

VISTA Matters is the weekly community newsletter for garden members. Included are key dates and communications necessary for all members to know and be involved.



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## VISTA Gardens News - January 27, 2017

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**Have a Happy and Safe Gasparilla!**

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### **New Pest Control Subcommittee Chair (or is it Perch?)**

Meet VISTA's highest flying member who also serves as the unofficial chair of community pest control.

Now what should we call this beautiful hawk? Submit your ideas by Friday, February 3 through this [link](#) and the winner will receive a lovely package of organic seeds.



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### **Article: How to Start Seeds**

GROWING plants from seed is a great way to start gardening earlier in the season. With the right light and some simple equipment, it's easy to grow from seed to harvest.....

[READ MORE](#)





## Member Spotlight: Rolfe Evenson

### 1. Tell us about yourself.

My full name is Rolfe Evenson, my plot is 1-3 Cabbage Cove. I do not have any family living in the area, so the responsibility for my three plots are all on my shoulders. Although I was not part of the early pre-planning for Vista, I was there at the first sign up day along with my two partners Ed and Bennett. In fact, I believe we were the first three on the sign up sheet before any physical work had been done on construction of the beds. We were known to the rest of the membership at that time as "The Three Caballeros". All was going smoothly until something arose and Bennett had to stop. The bed was given out to Joe who, after a year, moved from the area and Ed and I took it over. Since then Ed has moved as well and I have continued with the three beds. I love being outdoors and I love growing veggies, it reminds me of when I was a young kid and my mother and I had a

Victory Garden during WWII.

### 2. What interested you in starting your garden?

As far as being organic, for me, that is the only way and it is reassuring to see the increase of organic food in our local markets. That has to tell us something; there is nothing that compares to the taste of fresh picked produce and VISTA is virtually in each of our own backyards.

### 3. What do you like to grow? What are your "go to" plants?

As far as my favorites, that is a hard one. I love kale, carrots, beets, turnips and almost all the other leafy plants. I had a great corn crop last year, healthy and productive, the only problem was the variety of blue corn that I raised was tasteless. Oh well, live and learn, and learning is what most of us are doing, and that's one of the really fun experiences.

### 4. What's your favorite activity/time of day at the garden?

One can usually see me at the garden most week days, especially on Mondays when I transport the spoiled produce from the food pantry to our compost system and Thursdays when the 'Compost Fit' gang get their workout by turning and sifting the geo bins. It is hard work but oh such fun. We have a super group of regulars and drop ins that come out for a blast, and I highly recommend it to everyone to try it at least once. Thursdays at 8:30 am., it's a must.

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## Share Your VISTA Story

**Let's make VISTA Gardens a sanctuary where we not only cultivate plants but also nurture friendships, belonging and a sense of community.**

Please send your answers to the following questions and a picture (suggestion - a picture of you and your garden). Before we know it we will begin to recognize each other, start a conversation and make a new friend. Please send your input to Jamie Gagne via this [email link](#)

What we would love you to share:

1. What is your name and the name of family/friends working in your garden, what is your bed address (ex., #5 Berry Boulevard) and the date you joined VISTA Gardens.
  2. What interested you in starting your garden (ie., love of outdoors, organic gardening, exercise, family tradition)
  3. What do you like to grow? What are your "go to" plants?
  4. What is your favorite activity/time of day at the garden?
  5. What is one thing you'd like us to know about you?
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## Winter/Spring Event Lineup

Welcome to 2017! Pull out your calendars as there is a lot of fun activity happening at, for and around the garden.

### Community Education

#### BENEFICIAL BUGS

**February 18, 10 - 11 a.m. @ Urban Roots**

Our fearless leader, Bill West, will share his experience with identifying and cultivating beneficial bugs and the important role they play in our community.

### Fundraiser

#### ANTHONY'S PIZZA COMMUNITY DAY

**February 13, Open - Close @ Anthony's Pizza**

Anthony's Pizza is generously donating 20% of its sales to VISTA when guests dine in or carry out and mention the garden. **Please see the flyer below** for additional information on this fantastic, and delicious, opportunity.

**VISTA Community Meet up.** We will host a meet up at Anthony's that evening from **5 - 8 p.m.** Plan to stop by and share a bite with your fellow gardeners. It will be a fun evening.

### Social Opportunities

#### URBAN ROOTS GRAND RE-OPENING

**February 18, 10 - 4 @ Urban Roots Garden Supply**

Urban Roots is on the move... across the Main Street Shopping Center (in the same building as All American Dance Factory). Check out their new, expanded location meeting vendors from the garden supply industry and local community.

#### SEEDLING SWAP

**March 18, 10 - 11 a.m. @ VISTA Gardens**

As you begin starting your Spring seedlings plant a few extra to bring the seedling swap. This is a terrific way to add variety without purchasing seeds for every vegetable you'd like to grow.

#### EARTH DAY PIG ROAST

**April 22, Time TBD @ VISTA Gardens**

Celebrate our planet at the garden's social event for Spring! This will be a pot luck so start thinking about what you'd like to bring. There will be a nominal contribution for the pork to offset costs. More details will be provided in the coming months.

**Tell your family, friends, neighbors, strangers in the check out line... Anthony's is giving 20% of its sales to VISTA Gardens ONE DAY ONLY. Diners must mention VISTA Gardens in order for their orders to benefit the garden!**



# Join Us...

On Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> to help raise money for Vista Gardens!



20% of tracked dine-in and carry out sales will be donated.

*Tell your server you are dining to support Vista Gardens!*



NORTH TAMPA  
13020 N Dale Mabry Hwy | (813) 265-2625  
WWW.ACFP.COM

## Ongoing Activities

### Saturday Work Parties

Fulfill your community volunteer requirement by joining fellow gardeners on Saturday mornings to tackle the maintenance needs of the garden at large. It's a fun time and you get some exercise and the garden stays looking great. Keeping the garden regularly maintained prevents us from major intermittent workload. The party starts at 9 a.m. every weekend, weather permitting.

### Compost Thursdays

Committee members meet at the garden Thursday's at 8 a.m. to turn the compost. Please join the team if you would like to learn more about composting.

### Compost Materials Needed

General reminder: To produce high quality input the community needs to provide a steady supply of material. This includes vegetable waste (garden or kitchen). Please bring your waste to the garden, don't let it go to the landfill! **NOTE: We are at capacity for leaves, cardboard and shredded paper right now. Please do not bring any more for the foreseeable future.**

### Keep in touch with VISTA

We are working hard to streamline communications to ensure you receive the right content in the right place when you need it.

1. Facebook: Like "VISTA Gardens" to receive updates on key activities throughout the week

If you do NOT use Facebook please reply to this email and you will be added to a separate email distribution list. The team will do its best to email any time sensitive updates requiring community attention to this list when a post is made to Facebook.

2. Tuesday email: Summarizes key activity and news for the upcoming week
  3. Monthly newsletter: More detail into topics of interest and education (see link above!)
  4. Web site: Our address is [vistagardentampa.org](http://vistagardentampa.org) (note: no 's' in garden). A repository of membership information, detailed education, links to articles on shared topics of interest. Plus much, much more.
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VISTA Gardens | [comms@vistagarden.org](mailto:comms@vistagarden.org) | [vistagardentampa.org](http://vistagardentampa.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

