

# Chapters in Caring

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Summer 2018

## Our Gardens Are as Wonderful as the Volunteers Who Tend Them!

Roberta Ryan and her team of fellow volunteer gardeners from Fairport Savings Bank have an incredible passion for the gardens they tend on the grounds of the Fairport Baptist Homes. They don't just stop by in the spring to plant the flowers—they tend to our gardens for many months throughout the spring, summer and fall. Their busiest time, of course, is spring, when perennials are trimmed or replaced. Annuals fill in and brighten the flower beds with bright colors all summer long.

Linda Tydings, Grace Vella, JoAnn Phillips, Colleen Brand and Kristen Ferguson join Roberta a couple of times a month to do weeding, watering and trimming, and each one also takes a few Sundays a season to water the gardens. Linda and her husband, Jim, stop to water several times a season when Jim picks her up after work on their way home to Seneca Falls. Sheila Ferguson, who retired from FSB this past February, continues to come out three or four times a season to trim the bushes with the group.

During their annual "Big Dig," as Roberta calls it, she and her team of volunteers work extra hours to ensure the flower beds are off to a good start for the season. The "Core Values" program at Fairport Savings Bank supports their volunteer efforts; they accumulate "heartbeats" for every volunteer shift they complete, and once they've accumulated four heartbeats, they are rewarded with a well-deserved day off from work.

Once the "Big Dig" is over, Roberta can be seen in our gardens most Tuesdays in the early afternoon, and often one to two more times per week. As if that isn't enough of a workout, she also tends a garden at her home in the city of Rochester. "I'm especially



partial to perennials; once they are established, they return year after year and are a great investment for any garden," she says. Among her favorites are agastache, coneflowers, and salvia. She adds annuals like cosmos that fill in and provide color all summer long, as well as attract bees and other pollinators.

"There's a peacefulness you get when gardening that nothing else can provide," she adds. All of the volunteers who graciously tend the gardens at Fairport Baptist Homes, truly live up to our motto—caring, vibrant, vital!