

Talk of the Town



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SEGAR COMMUNITY GARDEN BRINGING NEIGHBOURS CLOSER TOGETHER

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MORE COMMUNITY GARDENS AT ZHENGHUA

In view of growing interest among residents for neighbourhood gardening, another new community garden was officially opened at Segar, next to Blk 478A Segar Rd, Linkhouse.

Residents appreciate the more convenient location as well as the neat site layout of the new community garden. There were lots of sharing of gardening tips and experiences which helps in strengthening relationships among neighbours.

"Families including the young and seniors come together to take ownership of the vegetables they plant and thereafter enjoying the fruits of the harvests. It is also good experiential learning for young kids as they witness the life cycle of plants from seeding to harvesting" said MP Liang Eng Hwa.

More community gardens are in the works in the coming months.



TRIVELIS COMMUNITY GARDEN @ BUKIT TIMAH



The brand new Trivelis Community Garden is now up and running, allowing residents with a love for gardening to flex their green thumbs! It also provides the community at large with a space to relax and learn more about plants and gardening.

Being one of the latest green spaces in the Bukit Timah Constituency, the garden located at Blk 311C Clementi Avenue 4 is also special for 2 reasons. First, the planter boxes are uniquely-shaped and in the form of

a roundabout instead of being the usual rectangular structure so as to promote cohesion. Second, the staff from Starbucks at Clementi branch joins the community gardeners and participates in the gardening activities every fortnightly by helping out with the upkeep of the garden.

Fun Fact

The Starbucks staff contributes and donates used coffee grounds to the garden every week to enhance the soil and compost!

STORY PLOTS @ CASHEW

"Story Plots" is what the 20 rectangular boxes of plantations are called at the newly built community garden located at Blk 542, Bukit Panjang Ring Road. Gracing the grand opening of the garden was Dr Vivian Balakrishnan who also picked up the shovel and planted alongside the gardeners.

Why "Story Plots", you may ask? This is because every plot has its own story to tell! Much discussion and thoughts were put into naming the

garden but "Story Plots" caught the gardeners' attention and its catchy name remained.

While most of the residents are new to gardening, the more experienced ones were willing to share their tips and tricks to guide and assist along the way. The gardeners were also able to grow fruits and veggies like watermelons and pumpkins, which are not commonly grown in community gardens!



BUKIT PANJANG COMMUNITY GARDENERS GIVE BACK TO CHARITY

As part of the Bukit Panjang Community Garden Day 2019, more than 100 community gardeners gathered as early as 7am to set up their booths with their unique fresh produce for charity.

The event received support from the Bukit Panjang Zone RCs, and was jointly organised by the Bukit Panjang Active Aging Council and National Parks Board. The residents were spoilt for choice from the wide variety of greens available, and were very excited to contribute to the good cause.

"Every year I make the effort to come down for this event to show my support to the gardeners who worked hard to harvest the different vegetables, some of which cannot be bought from the local market," shared 53-year-old Mdm Kamala Nathan who bought three bags of vegetables.

Lending his support to the event was Dr Teo Ho Pin who thanked the gardeners and residents for coming together to give back to the

less fortunate. Dr Teo also shared that there are plans to open more community gardens in the near future.

The annual event is on its fourth run this year, and has managed to raise \$11,613.55. All collected proceeds were donated to the National Kidney Foundation.

Apart from the sale of harvested greens, a giant veggie competition as well as a cooking demonstration

by Health Promotion Board were running concurrently. Residents and gardeners were eagerly waiting for the announcement of the results for the biggest and heaviest Chye Sim, Xiao Bai Chye and Lettuce.

"Our zone is very happy with our submission as it was the hard work of everyone," said Chris Chua, Treasurer of Zone 10 RC, who expressed her excitement upon submitting her zone's Xiao Bai Chye.



ULU PANDAN SUNSET WAY CLEAN UP



Students from Henry Park Primary School and Methodist Girls' School teamed up with more than 100 residents of Sunset Way to clean up the estate on 26 October 2019. Joining them in their efforts that morning was Mr Christopher de Souza, MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC.

Mr Christopher de Souza said this annual event acknowledges the hard work our cleaners put in to keep the estate clean. "I requested for the town council to give the cleaners a break so that we can come in and clean the precinct and get a sense of how much cleaning there is to do and also have a sense of how residents and ourselves can play our part to keep the estate clean. I think this is a good exercise to work with residents and schools in the area to help clean our neighbourhood and the idea is to have a sense of self-responsibility so that we can not only keep our

neighbourhood clean but also the country," he explained.

