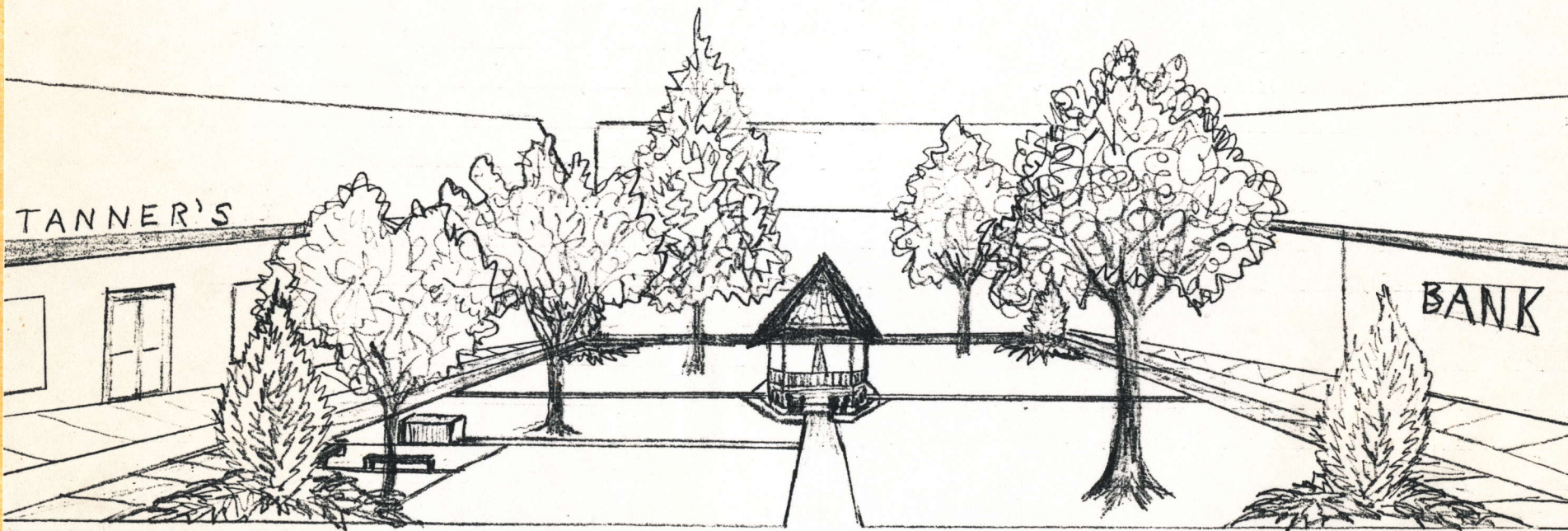
