

**PUBLIC LANDSCAPING IN  
SWARTHMORE'S  
TOWN CENTER**

**PUBLIC SPACES, PRIVATE PLACES**

Garden Tour presented by  
**Swarthmore Horticultural Society**  
For the benefit of Alex's Garden,  
in memory of Alex Santa Barbara  
at Swarthmore Post Office

May 15, 2010

**Fine Garden Creations** did the initial plantings of Centennial Park and, in 2005, donated sidewalk containers, now 24. Swarthmore Centennial Foundation, Swarthmore Horticulture and Swarthmore Borough all now assist with replanting and maintaining the containers.

*The containers are completely changed every few years and are also seasonally varied. In the containers are enlivened with annuals and tropicals with colorful leaves. In winter brighten up the central plants that have architectural and winter interest.*

Andrew Bunting, owner

**The Tree Committee** of Swarthmore Borough oversees street trees in town, since 1932. They select 5 – 10 types of trees for residents to purchase for replacements. The Tree Care designation has been awarded to Swarthmore every year since 1979, by the Arbor Day Foundation based on having a viable tree management program.

*The town trees have repetition to create harmony, but there is also healthy diversity. Recommended trees tolerate tough urban conditions, are not messy, and have ornamental value throughout the seasons.*

**The Swarthmore Garden Club (SGC)** was founded in 1958 to stimulate the knowledge and interest in gardening. The club has had long horticultural involvement with many community organizations as creating and maintaining a colonial herb garden at the Caleb Pusey House in Upland, and a garden at Swarthmore-Rutledge School.

*Among current activities are the beds on both sides of the doors to Borough Hall. On the left is a serene woodland shade garden, nestled under the river birch. On the right is a xeric garden on a sunny, dry location, featuring tougher perennials, including succulents and grasses.*

**Swarthmore Centennial Foundation** was founded in 1993 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Swarthmore by doing lasting improvements for the town and its citizens. The Foundation created Centennial Plaza in the town center, Gateway Park on Baltimore Pike, and the Clock Plaza at the train station.

**Swarthmore Town Center** was formed in 2004 as a private, nonprofit corporation to assist the borough in overseeing the economic vitality of the business district, maintain and enhance the downtown, and promote community events in the town center so it is an exciting place to be.

**Theodozia Garden** is a private garden for public enjoyment. An enhancement of the previous garden on the site, Theodozia garden was created in 1995, by a town center business and its owner. The late William Pastuszek named it for his wife, Theodozia.

*The highlight is a splendid spring display.*

William J. Pastuszek LLC, Real Estate, now administered and managed by Alex Pastuszek.

**Swarthmore Borough Public Works** provides leaf mold, water, and debris pickup.

## PUBLIC LANDSCAPING IN SWARTHMORE'S TOWN CENTER

1. Library Window Garden  
SHS, Margie Baker, bed captain
2. Borough Hall Door Gardens  
SGC, Helen Robinson
3. Raised Bed at Borough Hall Entry  
SHS, Minnie Ullman, bed captain
4. Park Avenue Perennial Garden  
SHS, Bill Pinder, bed captain
5. World War I Memorial Garden  
SHS, Lisa Ffrench, bed captain
6. Dartmouth Avenue Garden  
SHS, Dottie Lee, bed captain
7. Swarthmore Co-op Garden  
SHS, Judy Penney, bed captain
8. Large Sidewalk Containers  
Fine Garden Creations, And
9. Centennial Park  
SHS, Kit Raven, bed captain
10. Theodozia Garden  
William J. Pastuszek LLC
11. Town Clock Plaza Garden  
SHS, Karen Peichel & Kin
12. U. S. Post Office Garden  
SHS
13. Gateway Park, Baltimore I  
SHS, Mimi LeBourgeois, I

In the town center, the beds, containers, and street trees are indeed lovely to be seen and also serve civic and community needs. By creating attractive places to pass time, walking errands and shopping become more pleasurable and social. This makes the spaces more viable, maintains property value, and delightfully increases the sense of community.

Landscaping of the public spaces has been an evolving, collaborative process involving many organizations, individuals, and businesses, including the following:

**Swarthmore Horticultural Society (SHS)** is dedicated to transforming and maintaining spectacular flower displays in public spaces. The society's public spaces are managed by the Cresson Horticultural Trust of the Swarthmore Centennial Foundation, Charles Cresson, Jr. in 2001.

*Many of the society's beds are changed twice per year, in late May and early June. The displays are of high quality, long lasting displays that rise to professional standards. The winter displays feature pansies for winter and bulbs for spring. The summer plantings are mostly annuals and perennials, continuous, heat-tolerant bloom and foliage effects. Notice the exciting variety of colors. Each individual bed has a different, nonprofessional gardener in charge of design and maintenance. Charles Cresson, Chairman, as well as advisor and mentor to bed captains*

