



White Plains Beautification Foundation, Inc. Beautification News

Spring/Summer 2023
Volume 46, Number 1

MAKE SOME HISTORY OF YOUR OWN



This lush garden in Tibbits Park is sponsored by AKRF, Inc.

The area now known as Tibbits Park in White Plains has a rich history.

Originally called “the Commons,” it was created in the late 1600s and, by 1697, homes had sprung up along it. Cattle grazed there, the local militia trained there and children played there.

On October 21, 1776, the northerly section of the Commons became the park where General George Washington’s army stored artillery pieces

You can establish your place in history by sponsoring an Adopt-a-Park garden in Tibbits Park. Several small gardens in Tibbits Park are looking for a sponsor.

To inquire about Tibbits Park or other gardens up for adoption, contact Jean Bello at jeanmbello@gmail.com

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In-Memoriam

We are saddened by
the passing of our friends.

Paul Schwarz

November 23, 2022

Rebecca Margaret "Beckie" Bright

May 21, 2022



White Plains Beautification Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1614
White Plains NY 10602
www.wpbf.org

A Non-Profit Organization of Volunteers

Inquiries to the President:

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e-mail: Info@wpbf.org

**A copy of our last financial report filed with
the State may be obtained by writing to:**

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**WHITE PLAINS
BEAUTIFICATION
FOUNDATION**

**WHITE PLAINS
BEAUTIFICATION
FOUNDATION**



Dear Friends,

Everything old is new again as we start to gather again in groups, attend in-person events and participate in activities that were once part of every-day life. We can enjoy simple pleasures such as hugs and hand-shakes as they return to express our warm greetings.

WPBF is also bringing back the old. It was delightful to see old friends and make new ones at our in-person post-holiday brunch in January. Our board meetings are held in person but can be attended virtually from your preferred electronic device. Now that's truly a blend of old and new.

That doesn't mean there are no changes. This is the first year of our new calendar. Our fiscal year will now follow the calendar year. Our budget now runs from January to December. This works out best for planning our activities. We know our targets before any major activity takes place. Our print newsletter, this very one you are reading, is now published in the spring / summer, not in the fall.

It also means that our annual meeting is held in January, not June. This year, it took place on January 23 and we were pleased that it was so well attended. I am acutely aware of the change as I was installed as the new president of WPBF at that meeting. Having served in the role for some months now, I must report that I am in awe of the presidents who have served before me. The strength of this organization falls squarely on their shoulders. Mary Ann DeRosa, our immediate past-president, is one of my heroes. She has provided insightful leadership and has led WPBF with confidence and competence during the two terms she presided. Many of our former presidents have generously shared their advice, experience, information and stories with me. Their collective wisdom and leadership has made WPBF the impressive and well-respected organization it is today.

What has not changed is our devotion to our gardens. Daffodils, tulips, flowering plants and ornamental shrubs are, as always, the focus of our beautifying efforts. As you turn the pages of this newsletter, you will see our other activities and meet people who make it all happen.

We repeatedly state that WPBF is an all-volunteer organization. I recently came across a quote that aptly describes the benefits accrued from the efforts of the many who work hard for our organization. "A single leaf working alone provides no shade." The volunteer workers within our current ranks and through the past years have created a strong network that have leafed out to blanket our city in beauty.

In your service,

Terry Hanson

President

DAFFODILS BRING CHEER TO WHITE PLAINS



*Daffodil Lady, Joanna D'Addario
at the 2021 St. Patrick's Day Parade*

March and April were especially beautiful this year with seas of yellow daffodils brightening the city. We are forever grateful to Joanna D'Addario, our "Daffodil Lady," who led this project in honor of WPBF's Golden 50th Anniversary to plant daffodils all over town. We are also grateful to the neighborhood associations and other groups and residents who got into the spirit and planted daffodil bulbs for all to enjoy year after year.



