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Read House & Gardens Relaunches Community Garden

Garden Allows for Safe Distancing Practices

New Castle, DE: During this time of shutdowns and cancellations, the Read House & Gardens is excited to move forward with longstanding plans to relaunch a community garden on the north vacant lot, along the alley, for the 2020 season.

“The community garden is one of the few things we can safely offer onsite while still encouraging safe social distancing practices,” said Brenton Grom, Director of the historic National Landmark owned by the Delaware Historical Society. “Some of our friends remember the community plots that existed here a number of years ago and a few even recall the World War II victory garden that preceded them. We hope this new venture will be another bright spot for the neighborhood.”

The new garden will begin small, with space to expand in future years. Thanks to a few volunteers working independently, raised beds are being constructed in order to protect archaeological materials still hidden beneath the lawn surface. The garden will be self-sustaining through annual dues, which are set at \$90 per plot for the 2020 season, and plots will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. If interested in maintaining a plot in the garden, please email your information to RHinfo@dehistory.org.

The community garden will mean the lot is no longer available for neighborhood dog walks. “To our furry friends and their owners who have made use of this lot while it was dormant, we apologize,” said Grom. “Unfortunately, it can no longer be open to dogs. We’ll miss your company and occasional barks. If you’re out walking in the neighborhood, please ring the doorbell occasionally and say hello!”

Meanwhile, the work in the walled garden goes on. Studies commissioned from top landscape experts are nearing completion, and plans to restore gates, fencing, and boxwood hedges affected by blight will continue to move forward in phases. As a privately funded nonprofit, DHS relies on the support of friends. To contribute or get more information about volunteering after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, send an email to RHinfo@dehistory.org.

About the Delaware Historical Society

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in downtown Wilmington; and the National Historic Landmark Read House & Gardens located in New Castle. For more information, call (302) 655-7161, email deinfo@dehistory.org, or visit www.dehistory.org.

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