

BLAIR STREET GARDENS
NEWSLETTER and NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING
March 2018

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 the 400 block of E. Wilson Street across from the Nomad World Pub (formerly The Cardinal Bar)

As we begin our 2018 season, please join us at the Annual Meeting on Monday, March 26 to plan activities and elect Board members and officers.

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, March 26, 2018

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

807 Jenifer Street

(across from BB Clarke Beach)

- | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|
| • Elect | • Adopt | • Plan for |
| board & | the | 2018 |
| officers | budget | |

THANK YOU TO THE BOARD

Thank you to the 2017 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.

GATEWAY GARDEN UPDATE

The transformation of the Gateway Garden has created a beautiful new landscape at the corner of Blair, Williamson, Wilson and John Nolen Drive. In addition to creating a functional urban space, our goals were to reduce the number of volunteer hours needed to maintain the garden, and to reduce the amount of water needed to maintain the plants. We certainly have accomplished those goals. Volunteer hours have been cut at least in half, and rain water was sufficient to maintain the trees, bushes and plants last season.

As we approach spring, the narcissus, tulips, crocus, snowdrops, and grape hyacinths are waiting to burst forth in a month or so. Be sure to watch for them.

Reiner Family Tree

For years, a large spruce tree anchored the Gateway Garden at the corner. It was donated by the Reiner Family to commemorate the first Christmas tree in Madison, erected in 1855 in their family home which once stood near the garden. It was removed during the transformation because it was too big, in the wrong place and misshapen. The Reiner Family then generously donated another tree. Each Christmas season, the family has strung the spruce tree with lights - a welcome site during the holidays. But as you may have noticed, the new tree is not doing so well - it appears to be suffering from a fungal disease. Our arborist advises that we may need to replace it. Or with appropriate pruning, it may recover. We shall see.

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

Little Library Installed

Avant Gardening & Landscaping donated and installed a Little Library at the Gateway Garden. Please stop by to donate books or to take one for yourself. It's next to the memorial bench so sit a spell and read.

Memorializing a Loved One

Opportunities to memorialize a loved one with a memorial tree or bench are available. The benches were designed by local artists Michael Burns and Kevin Earley. 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

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 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.

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 World Nomad Pub (formerly The Cardinal Bar). This past season we added new perennials to

the large raised bed, and planted the annual bed. With the pathway and bench, it's a pleasant spot to relax.

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.

UPDATE ON INTERSECTION PLANS

The City is planning to reconstruct the intersection of John Nolen Drive, and Wilson, Williamson and Blair Streets within the next several years. Planning is underway to accommodate the needs of pedestrians, vehicles and bicyclists. We have been assured by the City that the new Gateway Garden will be preserved as is. It is possible, though, that Wilson Green may be impacted to accommodate the reconstruction. BSG officers have provided input to the City, and remain in contact with the project manager. Final plans have not been decided upon.

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/blair-st-john-nolen-dr-corridor-study>

AND THANKS -

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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