*Daffodils on North Broadway
bring joy in spring.*

Daffodils will bloom again this spring
thanks to the efforts of
White Plains Department of Public Works

The Daffodil Project



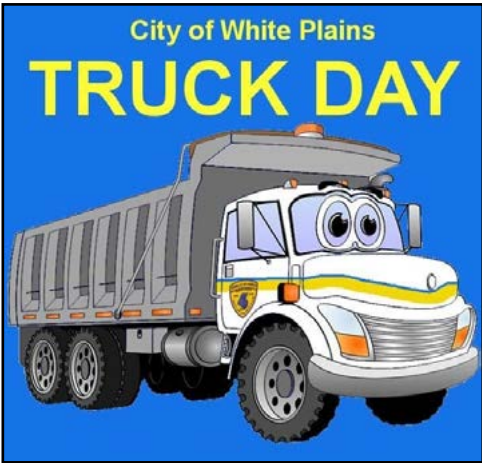
Inspired by **Joanna**, Our Daffodil Lady

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WPBF: TRUCKIN' WITH THE CITY



Excitement was in the air during the 10th annual White Plains Truck Day at the Gedney Way Recycling Facility in September. The White Plains Department of Public Works holds the event to showcase city vehicles and equipment so residents can learn how our DPW and Public Safety departments serve us.

Truck Day showcases a range of the 347 vehicles owned by the city, including sanitation trucks, a street-lighting bucket truck, paving trucks, street sweepers, a tow truck and more. Fire and Police units bring such vehicles as a water-pump truck, an armored truck and motorcycles. In recent years, food trucks, the “Bob the Builder” character, and interactive displays have been added.

The city has long supported the efforts of the WPBF and the DPW helps maintain our gardens. WPBF hosts an information table. The Westchester Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are also invited to participate.

This year's Truck Day is scheduled on Saturday, September 9 at 10 a.m.

Thank you DPW Commissioner Stefania Mignone for all the support provided to WPBF and for the information given about Truck Day.



A family climbs aboard a White Plains sanitation truck.



From left, WPBF Board Members Ann Dougherty, Sue Brennan and Mary Merenda staff the table on Truck Day.



Blaine Levenson (left) and Lou Petralia, master gardener volunteers with Cornell Cooperative Extension, flank DPW Commissioner Stefania Mignone.

2023 ADOPT-A-PARK

Sincere Thanks to our Very Generous 2023 Adopt-a-Park Sponsors

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We appreciate and value your gifts!

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as of 4/24/23

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REBECCA MARGARET “BECKIE” BRIGHT

JULY 1, 1930 – MAY 21, 2023



Beckie Bright, born Rebecca Margaret Waller, passed away May 21, 2023, just shy of her 93rd birthday. A graduate of Ithaca College, with a Masters of Arts in Music from Columbia University Teachers College, Beckie served the White Plains community for nearly seven decades in various roles: music teacher in the White Plains School district; choir member, choir director, moderator and trustee of Chatterton Hill Church; President of the Interfaith Council of White Plains; supporter of Downtown Music at Grace; member of the Woman’s Club of White Plains; and decades-long member of the White Plains Beautification Foundation Board of Directors and Associates.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Harry O. Bright, Jr., and her daughter, Miriam Kay Bright. Her son, David M. Bright predeceased her.

A generous and gracious soul, Beckie will be missed by all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers contributions be made to White Plains Beautification Foundation in her memory.

SPOTLIGHT ON MARIE SILVERMAN MARICH, AAP SPONSOR & DEDICATED WPBF VOLUNTEER



Marie Silverman Marich donates time, energy and funds in support of WPBF.

For over 50 years, two special groups – Adopt-a-Park sponsors and WPBF volunteers – have partnered to create and build the success of the White Plains Beautification Foundation. AAP sponsors provide the funds for installing and maintaining our gardens while volunteers oversee the foundation's activities and ensure that the organization runs smoothly.

