



Rik Jesse, FLORIDA TODAY

A garden grows in Cocoa

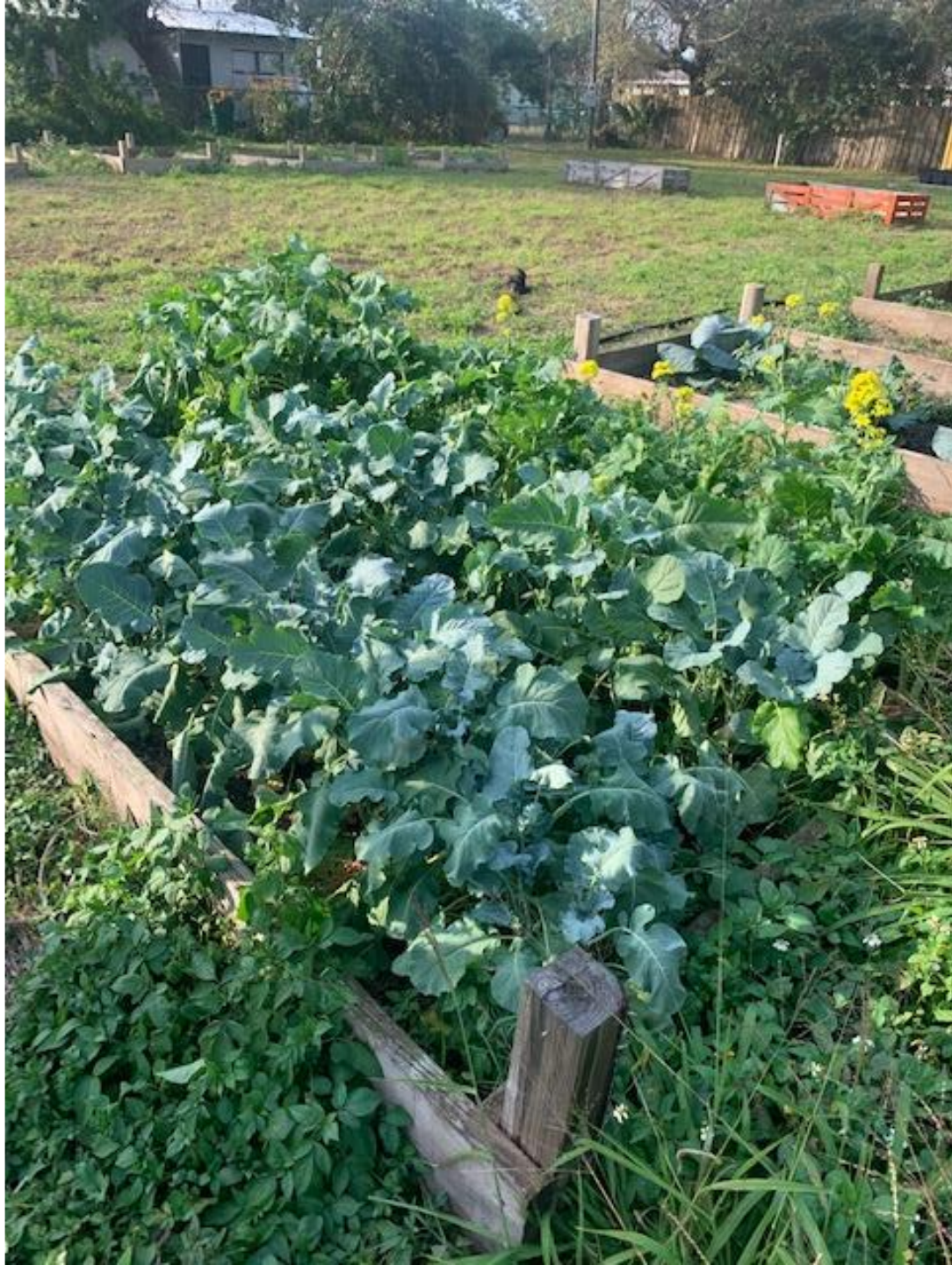
Lynda Newell and Jimmie Lee Ross plant tomatoes Saturday at the first planting for the St. Marks and Cocoa Police Community Garden Park on Peachtree Street in Cocoa. The garden is a joint effort involving the Alliance for Neighborhood Restoration, the Cocoa Police Department and St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Organizers hope the garden will reduce blight and play a role in tackling crime. The garden is at the site where Christine Abrams' 1-year-old German shepherd, Ella, starved to death. Abrams, who was recently released from jail, donated the property to St.



In 2008, 1112 Peachtree St was donated to St, Mark's Episcopal Church by Christine Abrams after a tragic situation. The Church and the Cocoa Police Department started a garden to enhance the community.



- In 2018, Eagle Scout Dane Layman, after talking with the Sustainability Advisory Board, put in 12 raised beds. The garden grew a beautiful harvest of turnips, cabbage, mustards, broccoli, herbs, peas and more since last fall.





Seed to Harvest Experience s



Benefits of the 1112 Peachtree Community Garden in Cocoa



Edible Education and Good Nutrition



Food
Confidence

Agriculture is a leading Florida industry. Agrotourism is growing . Gardens are healthy.

Children should know about food



The next
generation

natural
gardeners





Added Benefit: The City has free property maintenance



What's Next?

- Members of the City of Cocoa Sustainability Advisory Board, Christ Central, Celebration Tabernacle, and the Rotary Club of Merritt Island have created ready to plant beds for residents, churches, and organizations participating in a seeding and harvesting for a Sharing Table Harvest as part of the outreach of the Cocoa/Rockledge Pastor's Fellowship started in 2010 with Pastor Don from Christ Central and Pastor Beckford from Celebration Tabernacle

How can the City help?

- Potable Water
- 3 year commitment for the garden
- Advertise and take pride in the garden
- Offer suggestions and get involved!

Special Thanks

- Celebration Tabernacle and Christ Central
 - Rotary Club of Merritt Island
 - Cocoa Police and Fire Department
- City of Cocoa Councilpersons: Rip Dyal, Alex Goins, and Lorraine Koss
- City of Cocoa City Manager Stockton Whitten and Charlene Neuterman
 - College Greens Residents who contributed