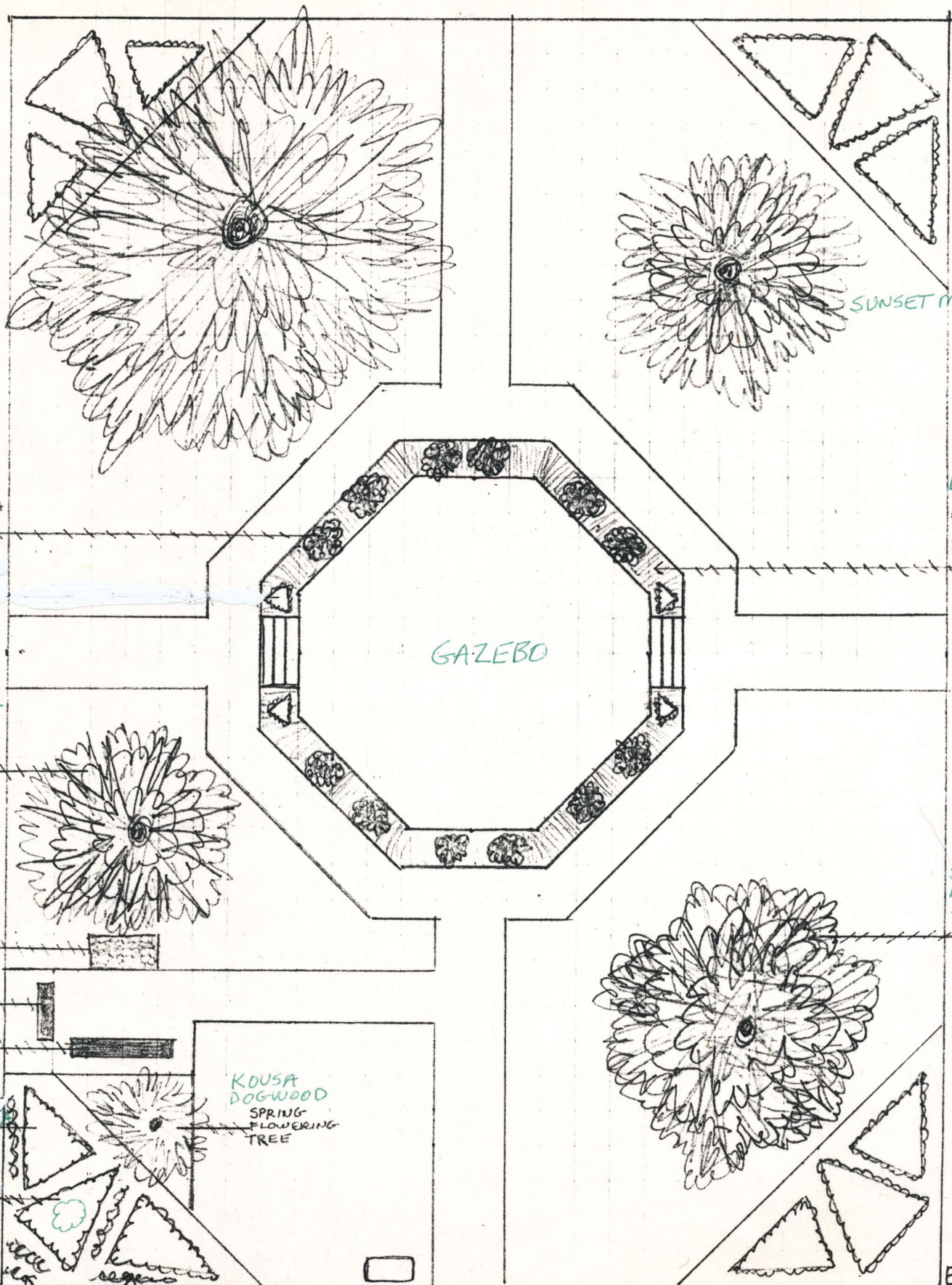


