

Although the calendar may not reflect it, summer is almost over. How do I know this? Well, for one, the cicada are going crazy. According to my esteemed colleague, the earlier you hear them, the earlier the frost is. Fall may be sooner than we think; I've been hearing them buzz for weeks.

I know we've had some pretty steamy weather in the last months and it couldn't seem less like school is going to start in four weeks. It doesn't seem possible. After we celebrate the Fourth of July, the rest of the summer seems to evaporate. I couldn't believe it when I got the first school registration.

Many of my flowers are starting to show the wear and tear of 90-plus temperatures. Even the petunias, which are really hardy, are looking the worse for wear.

We should have passed on the tomatoes this year. Last year, the potted tomatoes got that funk that comes from water splashing up from the dirt and the ones in the back had a case of the blight. This year, the one in front is much the same and as for the one in back — I believe we have a tomato thief in the neighborhood. In mid-June, there were four or five really nice-sized greenies on there and then one day — nothing. I mean nothing. It's like someone just walked up and plucked them. There was no evidence of foul play. There are a few more on there but you better watch out — I'm peeking out the back window.

We also put in some new perennials last year and they are doing really well. I'm trying to work it so everything just comes up on its own and we don't have to worry about replenishing plants. It's a good theory. I'll let you know how it works.

I hope you guys check out the Farmers Market uptown today. They have attracted some really good vendors and there's nothing like homegrown, fresh produce. I'll be stopping up to get some sweet corn and some peaches. I might also be in the market for some yummy baked goods. I got some pumpkin bars the first time I visited and they were divine. The market is a really neat idea and I know they have been tried in the past but this one seems a little different. I think it has staying power. It grows every week. It's exciting to see all the flutter it has created Facebook. Social media working for the community. Can't beat that.