



September 26th 2022

Re: Cass County Community Garden articles

To whom it may concern:

Everyone in the Walker area was so impressed with four articles printed in four consecutive issues of The Pilot-Independent featuring two Cass County Community Gardens in each. What was so impressive about these articles was the amount of detail that the writer had included within each garden description. Local gardeners, Master Gardeners and garden managers were interviewed and there were wonderful pictures from each garden. The character of each community garden was represented in a unique way. The contribution of the SHIP Program in Cass County as well as the Master Gardener program was also noted and appreciated. An average casual reader in Cass County probably had no idea that these gardens existed, as many are tucked away behind schools, churches etc. I'm sure these articles have piqued interest in the readers to seek out and investigate these wonderful community assets and maybe even join them. Of particular note was the contribution that community gardens make to the local food shelves in terms of donating produce. These articles were obviously a labor of love for Gail Deboer, the writer, who I am told is an enthusiastic gardener herself, and therefore has an appreciation and insight into the various aspects of community gardening.

Yours Sincerely



Simon Whitehead

Cass County SHIP, University of Minnesota Extension