Here we spotlight an individual who is both a sponsor and a volunteer: Marie Silverman Marich. Marie's family foundation has been an AAP sponsor for many years. Her parents created the Syd and Jan M. Silverman Foundation in the early 1990s and, after her mother passed away in 1997, her father agreed to sponsor the DeWitt and Lila Acheson Wallace Garden on North Broadway. The Silverman Foundation has been supporting this garden ever since and it was renamed the Silverman Garden some years ago.

Marie and her husband, Robert, have carried on the family tradition by supporting the McNally Garden in lower Tibbits Park. That garden was named in memory of three beloved siblings of Marie's mother, all natives of Birmingham, Alabama, who came to live in White Plains.

Also a dedicated volunteer, Marie has been a WPBF director for over 20 years. During that time, she chaired the Gala journal for several years and, from 2010-12, she served as WPBF co-president with Jean Bello.

In November 2014, Marie took over as host of "This Blooming City," WPBF's cable access TV show. Longtime host Beth Wallach had decided to leave the show after nearly 30 years, so hers were big shoes to fill.

Marie took to the job with ease. She selects the topics, pre-interviews and books guests, does research, writes the scripts and hosts the show at the White Plains Community Media studio. She also covers live events, including the Battle of White Plains commemorations and Washington's Birthday celebrations at Purdy House, and Arbor Day dedications.

"Mom and Dad set an example of community involvement for us," she said. "They felt it was important to contribute and give back whenever possible. Volunteering is also a great way to meet new people and make new friends while working toward a common goal.

"I have enjoyed being part of our wonderful organization and have been privileged to work with so many talented and dedicated people," she continued. "I have many fond memories of those we have lost; those intrepid souls who had such determination and vision to create 'A City in the Park.' WPBF has an impressive tradition to continue into the future."



Matthew Silverman amid the blooms of the The Syd & Jan M. Silverman Foundation Garden in Tibbits Park, now known as The Silverman Garden.

PUTTIN' ON THE GREEN FOR SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



March roared in like a lion to greet the annual White Plains St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 11. The dark morning dawned gray and cold with blustery winds, pelting sleet and rain.

Bringing warmth and cheer to the frigid morning, Dunne's Pub served an Irish breakfast of sausages, bacon, eggs, hot coffee, tea, and more. Dennis Power entertained with ballads and witticisms. WPBF President Terry Hanson greeted everyone with an Irish toast: "May the most that you wish for be the least that you get"!

The Public Works classic truck bearing the WPBF banner arrived lushly festooned with artificial trees and flowers, shamrocks and green ribbons. WPBF Past President Deb Donahoe and President Terry Hanson spent days in the lead-up to the parade decorating the truck to replicate an Adopt-a-Park garden.

At the onset of the parade, the overhead clouds parted and warm sunshine spread warmly over marchers and viewers along Mamaroneck Avenue. 'Twas surely the luck of the Irish!

The truck and marchers were greeted by cheers from the crowds, a testament to the appreciation city residents and visitors have for the White Plains Beautification Foundation.



Parade marchers, wearing WPBF's signature yellow daffodil hats, enjoy appreciative cheers from the crowds.

(front from left): Cecelia Spilotros, Terry Hanson, Deb Donahoe, and Diane Taylor, and (back from left) Lynn Oliva and Cormac Daly

Thanks to those who came to Dunne's Pub. Thank you John Kirkpatrick and Dennis Power for allowing proceeds to benefit WPBF. Your support blooms our flowers! Thanks to John Kirkpatrick and Dennis Power for allowing proceeds to benefit WPBF.



Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day! WPBF Board Member Nick Wolff and founder Brian Wallach celebrate the wearing o' the green at the Dunne's Pub breakfast.



Dennis Power entertaining WPBF supporters at Dunne's Irish Pub Celebratory Irish Breakfast



Micaela and Chuck Goldberger stand happily by the beautifully adorned truck. They supplied the artificial grass and tall shrub used as the centerpiece of the truck garden.