Green Forest Square





COMPACTA
HOLLY

SUNSET MAPLE

LIRIOPE
+
MUMS
+
PANSIES

GAZEBO

SUNSET
MAPLE
SHADE
TREE

SUNSET
MAPLE
SHADE
TREE

MEMORIAL

BENCH

BENCH

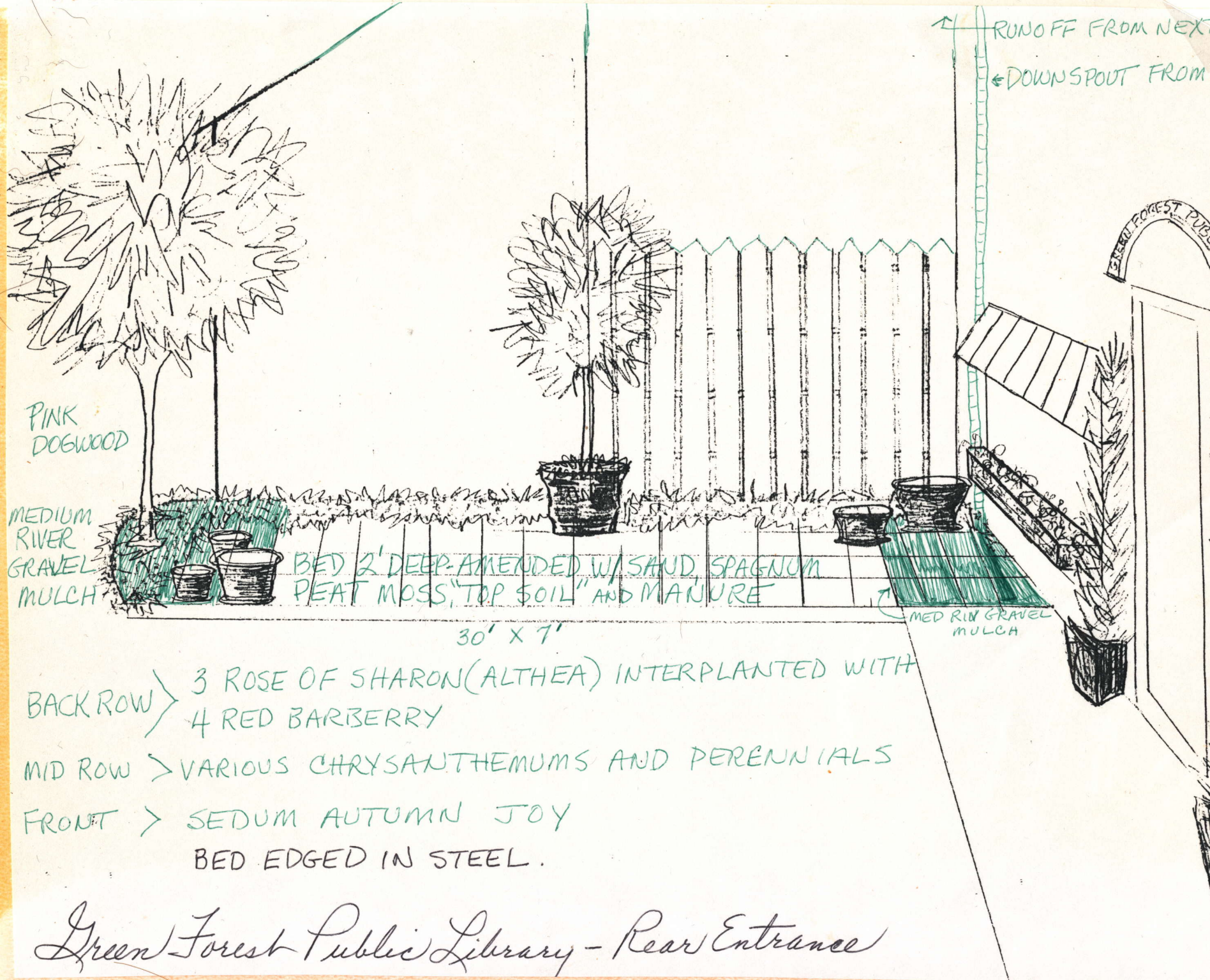
RED
BARBERRY
LIME SPIRES

KOUSA
DOGWOOD
SPRING
FLOWERING
TREE

NELLIE
STEVENS
HOLLY

S
↑

E+W



PINK
DOGWOOD

MEDIUM
RIVER
GRAVEL
MULCH

BED 2' DEEP AMENDED W/ SAND, SPAGNUM
PEAT MOSS, "TOP SOIL" AND MANURE

30' X 7'

MED RIV GRAVEL
MULCH

BACK ROW > 3 ROSE OF SHARON (ALTHEA) INTERPLANTED WITH
4 RED BARBERRY

MID ROW > VARIOUS CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND PERENNIALS

FRONT > SEDUM AUTUMN JOY

BED EDGED IN STEEL.

Green Forest Public Library - Rear Entrance

FRONT OF
PUBLIC LIBRARY



DEMOLITION TIME!

THE JUNIPER GOES TO THE BALL FIELD AND
THE SIGN WILL BE REPLACED.



'TOTE THAT BROOM! LIFT THAT DIRT!
AMY AND JOSH - GREAT KIDS!



