

BLAIR STREET GARDENS
NEWSLETTER and NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING
SPRING 2022

THANK YOU for your contribution to Blair Street Gardens. Some of you are first time donors, many of you have given for many years. We thank you all. With your help, Blair Street Gardens Committee, Inc. continues to maintain gardens at or near the intersection of John Nolen Drive and Blair, Wilson and Williamson Streets in downtown Madison.

- *Gateway Garden* on the 600 block of Williamson Street
- *Wilson Green* on the 400 block of E. Wilson Street

As we begin our 2022 season, you are invited to attend the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 11 to plan activities and elect Board members and officers.

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 11, 2022
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

OUTSIDE

The Gateway Garden
600 block of Williamson Street

- | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|
| • Elect | • Adopt | • Plan for |
| board | the | 2022 |
| & | | |
| officers | budget | |

THANKS TO THE BOARD

Thank you to the 2021 Officers and Board members - Ellen Henningsen, President; Mary Knapp, Vice-President; Kevin Earley, Secretary; Eileen Somers, Treasurer; and Gary Tipler, Board member. Even a small organization like BSG requires the attention of a Board of Directors, plus the Board's volunteer time maintaining the gardens is invaluable. Thanks for your service.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DEPARTING TREASURER

Our deepest appreciation goes to Eileen Somers who for years has served as BSG's Treasurer, collecting mail from the post office box, processing contributions, paying the bills, and maintaining financial records. In addition, Eileen's skill and knowledge about gardening and plants has been greatly appreciated. Eileen is moving to be closer to her grandchildren. Thanks so much Eileen.

TREASURER NEEDED

Do you like to count money? Blair Street Gardens Committee is looking for a volunteer to handle the duties of Treasurer. Duties take about 2 hours a month, and include maintaining financial records and mailing lists, handling mail, paying bills, processing contributions, etc. If interested or for more information, email BSG at info@blairstreetgardens.org.

BOARD MEMBER NEEDED

If you are interested in helping guide Blair Street Gardens over the next season, please consider joining the Board of Directors. Responsibilities include 1-2 meetings a year, plus being available for input via e-mail or phone. If you prefer, you can participate on an informal basis. If interested, e-mail info@blairstreetgardens.org.

AND THANKS -

Thanks to Kate Nagel of Business Support Solutions, LLC, for volunteering her time and expertise to maintain our website.

OVER

BLAIR STREET GARDENS P.O. Box 1333 Madison, WI 53701-1333

info@blairstreetgardens.org

www.blairstreetgardens.org

[www.facebook.com/Blair Street Gardens](https://www.facebook.com/BlairStreetGardens)

Beautifying the Gateway to Downtown Madison

MAINTAINING THE GARDENS ...

Because of the challenges imposed by the COVID pandemic, we did not schedule any volunteer events in 2020 or 2021. Board members visited the gardens regularly to pick up litter, weed, water and prune.

In addition, we hired neighborhood landscaper Anne Walker and her company Home Land Garden, LLC to handle major chores at both gardens. Thank you, Anne, for your care of the gardens.

It remains to be seen whether we will schedule events this year. Check our Facebook page or website for the latest info. To receive e-mails about the schedule, email us at the address below. Or look for signs posted at the gardens.

You can also volunteer on your own schedule – if interested, email us.

GATEWAY GARDEN UPDATE

Reiner Family Tree

The Gateway Garden is on Williamson Street, across from Machinery Row Bicycles. The new Virginia Juniper 'Canaertii' we planted there last Spring is doing well. Volunteers followed a rigorous watering schedule throughout last spring, summer, and fall to ensure its survival, sometimes watering daily because of high temperatures.

The tree commemorates the first Christmas tree in Madison, erected in 1855 in the home of the Reiner family which once stood near the garden. The Juniper is believed to be the type of conifer that was the Reiner's original Christmas tree, and is more tolerant of the growing conditions at the site. Thank you to the Reiner Family for continuing to support the Gardens and for lighting the tree every holiday season.

Street Construction

Unfortunately, a small portion of the garden has been damaged by the construction at the "hairball" intersection at Williamson, Blair, and John Nolen. Our agreement with the City holds the City harmless for any damage, so BSG will need to replace the lost plants at its expense.

WILSON GREEN UPDATE

BSG's second garden is Wilson Green, located on E. Wilson Street across from Come Back Inn. We maintained the large, raised perennial bed last year, adding plants donated by contributors. Part of the property is owned by the City and part is owned by the Madison Water Utility. The Water Utility is now providing annual financial support to Wilson Green which allows us to hire a landscaper to assist in maintaining the area. Thank you to Alder Mike Verveer for his advocacy.

The City is intending to widen the street next to the garden in 2023 in order to install a westbound bike lane which will result in the loss of a few feet of grass between the current sidewalk and the raised bed. We are working with City staff to minimize the impact on Wilson Green.

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