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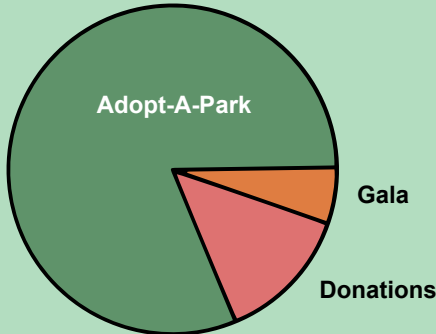
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Margery A. & Tom Devine	Patricia Murray Martin	Thomasina Petrone	Clara Elizabeth Whitehead
Kevin Dunphy	Berry Farinas McNally	Donald G. Prout	Virginia McNally Whitehead

FINANCIAL REPORT

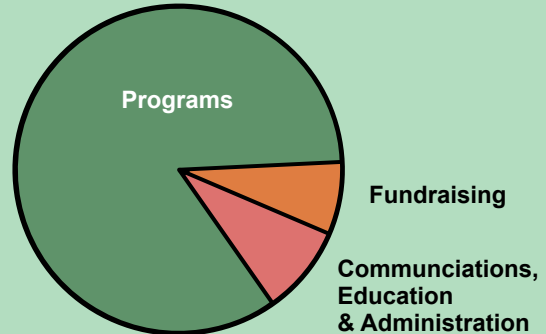
WPBF Funds for 2022

2022 Operating Income: \$191,932

2022 Operating Expenses: \$212,982



Adopt-A-Park program (81%)	\$155,492
Annual Newsletter/Gala event (6%)	\$10,650
General Donations (13%)	\$25,790



Programs: Garden Planting, Care & watering, Schools Garden Programs (84%)	\$178,840
Fundraising incl. Gala (7%)	\$15,307
Communications, Education & Admin (9%)	\$18,835

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ARBOR DAY

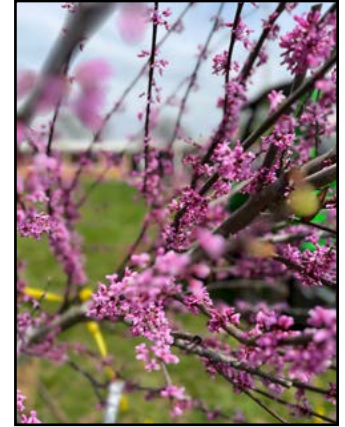
White Plains celebrated Arbor Day with the planting of an Eastern Redbud tree at the high school on a chilly, overcast April 28.

Kathy Masterson, Arbor Day chair for White Plains Beautification Foundation, introduced WPBF President Terry Hanson, who presented the Eastern Redbud, which was already showing its colors.

This year's tree was donated by Marge Feder in honor and memory of her husband, Robert Feder, a distinguished White Plains resident who led a life of public service and was a partner in the Cuddy & Feder law firm.



The planting took place on Earth Day, one week before the Arbor Day ceremony.



The magenta pink flowers of the Eastern Red Bud appear in clusters on bare stems and sometimes on the trunk itself.



(From left) Councilwoman Victoria Presser, Public Works Commissioner Stefania Mignone, High School Principal Emery Martinez, Council President Justin Brasch and WPBF Arbor Day Chairwoman, Kathleen Masterson

Westchester County Executive George Latimer and White Plains Councilwoman Victoria Presser presented proclamations to commemorate the event. City Public Works Commissioner Stefania Mignone presented a special flag indicating that White Plains has been a Tree City USA recipient for 40 years.

White Plains High School will fly the flag for a month.

The high school Mariachi Band provided musical entertainment to serenade the event and high school seniors Eudin Gallardo and Justin Suqui provided original artwork for this year's Arbor Day program.

Principal Emery Martinez spoke on behalf of the high school and acknowledged the Mariachi Band and other students, Assistant Principal Gaetano Vitiello, digital arts teacher Brian Wintersteen and WPBF for their help executing the celebration.