SERGIO, JOHN AND JEAN ERICKSEN, MG.



THE MASTER GARDENERS

Local group teams up on community projects

By ANNA MATHEWS
CCN Staff Writer

Carroll County residents are busy giving back to their communities after completing a Master Gardener program here.

Barbara Balas, known as "Fearless Leader" of the Carroll County Master Gardener group, said she and two dozen other residents completed training last November.

As certified members of the nationwide program, graduates are required to volunteer a minimum of 40 hours each year. Balas and others have recently undertaken a replanting project on the Green Forest square and quickly surpassed their volunteer requirements.

Trees, shrubs, and flowers have been planted with help from school students and city employees. Work on a plaza area is under way, with walkways, benches and bushes planned.

The group is also working on a project behind the Green Forest Public Library. They mapped off a section of the back parking area to transform into an enchanted walkway with rustic fencing and flowering plants lining the way.

Balas said she first heard about the Master Gardener program last year and called the county Extension Office to find out more. Working along with



STRATEGIES — Master Gardeners Sharon Spurlin (left) and Barbara Balas talk over options while supervising crews on the Green Forest square.

CCN PHOTO BY ANNA MATHEWS

"The program was set up for large groups in major cities. We had a small group in a small community. We reorganized it to meet our needs," Balas said.

Applicants from every corner of Carroll County were screened and

Friday for five weeks. Classroom lectures were presented in the morning hours with specialists from the University of Arkansas on hand to share their knowledge.

Afternoon sessions included lectured tours of herb farms and

•Gardeners

Continued from Page 1

each week and a final exam was required at the completion of the course.

As part of the certification process, participants pledged to serve their communities in the coming year. Some have already shared their new-found knowledge with gardening clubs, school children and civic organizations.

Other members volunteered to judge floral and vegetable entries at the Carroll and Madison County fairs. Last spring, several Master Gardener graduates set up an information booth in the gardening section of Wal-Mart to answer questions and pass along planting tips.

Every graduate finds her own way to give back to the community. Master Gardener Dedra Williams decided to use her writing skills to create an information column for use in area newspapers.

Master Gardeners are also required to continue their education by attending meetings, field trips and classes throughout the year. "We are not experts when we're through with the class," Balas said. "We have learned enough to want to learn more."

Following completion of the

course, members first attended a graduation party at the Balas Christmas Tree Farm and learned how to grow Christmas trees. The graduates have since toured each other's gardens, helped a fellow member with spring planting after he broke a leg and enjoyed a plant exchange party where each new Master Gardener took home dozens of plants to add to their own flower beds.

Program graduates are forbidden to profit from their training. "We are not for hire," Balas said. "We can't even wear our shirts unless we are working on an authorized project." Master Gardeners are available to help non-profit groups and organizations. All proposed projects must meet the approval of their board of trustees before the

group can proceed.

Persons interested in becoming a Master Gardener only need a desire to learn, Balas explained. New classes will be forming next spring. People interested should call the Carroll County Extension Service by Oct. 15 to ask for an application." That number is 870-423-2958. The Carroll County program is operated under the direction of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

Volunteers team up to spruce up square

By ANNA MATHEWS
CCN Staff Writer

GREEN FOREST— The town square is getting a face lift with help from students, community volunteers and business leaders who teamed up to make Green Forest a better place to live, work and play.

Tigers Care students, Master Gardener volunteers and city officials have undertaken a beautification project which is funded by a grant and generous donations.

Plans call for the replanting of the town square, complete with trees, shrubs, flowers, walkways and benches. In addition, the rear entrance to the library will be transformed into a beautiful walkway with rustic fencing and flowering plants lining the way.

Landscape designs for both projects were drawn up by Master Gardener volunteers. Barbara Balas, elected "Fearless Leader" of the Carroll County group, said she hopes their efforts will liven up the square.

"I would love to see student bands playing music with people sitting around in their lawn chairs. And, I would love for people to come by to see what we're doing."

