

## The Pavilion Circle “Bedfellows”; Past and present volunteers Program Initiated: 1989



1930s aerial view photo



2023 flower bed photos

Pavilion Circle’s beauty and tranquility are the result of much work over many years. A photograph from the 1930s shows Cape Avenue bisecting Pavilion Circle, with only limited trees on either side. By the 1950s, Cape Avenue had been removed from Pavilion Circle, which then still featured little more than a few scrubby, windblown cedar trees and many cactus plants. In 1989, a concerted effort to beautify Pavilion Circle was initiated. A major component of this effort was starting the Bedfellows program. Over the succeeding years, many Circle Bedfellows have diligently worked to maintain and enhance what have now developed into 17 beautiful beds that adorn the Circle we enjoy today.

Much of the credit for this beautification and for pioneering the Bedfellow program is due to the late CMP resident, Sally Sachs, who received a CMPTA Lifetime Achievement Award for all her contributions. The inspiration for beautifying the circle began as a memorial to Sally’s husband, Walter S. Sachs. Supported by then Mayor Malcolm Frazer and by many other dedicated residents, Sally spurred the start of the Bedfellow program in 1989. Her initial vision was echoed in a reflection she offered years later: “Over the years the beds have expressed many personalities—just what we wanted, with no planned arrangement.” Elizabeth Parson, owner of then Parson’s Folly, created the inaugural bed where Cape Avenue intersects with Pavilion Circle. Since then, this bed and sixteen other beds have been created and adopted by many generous Bedfellows. Along the way, their achievements were recognized, for example, by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society with a 2001 Suburban Greening Award, displayed behind the inaugural bed.

At this time, the CMPTA would like to honor all the Bedfellows, past and present. Some have adopted beds recently, replacing long-serving Bedfellows who retired, while others still lovingly tend their beds after many years. The Bedfellows are an independent group of volunteers who maintain and enhance each of their beds through their own vision and hard work throughout the growing season. Many of them also decorate their beds during the holiday season with festive lighting for all to enjoy. Sometimes the Bedfellows are modestly supported by donations from other community members (“Bedwarmers”) or from the CMPTA and the CMP Civic Club, but more often they supply new plant material through their own resources. The borough supplied mulch in the spring that was spread by the Bedfellows and other CMP volunteers. Donations to the Bedfellows program are always welcome and can be made through the CMPTA.

Volunteerism is part of what makes Cape May Point a special place. We sincerely thank all the many Bedfellows who have contributed to making Pavilion Circle such a treasured center of our community.