Matthew Chase of Davey Tree planted the Eastern Redbud and will provide follow-up care for the tree. Consolidated Edison provided saplings for the attendees and students to take home and plant in honor of Arbor Day.



White Plains High School Mariachi Band

Join us at next year's Arbor Day celebration, April 26, 2024, at Eastview Middle School.

WPBF'S JOLLY "GIANTS OF THE EARTH" SCULPTURES



Whimsy and creativity are delightful additions to our gardens. So it was a happy day in the spring of 2006 when the first "Giants of the Earth" sculptures landed in a WPBF garden.

That sculpture was The Giant Trowel and the garden is on Route 119 at the intersection of Hamilton Ave. This is a lovely three-season median garden with small trees and evergreen shrubs bolstered by colorful seasonal plantings from early spring into fall.

The 7-foot Giant Trowel and the other Giants of the Earth sculptures were crafted by White Plains artist Peter Wilcox, a long-time resident of Battle Hill and a WPBF Board Member. The installation of The Giant Trowel was approved by New York State, which oversees the Rte. 119 garden site. It was endorsed by then-Mayor Joseph Delfino and the White Plains Department of Public Works.

"Art is going to be a very important part of our city, and to have someone local who has produced a very unique piece is just wonderful," Mayor Joseph Delfino said at the dedication. "Who doesn't like a trowel?"



Wilcox's next piece showed up resting against a large tree in the front yard of a private residence in the Prospect Park neighborhood of White Plains. The Giant Shears were a treasured gift from Jonathan Schere to his wife Dorothy, long-time WPBF board member and a past president. The Schere's have recently donated the sculpture to the City of White Plains. Its final home is yet to be decided.

The third sculpture in the Giants of the Earth series, The Giant Cultivator, is a 7-foot-long, three-pronged claw tool that sits in a median

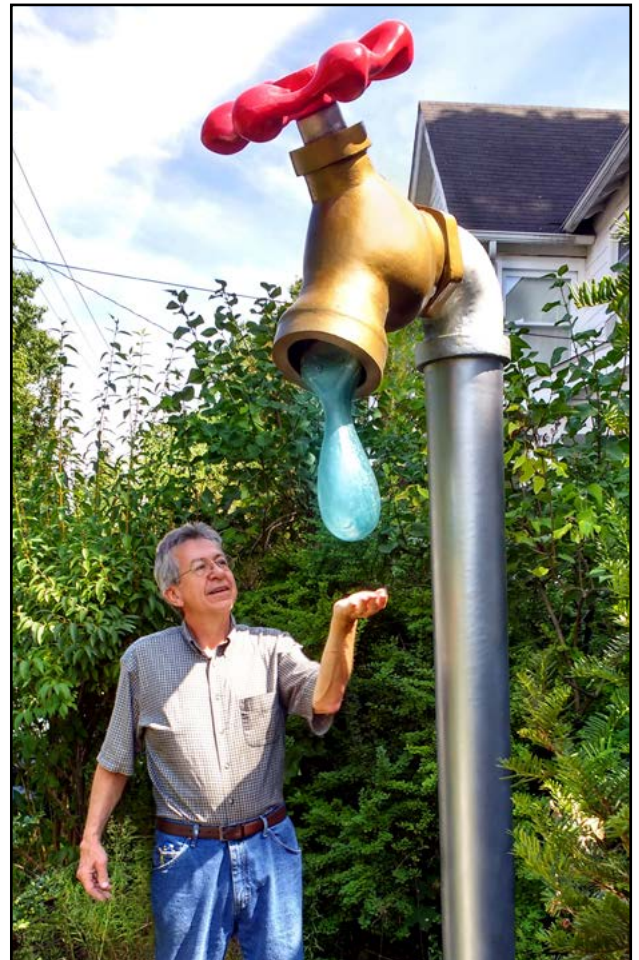
garden on Westchester Avenue at the eastern entrance into White Plains. Once called the “Mirror Garden” because the plantings looked the same leaving or entering the city.

