



Winter 2025

The Cove



Gardening Did you know our very own Betty Lemke was a Master Gardener for 15 years? I know she's the person I go to for gardening advice, though my questions are usually "Hey Betty, what can I plant that I can't kill?" I recently sat down with Betty for some tips and tricks as we look forward to spring gardening. Keep in mind much of this applies to NW Iowa weather.

1. Mid-March: Prune bushes above the joint, but do not prune blooming shrubs, such as lilacs and forsythias, until after they've bloomed.
2. Mid-May to Late-June: Plant set plants (annuals). You can mix annuals and perennials for display and transfer perennials in the fall.
3. Fall: Plant perennials. Mulch and water them until the ground freezes.
4. In NW Iowa buy perennials rated at zones 1-4. Zone 5 is too hit-and-miss in our lakes area and you want your perennials to live! You will find this info on the plant tag.
5. Always keep the tags that accompany the plants. Get a notebook to create a garden journal and tape or staple the tags in it so you always know how to take care of them.
6. Annuals are often on sale the week before Memorial Day and July 4th.
7. Human and dog hair in your garden can help keep plant-eating critters away and will eventually break down as mulch.

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener? Check out the Iowa State Extension for classes!

TOP STORIES



Fiber By now you should have received information in the mail regarding the installment of fiber optic in Monarch Cove. Premier Fiber Optic provides internet and TV services and allows for provider choice and stability in connection as it is underground. *At this time, there is no charge* to have fiber connected to your home, and you're under no obligation to sign up once you do connect, but you will need to contact Premier at 833-705-7115. Please note

that if you wait it could be exceedingly difficult and expensive to connect as fiber cable cannot simply be spliced into.



Dumpsters The winter dumpster has arrived and home pick-up will no longer be available in Monarch Cove. There will be multiple dumpsters in one location by summer, next to the MC shed. Please remember the dumpsters are *not* for construction materials, furniture, toxic materials such as paint, or white goods.

For the Good of the Community



Auto Bill Pay The MC Board has looked into automatic bill pay for our quarterly dues. Unfortunately, our CPA firm does not offer this service, and withdrawing money from MC resident bank accounts creates a liability issue. However, individuals may set up their bank accounts to automatically issue a check to Monarch Cove four times a year to pay those quarterly dues as the dues are consistent. This would not work for those also paying for a hoist as marina fees can vary.



Sewers We had to have our sewers cleaned out again, they were full of toilet paper that didn't break down. Make sure you are only using toilet paper that is SEPTIC-SAFE. It is expensive to have to have the sewers cleaned out constantly. Many brands offer septic-safe toilet paper. Thanks!



An Ounce of Prevention...



Safety while Shoveling Did you know the cold increases heart rate & blood pressure, and constricts arteries, decreasing blood supply? This is why relatively inactive individuals are at greater risk for a heart attack while shoveling, especially those over 40. Shoveling can mean moving hundreds of pounds; to stay safe this winter, follow these basic guidelines, and remember if you have a history of heart disease, get your doctor's ok first.

1. Take it slow and stretch out before you begin.
2. Try to shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter and some of this can be done using a leaf blower.
3. Push the snow rather than lifting it & if you have to lift, only partially fill a small shovel.
4. Lift with your legs, not your back.
5. Do not work to the point of exhaustion.
6. Know the signs of a heart attack, and stop *immediately* and call 911 if you're experiencing any of them; every minute counts!



Announcements



- Sympathies to the Stobe Family on Michael's passing in September.
- Sympathies to the family of Mary Satory Macrander on Mary's passing in November.
- Sympathies to the family of John Harmelink on John's passing in December.
- Board meetings 3/8/25, 6/14/25, 9/13/25, 12/13/25 9:00 a.m. (Dates subject to change)
- Annual clean-up day (weather permitting) Saturday, May 31, 2025
- Annual board meeting - Mark your calendars! July 26, 2025



Would you like to have news or an event in the announcement section of our quarterly newsletter? Send requests to mcbojinews@gmail.com