



As we gather tonight, I am filled with gratitude and pride for what we've built as a community. I want to start by looking back and reflecting on some of the things that happened this year to remind us of what makes this place so special.

We opened the year at our new years celebration with dancing, and that set the tone for the months ahead.

When winter arrived in full force, our "snow angels" stepped up, working in the cold to keep our roads safe for everyone.

As spring approached, we gathered for a workday and prepared our community for the new season. Later, we opened our garden with music and a wormy ceremony that brought hope and joy.

We took CPR classes to better care for one another.

One highlight of the year was our annual community festival, "STOMP". We learned, we shared, we celebrated. We had arts, singing, dancing, and performances by our own community members, this was followed by a delicious meal and deeper connection.

Our Saturday gatherings at the garden became a source of connection, teamwork, and shared meals, as we watched our seeds come to life and grow into an abundant harvest.

On the Fourth of July, we made fairy houses, and enjoyed games, music, dance, beautiful songs, and an amazing fireworks display.

Throughout the year, we welcomed wonderful new neighbors: MW, AH, C&Z, S&M&K, M and C (who we welcomed with a delicious African meal and a drumming session).

As JW became our next-door neighbor, we gathered to celebrate her birthday and her years of dedication to our community.

We supported one another in times of need, lending a helping hand when someone was sick or facing challenges.

This year, we also celebrated milestones and changes. WB renovated her house, EG got a very special deck, and, even when we faced challenges (like the water issue), everyone showed patience and understanding as we worked through it together.

We planted a tree in honor of CS, celebrating and remembering her life. Later in the year, we said goodbye to KM, celebrating his life and giving thanks for his contributions, his dedication and his sharing, especially to our garden.

We marked special moments with gatherings and community traditions—potlucks, hosted dinners, and neighborhood parties.

At times, we found ourselves divided in opinion, but we were able to find common ground, and that reminded us of our shared purpose.

On Halloween, we trick-or-treated, enjoyed a little haunted house, and shared scary stories by the campfire. During el Día de los Muertos, we honored loved ones who are no longer with us, we shared our grief and memories in a collective space of healing.

We stood together after the elections, supporting one another through the emotions and conversations that followed.

FS and his friend SC gifted us an amazing talent show.

Later on we learned how to make compost - we are still learning how to make compost.

As the year drew to a close, we celebrated Thanksgiving with delicious food and warm company, decorated the common house for Christmas, and added beautifully unique snowflakes.

Tonight, as we celebrate all we've shared, I want to thank each and every one of you. Every effort—big or small, seen or unseen—has contributed to making this place the vibrant, supportive, and joyful community it is today.

As we gather not only to celebrate but also to elect the board for the year ahead, I'd like to invite each of you to take a moment and remember the moments we shared this past year, reflect on the year that's about to finish, and then set your purpose for the community for the year ahead.

For me, my purpose is to help us fall in love with this community, with its people and with our shared experiences.

I hope we can continue to be there for one another.

Thank you all for being part of this community. It's an honor to stand here as your board president and to call this place home.

Here's to another amazing year together!

Thank you,

CC