Being able to reduce the carbon footprint within the neighbourhood and lessen the reliance on the conservancy workers, makes this event significant for students Chloe Ng, Sonya Arkati and Naomi Yeo from Methodist Girls' School.

Mr Norman Ong, Chairman of Sunset Way Residents' Committee (RC), added that previously when the event was organised, residents gave feedback that it was something which they would want to be part of again, as it has helped to foster closer community spirit with other groups of people in the neighbourhood. Therefore, the RC worked together with the Town Council to facilitate this event so everyone gets to appreciate the estate while bonding with one another.



Holland-Bukit Panjang Town Council

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1 Oct 2019 to 30 Sep 2021

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Asst. General Manager: Mr Ng Choon Joo & Mr Lawrence Toh

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TREE PLANTING 2019

As part of Clean and Green Singapore 2019, saplings of various plant species were planted all around Holland-Bukit Panjang Town.



CASHEW

On 7 September 2019, the Chestnut Close Park Connector was launched after the completion of works done by Public Utilities Board (PUB). Residents can now enjoy the illuminated park where lights have been installed for the safety of everyone!

More importantly, the park connector is now home to a tree species once extinct in the wilds of Singapore. The *Cleistanthus malaccensis* was planted in hopes that it will once again be a familiar sight to Singaporeans all around.

Fun Fact

This plant produces small, creamy white flowers and round fruits that has pinkish young leaves that turn green when matures.

BUKIT PANJANG

On 6 October 2019, 20 Laka Palms - the signature tree for Bukit Panjang - were planted to remind residents that everyone plays a part to maintain the community's cleanliness for the future generation and a Green Bukit Panjang is a Clean Bukit Panjang.



"I find it meaningful to be part of today's event as we are adding more life to the environment we are living in with all these initiatives which also allows us to bond with others from different age groups and race. I foresee myself volunteering again next year."

— Ms Vadivoo from the Indian Activity Committee



ULU PANDAN

Grassroots Adviser Mr Christopher de Souza planted three *Frangipani* trees near Block 33A Ghim Moh Link with some 200 residents at the Tree Planting Day and Block Party on 14 September 2019.

In Mr de Souza's address, he said that they will continue to plant trees not only in neighbourhoods, but also along the new stretch of the Ulu Pandan Park Connector, which is expected to be completed within the first quarter of 2020.

ZHENGHUA

Gathered at Jelapang Square on the morning of 16 November 2019, Grassroots Adviser Mr Liang Eng Hwa and 100 residents planted 11 *Syzygium myrtifolium* trees as part of Zhenghua's annual tree planting event. All in all, the event was a success! We would like to give special thanks to the National Parks Board for the support.



CONSERVE WATER, CONSERVE LIFE

By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population may face water shortages.

Please do your part by adopting these habits at home:



Wash clothes on full load



Use half-flush when possible



Turn off shower when soaping



Turn tap off when brushing teeth



Rinse vegetables in container



SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT STARTS WITH YOU



Sharing green ideas that can be a part of your daily lives, your neighbours have taken environmentally-friendly steps to save the environment. Join them and make the effort to live green today!

Instead of buying trash bags or taking plastic bags from supermarkets to line your rubbish bins, repurpose product packaging instead and use them to collect your rubbish. Make use of the resources you have at hand, for example, the plastic packaging of toilet paper, vegetables, and even instant noodles!

Cheong Pui Mun, Zhenghua

Having neighbours who share the green spirit makes it easier! We collaborate and communicate with each other when there are hand-me-downs like bulky furniture or smaller electronics before disposing of them. When sharing or exchanging daily items like newspapers or groceries, we also avoid the use of plastics.

Siti Aminah, Bukit Panjang

Magazines can be repurposed instead of throwing them away. For example, pages can be folded into paper boxes to contain food waste instead of using plastic bags.

**Lee Chengjie,
Bukit Timah**

I bring my own cups to buy coffee and beverages, and you can too! We can do our part by bringing our own bags when grocery shopping. At home, make it a family effort to reduce the use of water and electricity together. Instead of the aircon, use the fan; and keep the use of the washing machine to a minimum.

Alan Lu Qingyu, Ulu Pandan

I would make the effort to separate my trash and at the end of the week, bin the recyclables (mainly plastics) at the blue chute below my flat. Other than using recyclable shopping bags, saving water and electricity, I will also purchase energy-efficient electronic appliances.

E Soon Quey @ Steven E, Cashew