

For immediate release:

August 14, 2017

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Photographs available

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Laurelwood Garden Club Beautifies the Historic Planter at the Fitchburg Historical Society's Property

New Floral Design Dedicated to Julia Casey of Fitchburg

(Fitchburg, MA) A new floral display has been created in Fitchburg by the Laurelwood Garden Club to help beautify a 19th-century horse trough now being used as a planter near the Fitchburg Historical Society's former headquarters at Grove and Elm Streets. **The lush new floral design was created by Laurelwood Vice President Julie Palioca and member Kathy Foster to honor the memory of Julia Casey, a longtime member of both the Laurelwood Garden Club and Fitchburg Historical Society, who died this year.**

Julia Casey was an active member of the Laurelwood Garden Club since its founding in 1965. She was instrumental in organizing Art in Bloom, an annual spring event held at the Fitchburg Art Museum that will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2018. Julia was active in many Fitchburg civic events and was an enthusiastic charter member of the garden club.

The planter, located in Historic Park at the corner of Grove and Elm Streets, was originally located on Fitchburg's Main Street, where it served as a water trough for horses in the years before automobiles. In 1990, it was lifted into place in the park as part of an Eagle Scout project by Torri Jordan, and began its new life as a planter for summer floral displays.

"We are thrilled to be the beneficiaries of the Laurelwood Garden Club's Civic Beautification project for Fitchburg," said Fitchburg Historical Society Director Susan Navarre. "For years, I have admired their daffodil displays and their work at Art in Bloom. This is a wonderful way to use the Garden Club's talents to bring more natural beauty to an historic corner of Fitchburg."

The Fitchburg Historical Society was founded 125 years ago to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Fitchburg. Now located in an historic H.M. Francis-designed building at 781 Main Street, the Society hosts lectures, exhibits and annual events relating to the city's history.

Exhibitions and educational programming about Fitchburg history are supported by grants from The George R. Wallace Foundation, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Fitchburg Cultural Council and MassHumanities. For more information, call 978-345-1157, write welcome@fitchburghistoricalsociety.com or visit www.fitchburghistoricalsociety.org and <https://www.facebook.com/FitchburgHistoricalSociety>.

The Laurelwood Garden Club brings together people who would like to meet other enthusiastic gardeners, learn more about gardening and floral design, and develop their horticultural skills. For more information on the club's meetings and activities, contact Vice President Julie Palioca at 978-537-7630.