

BLAIR STREET GARDENS
NEWSLETTER and NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING
March 2017

THANKS TO YOU, our contributors, for another successful season at Blair Street Gardens. With your help, Blair Street Gardens Committee, Inc. continues to maintain three gardens at or near the intersection of John Nolen Drive, and Blair, Wilson and Williamson Streets.

- Gateway Garden on the 600 block of Willy Street
- MGE Garden on S. Blair Street
- Wilson Green on E. Wilson Street across from the Cardinal Bar

As we begin our 2017 season, please join us at the Annual Meeting on March 30 to plan activities and elect Board members and officers.

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, March 30, 2017
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. @ 111 S. Hancock Street

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • Elect
board &
officers | • Adopt
the
budget | • Plan for
2017 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|

THANK YOU TO THE BOARD

Thank you to the 2016 Officers and Board members - Ellen Henningsen, President; Mary Knapp, Vice-President; Kevin Earley, Secretary; Eileen Somers, Treasurer; and Gary Tipler, Board member. Even small organizations like BSG require the attention of a Board of Directors, plus the Board's volunteer time maintaining the gardens is invaluable. Thanks for your service.

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 1-3 meetings a year, plus being available for input via e-mail. If you prefer, you can participate on an informal basis. If interested, e-mail info@blairstreetgardens.org.

UPCOMING GARDENING DAYS

We will be scheduling dates soon for spring clean-up. The work always goes faster with more volunteers! The schedule is usually half days on a Saturday morning, and a few hours on a weekday evening.

Check our Facebook page or our website for the schedule. To receive e-mails about the schedule, email us at the address below. Or look for the signs posted at the gardens.

GATEWAY GARDEN UPDATE

Work on the new Gateway Garden was completed last Fall. In 2016, we planted Cool Splash Honeysuckles, Junipers, Arctic Fire Dogwoods, Prairie Dock, and Liatris. The gravel garden was planted with Autumn Moor Grass, Alliums, Lead plants, Coneflowers, Penstemon, Culver's Root and Asters. The gravel paths were completed with the addition of a polymer stabilizer and more gravel. And we installed a bench made of aluminum and white oak.

Finally, we planted several hundred naturalizing bulbs – narcissus, tulips, crocus, snowdrops, and grape hyacinths. Be sure to watch for them this spring.

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

info@blairstreetgardens.org

www.blairstreetgardens.org

www.facebook.com/Blair-Street-Gardens

Beautifying the Gateway to Downtown Madison

Memorializing a Loved One

Opportunities to memorialize a loved one with a memorial tree or bench at the Gateway Garden are available. The benches were designed by local artists Michael Burns and Kevin Earley. The goal is to place 4 benches in the garden, and one is now installed. The slats are white oak, the sides aluminum - the design was inspired by shadows created by sunlight filtering through leaves. Memorial benches are being offered at \$8,000 and memorial trees at \$1,000. If you are interested in memorializing a loved one, see our website for more information or contact us at info@blairstreetgardens.org

Thank You to our In-Kind Vendors

We are grateful to the many businesses who contributed plants, supplies and labor to the Gateway Garden transformation in 2016.

Thank you to:

- Ebert's Greenhouse
- Flower Factory Nursery
- JFNew/Cardno
- Kopke's Greenhouse
- Madison Block & Stone
- McKay Nursery
- Wisconsin Nursery & Landscape Association

Reiner Family Tree

Again this year at Christmas, the Reiner Family strung the spruce tree at the Gateway Garden with lights. What a welcome site during the holidays! The tree was donated by the family to commemorate the first Christmas tree in Madison – the Reiner Family home, built in 1855, once stood near the garden.

MGE BED UPDATE

A small garden nestles next to the MGE building on S. Blair Street. Last season, MGE generously donated the labor and plants for the garden. We appreciate MGE's continuing contribution.

WILSON GREEN UPDATE

BSG's third garden is called Wilson Green, and is located on E. Wilson Street across from The Cardinal Bar. This past season we maintained the large perennial beds, and planted coleus and kale in the annual bed. With the pathway and bench, it's a pleasant spot to relax.

FINALLY -

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

AND DON'T FORGET –

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