Volunteers turn 30,000 daffodils into bouquets for hospitals, nursing homes

Karen Croke, Rockland/Westchester Journal News  Published 2:04 p.m. ET April 6, 2020

Most years, visitors would be awestruck by the display of thousands of daffodils blooming in Untermyer Park and Gardens in Yonkers.

This year is different. With the park closed to all visitors during the coronavirus pandemic, Stephen F. Byrns, president of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, decided to make sure that people could still enjoy this rite of spring. On Monday, volunteers dressed in protective gear and, practicing social distancing, began to cut down the 30,000 flowering daffodils which will then be turned into bouquets to be distributed to nearby hospitals and nursing homes.

Volunteers harvest daffodils at Untermyer Park and Gardens in Yonkers April 6, 2020 to deliver to healthcare workers and nursing homes. The park is closed to the public during the coronavirus pandemic. (Photo: Tania Savayan/The Journal News)

"During this time of great national crisis, we feel that it would be a welcome sign of hope at springtime to those living in pain and fear," Byrns said in a statement. "In particular, we want to show our solidarity with those who are caring for the sick, infirm and aged, and bring some brightness and color into their lives."

Bouquets will be distributed at St. John’s and St. Joseph’s hospitals, Richmond Children’s Center, and Adira at Riverside, all located in Yonkers.

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