Balas is working alongside high school students involved in the Tigers Care program. Science teacher Doris Hamilton heads up a group of 20 students who spend their class time helping people in the community.

The program is funded through a grant from Entergy Corporation,



TIGERS CARE - Students in a new class at Green Forest High School are participating in a joint project to spruce up the town square. (CCN PHOTO BY ANNA MATHEWS)

and matching funds from the First National Bank of Green Forest and Tyson Foods.

"We're breaking new ground with the program," Hamilton said. "The class has two purposes according to the grant. First, beautification of the city. Second, the purchase of tools and clean up, including homes."

A booklet describing the Tigers

Care program lists projects such as yard work, simple repairs, small paint jobs, furniture moving, washing dishes, visiting, letter writing, and reading as a few of the things students will be doing in the year ahead.

"Hopefully, we'll have projects outside of the classroom four days out of five. The fifth day we'll use to work on logistics," Hamilton

explained. The Tigers Care class held fourth period, just prior to lunch and the students use their own transportation to get around town.

"We want to do for those who can't do for themselves, for whatever reason," Hamilton said. "There are no income guidelines. Hamilton expects to be helping the elderly, the handicapped or special needs residents.

Students involved in the program include Bethany Moore, student coordinator, Secretary Amy Goss, Chris-the-tool-nut, Turner, and Jessica Burks, Debra Howard, Sergio Sanchez, David Russell, Jesse Hood, Tracy DiVall, Larinda Armer, John Kaler, Tani Cantwell, John McMahan, Michael Webb, John McCormick, Mike Cooper, Tom Alvarado, William Long, Tom Smith and Lynn Tranbarger.

Helping with the beautification project on the square and at the library is City Planning Superintendent Scott Ruff. "She is doing everything with a maximum that we would have to do on our own hand," Balas explained. "He is very supportive."

Balas also appreciates the support shown by Mayor Roy Larson and the city council.

She expects the current project to take several weeks to complete and hopes to have everything flourishing by the first of October when the tourists pass through in search of autumn colors.

Future maintenance of the grounds will be divided between the students, Master Gardeners, the city and volunteers.

Master Gardeners with pics.

By ANNA MATHEWS
CCN Staff Writer

CARROLL COUNTY—A group of Carroll County residents are busy giving back to their communities after completing a Master Gardener program here.

Barbara Balas, known as "Fearless Leader" of the Carroll County Master Gardener group, said she and two dozen other residents completed training last November.

As certified members of the nationwide program, graduates are required to volunteer a minimum of 40 hours each year. Balas and others have recently undertaken a replanting project on the Green Forest square and quickly surpassed their volunteer requirements.

Trees, shrubs, and flowers have been planted with help from school students and city employees. Work on a plaza area is underway, with walkways, benches and bushes planned.

The group is also working on a project behind the Green Forest Public Library. They mapped off a section of the back parking area to transform into an enchanted walkway with rustic fencing and flowering plants lining the way.

Balas said she first heard about the Master Gardener program last year and called the county extension office to find out more. Working along with County Agent Leon Duncan, Balas helped restructure the national program for use in this area.

"The program was set up for large groups in major cities. We had a small group in a small community. We reorganized it to meet our needs," Balas said.

Applicants from every corner of Carroll County were screened and 24 were selected to participate in the first Carroll County program.

The group met at the Pioneer Room of Carroll Electric every Friday for five weeks. Classroom

Afternoon sessions included lectured tours of herb farms and botanical gardens along with field trips to educational sites. All participants were given home work each week and a final exam was required at the completion of the course.

As part of the certification process, participants pledged to serve their communities in the coming year. Some have already shared their new-found knowledge with gardening clubs, school children and civic organizations.

Other members recently volunteered to judge floral and vegetable entries at the Carroll and Madison County Fairs. Last spring, several Master Gardener graduates set up an information booth in the gardening section of Wal-Mart to answer questions and pass along planting tips.

