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Talbot garden club celebrates centennial

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The Talbot County Garden Club is celebrating its centennial with banners like this one on Dover Street in downtown Easton.
PHOTO BY CONNIE CONNOLLY

EASTON — The Talbot County Garden Club will celebrate 100 years of beautifying the county Wednesday, March 22, with a members luncheon at Talbot Country Club near Easton.

The organization's centennial festivities will include a look back at its history and service to the community. Past and present leadership and volunteers will be honored and proclamations from Gov. Larry Hogan, the Maryland General Assembly, Mayor Robert Willey and other dignitaries will be read.

In 1917, ten men and women established the Talbot County Garden Club to develop new gardens in the community, restore old ones and protect the beauty of the Eastern Shore.

"Over the years, the mission has been broadened to incorporate the changing needs of the community and the conservation of natural resources, but the original themes are still present in the heart and soul of each member," Dorothy Hoopes, communications and publicity coordinator, said. The club has more than 100 active and associate members.

The club has posted centennial banners on Washington, Harrison, Goldsborough and Dover Streets in Easton. The banners include photos of two of the club's civic projects.

To capture its history and accomplishments, the club is publishing a book on its hundred years in Talbot County.

“The process of planning and writing the book provided us the opportunity to capture our history, especially the lesser known details,” book committee chair and editorial director Missy Warfield said. “It is a vehicle by which we can share our history and accomplishments with our members and the community.”

One of the first major projects for the Talbot County Garden Club was “the elimination of billboards along Route 50,” Hoopes said. “The effort spanned 14 years but ultimately resulted in the elimination of 21,000 signs and the unobstructed views while driving through our county.”

“Beautification projects continue today,” Hoopes said. “Most recently, the Club planted 13,000 daffodil bulbs in front of Moton Park along the Route 322 bypass to commemorate its hundred-year history.”

The club has been credited as the impetus for the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, Hoopes said. During more than 70 years, “the pilgrimage has grown to a nearly statewide event, with the gardens in Talbot County being among the most popular,” Hoopes said. “Proceeds from the pilgrimage have been used for projects throughout Talbot County including the design and building of the Talbot Historical Society Garden.”

Talbot County Garden Club has also contributed to many other projects around the county over the years. The Fountain Garden at Five Corners and the Frances Plate Memorial Children’s Garden at Idlewild Park were created by and continue to be maintained by members of the Club. “Through all the efforts, The (club) has been recognized by several national organizations for its work in beautifying Talbot County,” Hoopes said.

“The Talbot County Garden Club’s mission today is to enrich the natural beauty of the environment by sharing knowledge of gardening, fostering the art of flower arranging, maintaining civic projects, supporting projects that benefit the community and encouraging the conservation of natural resources,” Hoopes said.

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