The final sculpture, The Giant Faucet, stands 7 feet tall and currently resides in the front garden of the Wilcox family home on Concord Avenue atop Battle Hill. It is awaiting an appropriate permanent site downtown.

The four Giants sculptures are made of an epoxy-coated fiberglass finish over a metal and/ or Styrofoam base. The wood-grain finish on the handles of the Giant Trowel, the Giant Shears and the Giant Cultivator took some months for Wilcox to refine. He first applied a thick dark polyester undercoat then topped it off with a tan paint, and then hand scraped the finish to create the woodgrain lines. For the metal parts of each, he used automotive spray paint covered with a protective clear coat and a final epoxy topcoat. The drop of water falling from the Giant Faucet is comprised of polyester resin dyed blue.

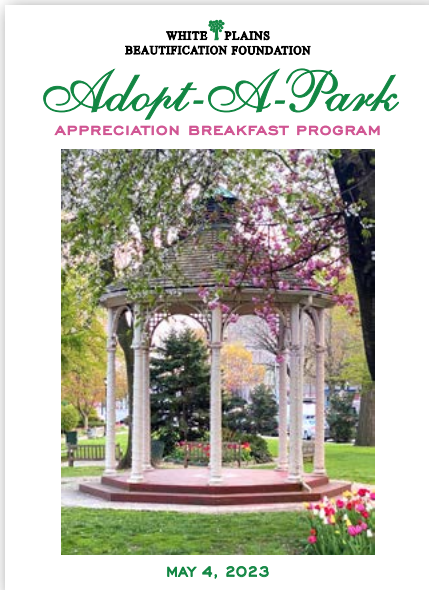
Wilcox credits his wife, Jeanne, a long-time WPBF board member and Adviser as well as a Master Gardener and NYBG-certified Landscape Designer, for his inspiration for this series.

In recent years, Wilcox himself has gotten into gardening and has planted hundreds of colorful perennials and shrubs along Battle Ave. He is currently working to develop the native and pollinator-plant portion of the project to redesign a site on Route 119, which the city of White Plains is converting into a native meadow park.



Peter Wilcox with The Giant Faucet

ADOPT-A-PARK BREAKFAST



*Photo Credit: Kate Collins
Invitation Design by: Minuteman Press,
formerly Alloy Printing*

The annual Adopt-a-Park Appreciation Breakfast, generously sponsored by AKRF, Inc., was held Thursday, May 4, at Bloomingdale's La Provence Restaurant. This was Bloomingdale's 28th year hosting the breakfast and per their usual performance, Anthony Capone, chef Miguel Flores and staff presented a wonderfully tasty buffet to Adopt-a-Park sponsors, members of the WPBF Board of Directors, as well as city and county officials.

Breakfast co-chairs Kate Collins, Sue Brennan and Mary Merenda welcomed the guests and presented each attendee with a set of vintage notecards illustrated by WPBF Director Mary Briante and Mary Lang Farrell.

Unfortunately, our scheduled guest speaker, Lucia Chiochio, partner of Diamond Sponsor Cuddy & Feder and WPBF Counsel, was unable to attend, but her partner William Null, who is also Chairman of the Board of Gold Sponsor White Plains Hospital, graciously agreed to fill her shoes.



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*AAP Gold Sponsor,
Marjorie Feder and
William Null, Esq.
of Cuddy & Feder*



*Kathy and Joe Masterson, Paul Bello
and Cormac Daly*

Adopt-a-Park Chair Jean Bello quoting Lady Bird Johnson – “Where flowers bloom, so does hope.” – she thanked all the sponsors for bringing a sense of hope to all who walk or drive past or are lucky enough to spend a quiet moment among the gardens.

introduced those new to the program and,

Also contributing to the breakfast was DeRosa Builders and Minuteman Press, formerly Alloy Printing.