Every graduate finds their own way to give back to the community. Master Gardener Dedra Williams decided to use her writing skills to create a weekly information column for use in area newspapers.

Master Gardeners are also required to continue their education by attending meetings, field trips and classes throughout the year. "We are not experts when we're through with the class," Balas said. "We have learned enough to want to learn more."

Following completion of the course, members first attended a graduation party at the Balas Christmas Tree Farm and learned how to grow Christmas trees. The graduates have since toured each other's gardens, helped a fellow member with spring planting after he broke a leg and enjoyed a plant exchange party where each new Master Gardener took home dozens of plants to add to their own flower beds.

Program graduates are forbidden to profit from their training. "We are not for hire," Balas said. "We can't even wear our shirts unless we are working on an authorized project." Master Gardeners are available to help non-profit groups and organizations. All proposed projects must meet the approval of the

library and expanded to include the town square. Master Gardeners met with Mayor Roy Larimer to seek city approval and learned of another volunteer group. Tigers Care, a high school community action class, was also looking for a project. Together, the groups teamed up to accomplish the task.

Balas hopes to host an appreciation day celebration on the Green Forest square upon completion of the project. Several area merchants have contributed to the project, including Tanner Hardware, Green Forest Lumber, TCA Cable, Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods and the First National Bank of Green Forest.

Persons interested in becoming a Master Gardener only need a desire to learn, Balas explained. New classes will be forming next spring. People interested should call the Carroll County Extension Service by Oct. 15 to ask for an application. That number is 870-423-2958. The Carroll County program is operated under the direction of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.



Viewpoint



TIGERS CARE ABOUT GREEN FOREST

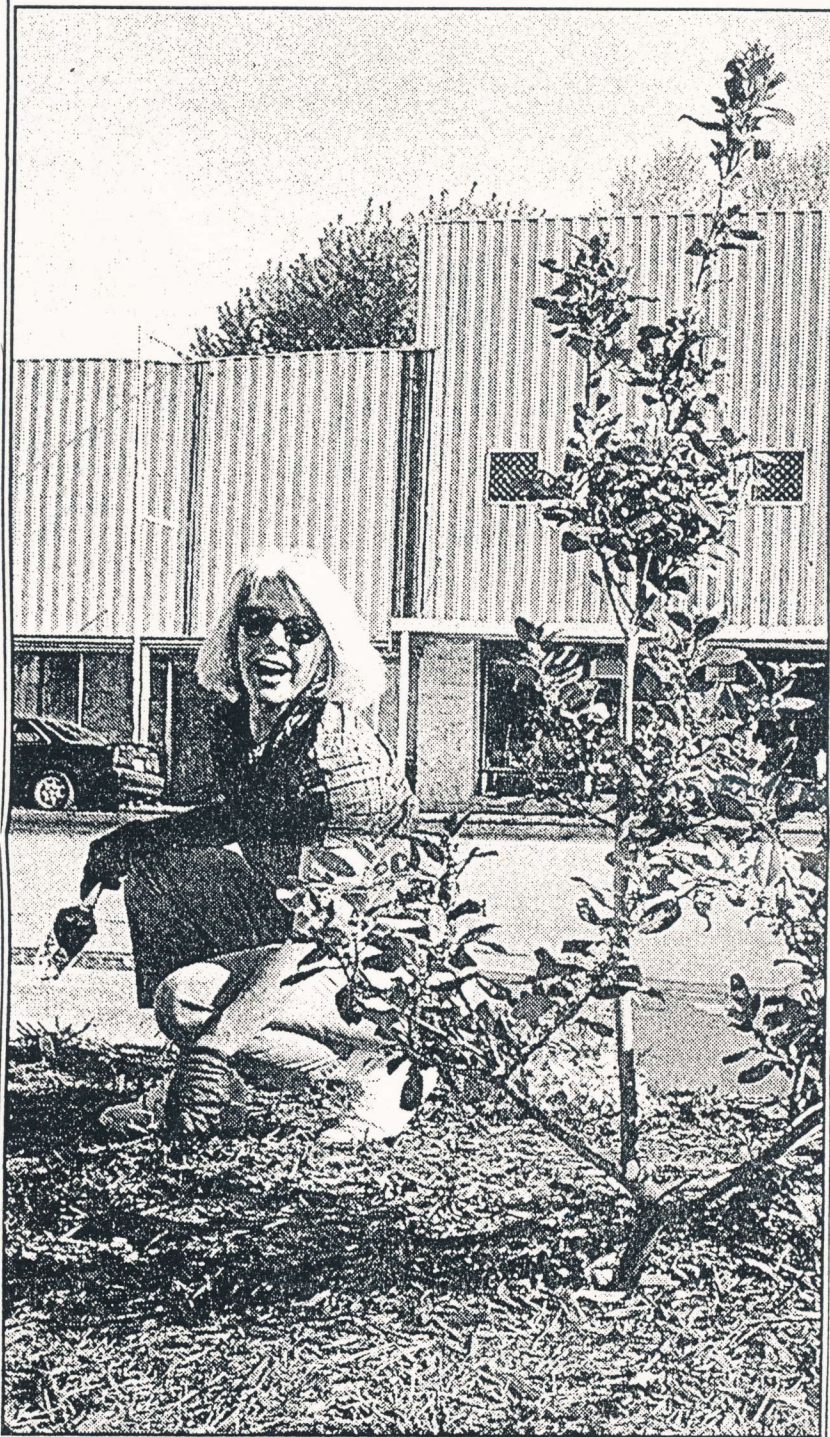
In September, 1997, the Arkansas Division of Volunteerism launched a state-wide program to encourage youth, grades K-12, to volunteer in their communities. The program, called Youth Service Arkansas, engages organized youth groups in projects that are beneficial to their cities and towns. Endorsed by the Arkansas Municipal League, the program invites interested youth groups and their leaders to contract with their hometown mayor to pledge and fulfill their community service commitments by April, 1998, in time to be recognized on National Youth Service Day, April 21, 1998.

