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## Generosity takes root at special Mansion in May garden

BY MARY ANN MCGANN • SPECIAL TO THE DAILY RECORD • MAY 13, 2010

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1 | 2 Next Page

Every year, Susan Cohan and Frank Scheppe team up to create a "show" garden — one that shows off her skills as a landscape designer and his vast knowledge as a landscape contractor. This year, they decided to approach the project in a new way.



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Frank Scheppe, landscape manager at A. Scheppe Landscaping in Summit, and Susan Cohen, who runs a boutique landscape design firm in Chatham, created this garden at Fawn Hill Farm in Harding Township. Enough produce is being grown there to feed eight families of four. (Staff photo: Dawn Benko)

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"I wanted to do something completely different than a flower garden; I wanted to do a real garden," says Cohan, who runs Susan Cohan Gardens in Chatham, a boutique landscape design firm. "I thought it would be great to create a family space that also could be a food-production space."

But this isn't your average vegetable garden. As part of the Mansion in May Designer Showhouse and Gardens at Fawn Hill Farm in Harding Township, this particular patch of greenery is designed in the French potager style (ornamental) and includes early spring vegetables, a small orchard, berries and a cutting garden.

"It's designed to be a show garden and to be flashy," Cohan says. "But it's also a real working garden."

It is that underlying mission as a "working garden" that is the most noteworthy. All the produce grown here — enough to feed eight families of four — will be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morristown.

"Most of what we have at the food pantry is shelf-stable food. So when our clients come through, most of the time what they're taking is canned vegetables and fruit," says Katy Galton, nutrition educator at the Interfaith Food Pantry. "So the



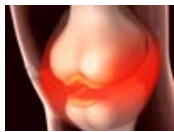
Growing in the garden are such cool-weather crops as Swiss chard, beets, radishes, curly kale, arugula, sugar snap peas and a variety of lettuces. There also are herbs such as thyme, chives, sage, lemon balm and variegated oregano. (Courtesy of Susan Cohan)

### A GARDEN GIVES BACK

**WHERE:** Mansion in May Designer Showhouse and Gardens, Fawn Hill Farm, Harding Township. Parking is off-site at Atlantic Health Corporate Offices, 475 South St., Morristown. There is continuous shuttle service to and from Fawn Hill Farm.

**HOURS:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays, through May 31.

**COST:** \$30 for age 12 and up, \$25 for seniors



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opportunity for them to have fresh vegetables is welcome. Everyone enjoys having the benefits of the fresh produce."

"It's appalling to me that we live in the sixth-richest county in the United States and there are 10,000 people here at food risk," Cohan says. "It's

not right. We have so much here. There shouldn't be a single hungry child or person."

In the Cohan/Scheppe garden are such cool-weather crops as Swiss chard, beets, radishes, curly kale, arugula and sugar snap peas. There are herbs such as thyme, chives, sage, lemon balm and variegated oregano. And there is a variety of lettuces — red romaine, Salad Bowl, Jericho, Green Tower, Red Sails and a mesclun mix — carefully chosen as much for their look as for their flavor.

1 | 2 Next Page



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