



**For Immediate Release:  
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**Mayor Greg Verga and Generous Gardeners Plan for Bronze Planters to Complement Fishermen's Memorial**

*The City of Gloucester to help fund the creation of bronze planters completing plans to enhance the Fishermen's Memorial and commemorate Gloucester's 400th.*

**Gloucester, Mass.** — Mayor Greg Verga and Generous Gardeners reveal the first of four bronze planters to be placed around the Fishermen's Memorial on Stacy Boulevard as part of plans to complement the meaningful monument. The City of Gloucester will fund the creation and design of one of the four bronze planters as a legacy gift to the Gloucester 400+ Anniversary.

These detailed planters are a key part of a 2019 Landscape and Design Plan developed by Generous Gardeners to update and improve the plaza surrounding the Fishermen's Memorial.

"Residents and visitors from all over come to the Fishermen's Memorial to remember those who tragically lost their lives at sea," said Mayor Greg Verga. "These unique planters will further highlight Gloucester's rich culture and history and serve as a reminder years down the road of Gloucester's 400+ Anniversary. The Fishermen's Memorial is an icon for our community; these planters will only add to its beauty. Generous Gardeners and their dedicated volunteers do an incredible job across Gloucester, adding life and color through stunning gardens and flowerbeds. I am so grateful for their partnership in this project."

Generous Gardeners has independently fundraised to cover the costs of one planter. State Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante and State Senator Bruce Tarr have worked together to secure State funding to pay for the remaining two.

State Representative Ferrante said, "The Man at the Wheel Statue was a gift to Gloucester for its 300th anniversary. It is fitting that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Gloucester complement the statue with a gift of planters designed by Chris Williams for the city's 400th anniversary. These artistic planters will culturally enhance an iconic landmark in Gloucester and augment the work that Generous Gardeners undertake to beautify Stacy Boulevard each year."

The planters include intricate details of marine life and incorporate fishermen's nets. This theme was selected both to accent the Fishermen's Memorial and acknowledge Gloucester's fishing heritage, including the Pawtucket people and their neighbors who originally inhabited Gloucester's shores and relied on its oceans for food and resources.

Susan Kelly, founder of Generous Gardeners, said, "Generous Gardens is grateful to our supporters, donors, and volunteers, particularly Ann Gilardi Johnson, ASLA, who had the vision for the updated memorial plaza including bronze planters, being sculpted by Chris Williams. We are honored and

humbled to be part of the 400<sup>th</sup> in such a visible and tangible way. Our flowers may fade each year, but these planters will beautify Stacy Boulevard all year round.”

The ocean-themed planters have been designed and sculpted by Gloucester native and world-renowned sculptor Chris Williams. Williams has recently finished the first of the four bronze planters that will be placed around the Fishermen’s Memorial on Stacy Boulevard.

“As a Cape Ann native growing up surrounded by its creativity and support, it is a tremendous honor to be a part of this effort to acknowledge both our City’s 400th Anniversary and what has become one of Gloucester’s great symbols on the waterfront,” said Williams. “As a sculptor, I’ve admired the Fisherman’s Memorial for many years, and my hope is that including these bronze symbols of our fishing industry will only enhance its greatness. I know no matter how dedicated I am to creating these planters for the City, the Fisherman’s Memorial will always be number one for me.”

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### ***About The City of Gloucester, Massachusetts***

America's oldest seaport, the City of Gloucester, is known throughout the world as an authentic, working waterfront community, a place of spectacular natural beauty, and home to a diverse population of approximately 30,000 residents. Its sharp focus on economic development has helped build its reputation as the ideal location to live, work, and play. An important center for the fishing industry, Gloucester is also proud of its vibrant cultural life and rich art heritage. Gloucester is a destination for thousands of visitors who visit the harbor and its beaches during the summer months. The City will be celebrating its 400th Anniversary in 2023. For more information, please visit [www.gloucester-ma.gov](http://www.gloucester-ma.gov).

### ***About Generous Gardeners***

Generous Gardeners is dedicated to promoting philanthropy through gardening by designing and maintaining many of the public garden spaces in Gloucester, MA. Our volunteer organization brings beauty to the community for all to enjoy, including the formal gardens along Stacy Boulevard. Generous Gardeners was founded by Susan Kelly and Terese O’Connell in 2011 as a plant donation/swapping website. The organization evolved into a group of volunteers with the mission of philanthropy through gardening and was reincorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit in 2014. We currently care for over 45 public spaces in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Most of our plants are donated by our volunteers, but we also purchase plants with funds from our annual Gloucester Garden Tour and private donations.

### ***About Chris Williams***

Gloucester native Chris Williams specializes in custom made, one of a kind, bronze sculptures. His pieces are installed nationwide and a notable local example is “Cassie” the sea serpent at the Cape Ann Museum.