Tigers Care of Green Forest have completed several community service projects to fulfill the contract they signed with Mayor Roy Larimer. The group pledged to work on a program with three main objectives: the beautification of Green Forest; service to senior citizens and those with disabilities, and assistance to the Green Forest School. So far, their activities have included landscaping the town square under the direction of the Master Gardeners of Carroll County, as well as painting the gazebo and building sidewalks at the square. The two dozen youth of Tigers Care, in racking up a total of more than 1,400 service hours have also raked leaves for seniors, collected and laundered "Coats for Kids," and both built a fence and planted bulbs at the library. Other projects had them baking cookies and distributing them to seniors citizens, as well as providing screening assistance for the school nurse. Contact Doris Hamilton, the group's adult leader, at 870-438-5203, for more information about Tigers Care and their on-going community service projects, cleaning and helping out at the library, assistance with playground maintenance, working at the city park and ball field, working as teachers' aides with early elementary grades, and mapping the Pickens Cemetery at Green Forest.

The Arkansas Division of Volunteerism promotes and supports volunteerism in the private, nonprofit, and government sectors as a means of solving problems for all Arkansans. The division, housed in the Arkansas Department of Human Services, has offered technical assistance, information, and training on all aspects of volunteer program management and recognition since 1974.

For more information about Youth Service Arkansas or National Youth Service Day, call Jackie Stubblefield at the Arkansas Division

ADOPT-A-SHRUB



MASTER GARDENER — Debra Trimble tended to some of the shrubs on the town square last week. Trimble is a member of the Master Gardeners group who planted the square last fall, along with help from Tiger Care students. Trimble and other Master Gardeners returned to the square to provide much needed springtime maintenance. The Master Gardeners will be back in the autumn to put the plants to bed for the winter. In the meantime, volunteers are needed to maintain the grounds throughout the spring and summer months.



