

# Daffodils All Around: Community Cooperation at its Best

*The Percy Grainger Home and Workspace has daffodils, daffodils, daffodils!*

In October, 2020 the Percy Grainger Society received an email from the White Plains Beautification Foundation's Joanna D'Addario, "I have NOT forgotten your request for daffodil bulbs!" the email said. True to her word, a delivery of 500 daffodil bulbs—*Fortune Large Cupped Daffodils*—to be exact, were soon sitting in bags of 25 on the Grainger House back porch.



"I was thrilled that White Plains Beautification had chosen the Grainger House for a daffodil sight," said White Plains resident Susan Colson, a local board member of the *Percy Grainger Society*, and as the most local board member of this international organization, often the caretaker of the House. "The flowers will be spectacular in the spring and a true enhancement for visitors and the local community. But I just didn't know exactly how we were going to get 500 bulbs in the ground. Quite a challenge!"

The local friends of the Grainger House chose a date for planting and started to reach out for volunteers. Luckily, there were many. The House, built in the late 1800's is a beloved White Plains landmark and a graceful reminder of White Plains neighborhoods from days gone by. Its place in local history was cemented with the resident Percy Grainger and his wife, the artist/poet Ella Ström-Grainger.

"We want the community to visit, enjoy the daffodils as they bloom and have a chance to see and learn about this historic home", noted Anne Ocone, museum coordinator at the Grainger site. "So many in White Plains helped with the daffodil project. We are particularly grateful to Nancy Giges, a volunteer with *White Plains Beautification Foundation*, who coached us along the way with care of the yard and has designed a perennial garden to be planted this spring." Community focus on the Grainger yard was initiated by White Plains resident Sam Hoch, when he and Troop 73 of White Plains planted hydrangeas and boxwoods with his Eagle Scout Project in October, 2019. Sam also obtained a sign through a grant with the *Pomeroy Foundation* that identifies the *Percy Grainger Home and Studio* as placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.



*White Plains Beautification Foundation* is an independent, not-for-profit organization encouraging gardens and green spaces throughout the City of White Plains. From its start in 1965, the organization has been composed entirely of volunteers who have donated many hours of their time helping make White Plains a beautiful place to live, work and visit. *The Daffodil Project* began in 2014 has planted more than 130,000 daffodil bulbs. The Percy Grainger Home and Studio is pleased to receive daffodils that will bloom in the yard for years to come.