**Contact Jean Bello at: 914-584-1650 or jeanmbello@gmail.com
for more information on the Adopt-a-Park Program and how you can directly support
one of the nearly 70 gardens enriching our city and maintained by WPBF.**

SALUTE TO THE DEVINE FAMILY, AN AAP SPONSOR



The Marge & Tom Devine Memorial Garden has been an oasis of beauty for all to enjoy for many years. Here is a rendition of the plantings a few years back.

When Margery A. Devine passed away on Christmas Day in 2014, her seven children - Barbara, Tom (Linda), Jim (Becky), Bill (Alison), Peter (Donna), Chris (Linda) and Steven (Kathy) - looked for a fitting memorial for their mother. They turned to White Plains Beautification Foundation and chose to plant a living memorial: a garden in her memory as well as their father's, Thomas, who predeceased Margery. Margery A. Devine was born in White Plains, graduated from White Plains High School, married her husband, Tom, at St. Bernard's Church, and raised their family in White Plains.



Devine Garden blooming in August of 2020

With the help of contributions from family and friends, the Marge & Tom Devine Memorial Garden was planted in 2015 in Druss Park on the corner of South Lexington Avenue & Prospect Street, across from St. Bernard's Church. The children continue to support the seasonal planting and maintenance of the garden, which is overseen by Amodio's Garden Center.

The stunning blooms that rise from this garden not only pay tribute to the memory of the Devines who were part of the fabric of the White Plains community, but it delights all who are fortunate enough to pass by it.

By Jean Bello

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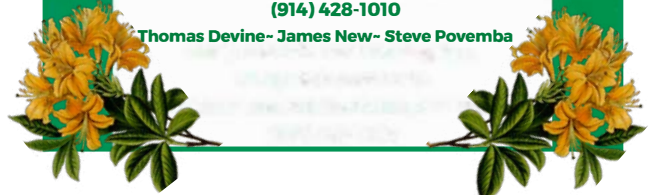
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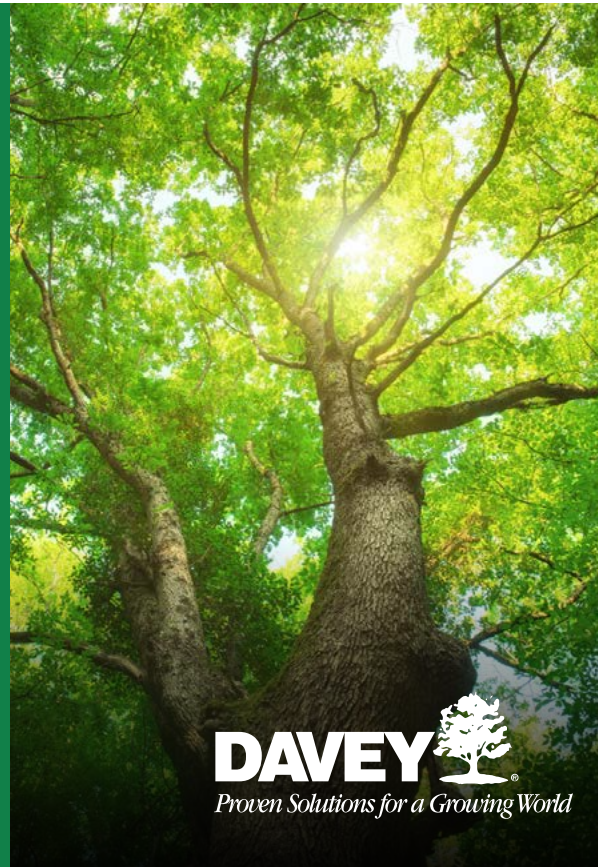
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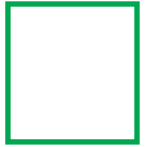
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