RED BRICK BLDG W/CREAM AWNINGS, FRONT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.
N/WEST



S/WEST QUADRANT



N/WEST QUADRANT W/NEW PLAZA AROUND MEMORIAL,
FLAGPOLE AND LARGE RED G.F. SCHOOL MARQUEE



S/EAST QUADRANT

ARKANSAS MASTER GARDENER OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARD

NAME OF MASTER GARDENER PROJECT Green Forest Town Square and Library

MASTER GARDENER(S) RESPONSIBLE Barbara Balas

COUNTY Carroll DATE OF PROJECT INCEPTION September 1997

EXTENSION AGENT SIGNATURE

R. Leon Duncan

THIS AWARD RECOGNIZES THE OUTSTANDING MASTER GARDENER PROJECT WITHIN A COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM. TOTAL EFFORT IS JUDGED ON THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT AND ITS BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY. DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT, EDUCATIONAL IMPACT, AND EVALUATION ARE IMPORTANT IN THIS CATEGORY. USE ATTACHMENTS AS NEEDED, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, NEWSLETTERS, ETC. PLEASE TYPE OF PRINT AND COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 11 FOR JUDGING.

1. GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND HOW IT GOT STARTED. (30 POINTS)

Doris Hamilton, Green Forest High School teacher, asked Carroll County Master Gardeners to design landscapes for the Green Forest Town Square and Public Library. Ms Hamilton also requested Master Gardeners' supervision of twenty High School students' implementation of the plans.

2. NAMES OF MASTER GARDENERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT.

Barbara Balas, Jean Ericksen, Beth Stafford, Deborah Trimble, Sharon Spurlin, Deidra Williams, Lavonna Schell, Will Schell, Mary Thorpe, Margaret Wallace, Donna Perkins, Franses Anna Liggett and kudos to our twenty Honorary Master Gardeners, Green Forest High School students.

3. EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT. (10 POINTS)

100% SUCCESS !!! Roy Larimer, Mayor of Green Forest, Scott Ruff, Superintendent of Parks and Randy Moore, Superintendent of City Works were invaluable in responding to any request, including backhoe work and providing trucks for refuse disposal.

4. EDUCATIONAL IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY. (25 POINTS)

Green Forest is a rural town of 2000. A recent influx of Hispanic workers has increased the population considerably. Our first visitors to the project were several Hispanic, non-English speaking mothers and children. The language barrier was no problem. Smiles replaced words. Questioning looks were answered with the names of plant materials. Many passersby commented favorably and were pleased to see the progress and the cooperation of the students and the Master Gardeners.

4. (CONTINUED)

The students new found knowledge was evident in the effort they expended on the Public Library 30' x 7' entrance bed. After the backhoe removed years of rubble, the students took over the project and followed the plan. They solved the problem of runoff from the Library roof, amended the compacted clay, remembered to give the plants room to grow, and deeply mulched the newly planted bed.

Merchants around the Square donated materials and several bystanders showed interest in helping with maintenance of the finished project.

5. GIVE A 150 WORD (OR LESS) SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT. (35 POINTS)

It is now September 1998 and the Green Forest projects are thriving! On the Square the Sunset Maples, the Kousa Dogwood, near the War Memorial, the Nellie Stevens Hollies, Gold Euonymous, the Red Barberry, Lime Spirea, the Blue Iris, and various mounds of Chrysanthemums are lush! Mulched beds and most importantly a superb irrigation system recently installed by the City of Green Forest, are responsible for the success of this endeavor.

The bed at the Library contains a Pink Dogwood, Althea, Red Barberry, Sedum Autumn Joy and Chrysanthemums.

The Master Gardeners have the utmost admiration for Doris Hamilton, the Green Forest High School teacher. Ms Hamilton applied for and received a Federal Grant for beautification projects within the Green Forest School District. Matching funds were donated by the local bank and a major business. Several other businesses donated funds and materials.

The many compliments and appreciation of the townspeople were reward enough for all the Master Gardeners who participated in the project.