attended an organization meeting of a Manitowoc Garden Club in the Community Room of the Savings Bank building; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. John D. West was instrumental in forming this group, as she was serving as the District President of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, and in her address to the group said, “Few people stop to realize how every home and each garden help to make Wisconsin a state of beauty of which we all can be proud. The kind of garden club the members want will be the kind they make it. There is no place for jealousy and hypocrisy in the creed of a good gardener”; and

WHEREAS, Men and women became members of the Manitowoc Garden Club, which was officially adopted on February 16th, 1944; and

WHEREAS, During the 1940’s and 1950’s, “Victory Gardens” were planted to help the wartime food situation; and

WHEREAS, Jellies made by members, potted plants, and flowers were sent to state service hospitals and the first Flower Show was held in connection with the Manitowoc County Fair; and

WHEREAS, A Junior Garden Club was started in hopes that the planting of gardens would be character building, as well as lower delinquency among juveniles; and

WHEREAS, A Garden Center was housed at the J.J. Stangel Hardware Store (where the Manitowoc Public Library currently stands) and members answered questions and provided printed information to those interested in gardening; and

WHEREAS, All these years later, the Manitowoc Garden Club has remained strong and focuses to promote fellowship among gardeners, stimulate an interest in gardening, and beautify home grounds as well as promote civic beautification; and

WHEREAS, Civic beautification projects have included (to name just a few), the planting of trees on Waldo Boulevard, working in the greenhouses at the Health Care Center, planting and tending a garden at Pinecrest Historical Village, supporting the landscaping of the Rahr-West Art Museum, participating in Christmas in the Mansion, Table Settings at the Rahr-West Art Museum, Marina Sailboat planting, the Kaleidoscope Garden and the Human Sun Dial on Mariner’s Trail, Arbor Day tree plantings throughout the city, Adopt-A-Highway, and installing annuals, perennials, and vines in the planters at the Briess Lot; and

WHEREAS, Today, there are fifteen members enjoying gardening, fellowship, promoting civic beautification and education to the public on all topics of gardening, just as those charter members did seventy-five years ago.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. NICKELS, Mayor of the City of Manitowoc, do hereby commend and sincerely thank the Manitowoc Garden Club for their 75 years of dedication to the Manitowoc community.

**Signed and Sealed this
19th day of August,
Two Thousand and Nineteen.**

Justin M. Nickels, Mayor