

BLAIR STREET GARDENS NEWSLETTER and NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING / February 2015

GREETINGS! Big changes are coming this year as we begin to implement the re-design of the Gateway Gardens. Please join us at the Annual Meeting on February 24, 2015, to plan 2015 activities and elect Board members and officers.

Board of Directors

Thanks to the 2014 Board members: Ellen Henningsen, President; Kevin Earley, Secretary; and Eileen Somers, Treasurer.

MGE

MGE generously donated plants and labor for the bed on Blair Street. We appreciate their contribution.

Facebook and Website

Thanks to Kate Nagel of Business Support Solutions, LLC, for maintaining our website, and to Gary Tipler for maintaining our Facebook page.

Fundraising Appeal

Graphic designer Spencer Walts contributed his impressive design skills to our December 2014 fundraising appeal. Thanks to all our contributors.

Reiner Tree

Years ago, the Reiner house stood where the Gateway Gardens are now. To commemorate their family's residence and the first Christmas tree in Madison, some years ago the Reiners planted a spruce tree which they generously light every winter. What a lovely sight!

Gateway Gardens Re-design

Landscape architect Bruce Woods has created a plan for the Gateway Gardens (at the corner of Blair, Willy, and Wilson Streets, and John Nolen Drive) which reduces the need for water, fertilizer, and maintenance. The plan includes re-grading; creating retaining walls, walkways, and a seating area; and adding new perennial plantings. Visit our website or Facebook page for details. Because of these plans, we decided not to plant this area in 2014 and instead are using the money for the re-design. We are in the process of obtaining funding and City approval for our plans.

Donation from Avant Gardening & Landscaping

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, Avant Gardening & Landscaping has offered \$10,000 in landscaping services for the re-design of the Gateway Gardens. This is an incredibly generous donation which helps ensure the success of our plans. Avant hopes to start work in mid-summer. Avant has been providing innovative landscape design, construction, and maintenance services in Dane County since 1985. We are excited to be partnering with Avant.

www.avantgardening.com/

Grant from WHPS

We are pleased to announce that the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society has awarded Blair Street Gardens a \$500 grant this year. Proceeds from their annual plant sale benefit public gardens (this year's sale is May 16).

www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.com

Volunteers Needed

We would like more volunteers to participate in the planning process or help with planting and maintenance. Check the schedule on our [Facebook page](#) or at blairstreetgardens.org or email volunteer@blairstreetgardens.org.

Trees for the Urban Landscape and More

Steve Lesch, the owner of Landscape Designs, Inc., will speak on Tuesday, March 10, at 7 p.m. at Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center. Steve will bring his 40 years of experience in landscape design to bear on the challenges and opportunities of the urban landscape. Free and open to the public. For more information, call Gary at 852-4695.

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 24, 2015
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. / 807 Jenifer Street

- Elect board & officers
- Adopt the budget
- Plan for 2015

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www.blairstreetgardens.org

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Blair-Street-Gardens/360721230674519?ref=br_tf

Beautifying the Gateway to Downtown Madison