



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building
11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2021

Frankie Dakin
Press Secretary
Office: 901.222.2057
Mobile: 901.496.0131

**SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS TO KICK OFF SECOND SEASON AT
SHELBY COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDENS**

Shelby County, TN – On Friday, April 30th, 2021, Mayor Lee Harris will join community gardeners for the kickoff of the 2021 Shelby County Community Gardens planting season. The Shelby County Community Gardens are located at 6265 Gardener Road and are comprised of over 400 free plots that are assigned to gardeners for the season. This season, over 430 local gardeners will plant at the Community Gardens. Mayor Harris reestablished the Community Gardens in 2020 as an initiative to provide free space for residents to grow their own food, nurture healthy lifestyles, and enjoy our county's premier greenspaces. The Shelby County Community Gardens are managed by the Shelby County Department of Parks and Neighborhoods.

The kickoff event will feature remarks from Mayor Harris, Public Works Director Cliff Norville, and the presentation of certificates of appreciation to volunteer community garden board members.

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “We are thrilled to kick off the 2021 Community Gardens planting season with more community gardeners than ever before. The pandemic inspired many residents to take up gardening as a safe, socially distanced hobby with physical and mental health benefits. Over four hundred of our community's gardeners have flocked to the Community Gardens which means we are poised to have an extremely vibrant planting season.”

Shelby County Parks and Neighborhoods Administrator Angela Hill: “Last year's reopening of the Community Gardens came at a critical time when many in our community needed a new socially distanced hobby. This year, we're thrilled to welcome back our returning gardeners as well as those who may have developed a green thumb over the course of the pandemic.”

VASCO A. SMITH, JR. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
160 North Main Street, 11th Floor Memphis, TN 38103
901-222-2000 Fax 901-222-2005
www.shelbycountyttn.gov



Community Gardener Bruce Buchanan: “In my ten years of gardening at the Community Gardens, I had never seen it as clean and vibrant as it was during last season. We are extremely excited to start planting.”

WHO: Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris
WHAT: Kickoff of 2021 Shelby County Community Gardens
WHEN: 11 a.m. Friday, April 30th
WHERE: Shelby County Community Gardens, 6265 Gardener Road, Memphis, TN 38120

(end of release)