



The winter months can be the perfect time to prepare your garden for the spring from choosing seeds and getting seeds ready to be planted.

EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

## SPRING CLEANING

Masters get ready for plant sale, clean up gardens

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — A half dozen Master Gardeners laughed and chatted around a planting table at Mt. Fir Inspiration Park on Monday afternoon.

Plants were expertly removed from their pots and replanted in gallon pots so they could grow into their new home on time for the annual Mother's Day Plant Sale.

"We're continuing to have new and unusual plants," said Lee Schlenker, president of the Polk County Master Gardeners.

Other gardeners have already split plants such as peonies and other flowers. Super Hot pepper seeds are beginning to germinate.

Carole Allen said she doesn't do much in her own garden this time of year.

"I just sort of leave it for another month," she said, adding that it is the perfect time of year to look through seed catalogues and dream about what you might plant.

But Schlenker said days like Monday — sunny and 64 — are perfect for getting back out there.

"You can tidy it up," he said. "Look and see what needs to be done, getting it ready for spring."

Seeds may be germinated inside for tomatoes and peppers. Peas are ready to be planted outside.

"Soak them and get them ready to be planted, and another round a week or two later," Schlenker said. By planting them with a week or so in between, it will give gardeners a more constant crop, he said.

Other seeds that may be

planted outside are cold-weather crops such as kale varieties and lettuce.

The Monmouth Public Library has kicked off its seed lending library, where adults may choose up to five seed packets a day, no library card needed. Last year, the library gave out 3,200 packets of seeds through the program.

While gardeners wait for the last frost, they are always welcome to head to the Inspiration Garden, where the Master Gardeners have many displays.

"Anytime they want to get muddy, they can come out here and help," Allen said.

Even just to take a walk through the various gardens — from vegetables to a children's garden, medicinal to a memorial rose garden — everyone is welcome, Nancy Sullivan added.

## Garden: Spring opening planned

Continued from Page 1A

"I would like to get this front café open by spring, if possible," he said.

He said he would like to have the new café feel like the old Blue Garden he remembers and many a customer can recall.

"We want to try to preserve, in the old section at least, a little bit of that old flare," Collins said.

The Blue Garden opened in 1923, so he had some discretion as to which era.

"We are somewhere between the late-'50s and '60s, kind of a mix," he said. "Just something that is pretty, but operational."

Collins said almost daily he's asked when the restaurant will open — and he's had to kill a few rumors about the project going sideways.

He's in it until the job is finished, although he hopes that won't be too much longer. Former customers have been a constant source of support —



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Wood framing provides extra support for the building in case a major earthquake were to shake Dallas.

even people who have moved away from Dallas are paying attention.

"It also puts some pressure on you. We have to perform," Collins said.

"People are going to come in the door with whatever that expectation picture is, and they are going to come in and say, yeah, we met it or we fell short. I

think we are going to surprise a lot of people."

For now, eager would-be customers will have to be satisfied with a completed facade, with its fresh paint, custom-made tiles — and that iconic sign.

"That is going to shine, especially on that cobalt blue tile," Collins said with a big grin.

## POLICE REPORT

Information for the police report comes from law enforcement agencies. Not all calls for service are included. The status of incidents reported may change after further investigation. Individuals arrested or suspected of crimes are considered innocent until proven guilty.

### DALLAS

#### Arrests/Citations

• Ronald L. Selby, 46, of Dallas in the 400 block of Southwest Wyatt Street on Feb. 3 on a charge of physical harassment and a parole violation.

• Ronald L. Eagon, 53, of

Dallas in the 500 block of East Ellendale Avenue on Feb. 3 on charges of failing to report as a sex offender and false swearing.

### INDEPENDENCE

#### Arrests/Citations

• Gregoria Antonia Richard, 38, of Monmouth, on Feb. 3 at the corner of C and South Fourth streets for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Juan Onesimo Alvaraz, 28, of Independence, on Saturday at the corner of South Main and C streets for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

### MONMOUTH

#### Arrests/Citations

• Aaron Dean Wendt, 40, of Independence, on Jan. 31 at the corner of Catron Street South and Main Street East for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Gilberto Mora Jr., 22, of Independence, on Feb. 1 at the corner of Monmouth and South 16th streets for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Jazmin Aaliyah Bembry, 21, of Monmouth, on Feb. 2 at the corner of Clay Street East and Broad Street for failure to carry or present a driver's license.

**Common Sense Tip** FOR DRIVERS

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Solution on Page 6A

1	5	3	6	7	
9			7	5	4
	7	3	5		9
	9		1	7	
	6				
		4	9	3	5
	1				6
				4	
		2			

**Sudoku**  
Difficulty: ★★★★★

4	3	2	8	1	6	7	5	9
5	6	9	3	7	4	8	1	2
1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6	3
3	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	1
2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5
9	8	5	1	6	3	2	7	4
7	9	1	4	3	8	5	2	6
8	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	7
6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8

**How to do Sudoku**  
Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

By Ben Arnoldy The Christian Science Monitor

Did the Stork visit you in 2015?

Aria Nicole Peters • Dec. 26, 2015

All babies will be entered into a drawing for **FREE PRIZES** from area merchants!

## BABIES OF 2015

Showcase your little one with his or her photo, birthdate and names of proud parents. Only babies born in 2015 are candidates for **BABIES OF 2015**. All baby photos submitted will appear in a **special full color section** of the *Itemizer-Observer* on Feb. 24, 2016. Please mail or drop off the following form, a photo and \$25.00 to our office by Feb. 19th prior to 2:00 p.m. (The photo may be picked up after publication). If you have any questions, please call Dawn at 503-623-2373.

**Mom! Dad! Grandparents! Bring in a photo!**

(CLIP THIS FORM)

Baby's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Place \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Names \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Remember to bring in a photo! Cost is only \$25.00

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 19** PUBLISH: FEBRUARY 24

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