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Good eats from the Alpharetta Community Garden Garden cookbook features local recipes

by HELEN K. KELLEY

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ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Fresh, flavorful and locally grown are the key ingredients in the Alpharetta Community Garden Cookbook, a new collection of recipes published by the Alpharetta Community Garden (ACG).

The spiral-bound book, which contains more than 120 recipes contributed by ACG members and friends, is a fundraiser for the nonprofit organization. Each year, its gardeners donate hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to the North Fulton Community Charities food pantry and participate in community education and additional service projects at schools and other organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Ed Isakson Alpharetta YMCA.

The "call for recipes" was an overwhelming success, said ACG member Kate Tunison, who served as project manager for the cookbook.

"Our cookbook committee asked members to send in recipes that included at least one fresh, garden-grown ingredient, and we were amazed to get more than 600 submissions," she said. "Plus, all of the photos in the book were personally taken by the gardeners. And they added personal notes about their recipes as well."

All proceeds from sales of the cookbook go back into the garden for supplies and maintenance, and in turn, the garden will continue to serve the community.

Established in 2009 and located at Wills Park, the Alpharetta Community Garden offers area residents an opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of growing their own food. For an annual fee, gardeners lease the plots, which are furnished with raised beds and soil. The garden features three "enabled" beds for people with disabilities, and there are three plots designated specifically for donations to North Fulton Community Charities. Garden members must be residents of the city of Alpharetta and must



The Alpharetta Community Garden Cookbook was unveiled and made available for purchase on a recent workday at the garden. Proudly displaying the new book are, from left, ACG Garden Manager Charmaine Jackson, David Cox, president of Alpharetta Arboretum, Master Gardeners Stu and Jody Silver, cookbook committee member Colleen Little and Kate Tunison, cookbook project manager. HELEN K. KELLEY.



The Alpharetta Community Garden donates several hundred pounds of fresh produce annually to North Fulton Community Charities. HELEN K. KELLEY.

agree to give five volunteer hours to the garden each growing season, doing maintenance tasks like spreading mulch, delivering donated produce or providing gardening education within the community.

The Alpharetta Community Garden Cookbook sells for \$15, and is available at Twigs and Lace, 64 N. Main Street, Alpharetta, or by emailing Director@AlpharettaArboretum.org.



Members recently gathered at Alpharetta Community Garden for a workday to spread mulch. HELEN K. KELLEY.