



August 2022

Ben Franklin Community Garden News

In this issue:

- Join the Operating Committee
- BFCG wins Blue Ribbon
- Harvest Picnic and Elections
- Meet the Operating Committee
- Volunteer Hours Sign-up
- In Memory of John Jenkins
- Music in the Garden
- Garden Reminders
- Link to 2022 BFCG Calendar
- Monthly Garden Committee Meeting Info



Become an Operating Committee Member

WE NEED
YOU!

Are you interested in joining the Committee? We are looking for individuals willing to dedicate their time, and share their skills and talents to help continue our mission of providing a beautiful space for gardening while fostering community. **Skills of interest include event planning, marketing, building trades, accounting and IT skills, but most importantly is the desire to work collaboratively to maintain and improve our beautiful garden refuge.** If you would like to share your talents and become more involved, please email the garden. Link is below.

Elections will be held at the Harvest Picnic which takes place on Saturday, September 10th from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

[Email the garden](#)



BFCG Takes Home Blue Ribbon

Once again, Ben Franklin Community Garden took home a Blue Ribbon at the Cuyahoga County Fair!

Our sincere thanks to Operating Committee members **Jennifer Terry and Renata Jelito** for their hard work in creating the absolutely beautiful award-winning display!

And thank you to all of our gardeners who donated their produce for the display!



harvest

P I C N I C

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY
Sept. **10th** | **12-3pm**

Please join us!

Hot Dogs, Brats, Burgers & Drinks provided

Pot Luck – Bring a side dish to share!
50/50 Raffle

Garden Swag • Honey • Jam • Cook Books for Sale

Annual meeting and committee member election will take place at the picnic.

Our annual Harvest Picnic takes place on Saturday, September 10th from 12 noon to 3 p.m. We will be grilling burgers, hot dogs and brats. ***Please bring a side dish to share.***

Volunteers are needed. Please contact Kathy at [216-406-2412](tel:216-406-2412) or email the garden. Link is below.

Election for incoming Operating Committee will be held at the picnic.

Email BFCG

Meet the Committee!

In the July and August newsletters, we are spotlighting our Operating Committee. Last month we included bios of six of our members. This month we are featuring the remaining five members.



Jordan Abbott

Jordan has been a resident of Old Brooklyn since 2016 and has had a plot in the garden for the past four years. He has been on the Operating Committee for three years and currently serves as Chair.

When he's not growing weeds, Jordan is a big fan of heirloom tomatoes, peppers, and whatever else the BFCG soil will allow.

"A big reason for joining the committee revolved around giving back and helping to preserve and grow the garden so future generations can enjoy the amazing space. I'm a huge fan of the community that the garden has cultivated and I am on a mission to share the space and welcome new folks into our community," says Jordan.

In his free time Jordan enjoys spending time outdoors in all seasons via cycling, hiking, xc skiing, and snowshoeing. He also enjoys weekend trips, concerts, and of course a good coffee and/or beer.

He works as a GIS Analyst for Cuyahoga County making maps, apps, and helping folks see things through a spatial lens.



Jennifer Terry

Jennifer has been an Old Brooklyn for life. Her love of gardening began when she attended a summer math and science enrichment program at Ben Franklin School and took a gardening class. Fast forward to 2011, Jennifer and her family moved to a house with a shaded back yard and no longer had an area to grow a vegetable garden. That's when her new neighbor said to check out Ben Franklin Community Garden.

Jennifer has been a gardener now for 10 years and has served to the Operating Committee for 9 years. She has served as treasurer, secretary and chairperson.

"It has been an honor to help maintain the structure of the garden to help preserve this space for many years to come. Ben Franklin is a treasure. My intention just was to have a place to grow tomatoes, but the garden has given me so much more. I have met some of the best people at the garden and have built so many friendships. Ben Franklin truly grows community," says Jennifer.



Elicia Polacek

Elicia is an Old Brooklyn resident and has been a gardener at Ben Franklin Community Garden for many years.

Elicia has spent a number of years on the Operating Committee and currently serves as Treasurer.



Jim Kasper

Jim is currently retired after 41 years at Fastener Industries, Inc. He and his wife, Audrey and we will celebrate their 43rd anniversary this fall. They have four adult children.

"I have been gardening at Ben Franklin Community Garden for over 30 years in the same two plots. Recently I added one of the raised beds to my BFCG space. About 7 years ago I started to convert my small back yard from a pool and play space into a cottage garden with a small pond. Prior to that I knew very little about flowers and water plants, but by now I have learned a great deal about the many new plants that inhabit my yard," says Jim.

Jim is member of the Dahlia Society of Ohio, Cleveland Bonsai Club and the Laurel Garden Club of Brooklyn.

This is Jim's second year on the Operating Committee.



Eric Davenport

Eric has been an Old Brooklyn resident for 36 years. He has been gardening at Ben Franklin Community Garden for four years.

This is Eric's first year on the Operating Committee.

Volunteer Hours

If you have not yet signed up for volunteer hours, please use the link below for online sign-up. For any volunteering questions, contact Mark. mtapajna@yahoo.com

As a reminder, all gardeners must complete a minimum of 5 volunteer hours. Donations of \$25 per hour can be made in lieu of volunteering. **Thank you!**

Sign up here.

***Sign up for
Volunteer
Hours***

In Loving Memory of John Jenkins

We are saddened by the recent passing of long time gardener, John Jenkins. Not only was John an avid gardener, but he also played a significant role in the creation of the garden Operating Committee, on which he served for many years.

It has been requested that donations in John's honor be made to Ben Franklin Community Garden. We are honored by this recognition, and will do our best to uphold his standards. John will be greatly missed.

Ben Franklin Community Garden Operating Committee



Summer Concert Series Continues!

On Wednesday, July 27, **The John Orsini Swing Septet** performed a fabulous tribute to the Kansas City jazz style of the 1930's. **Katy LaFavre** brought her *Aqua Dreams Sound Nap* to the garden on Saturday, August 6th.

If you haven't attended a concert yet, please join us and bring your friends.

Remaining concerts are on Saturday, August 20th; Wednesday, August

24th; and Saturdays, September 3rd and 17th at 6 p.m.



Items of note and reminders:

Bulletin Boards and White Board

Remember to check the bulletin board on the shed and the white board regularly.

Garden Plot and Pathway Maintenance

Garden plots and pathways must be maintained. Pathways must be clear of objects and weeds. If you receive a notification your plot OR pathway needs work, please tend to it as soon as possible. If you are having trouble keeping up with your plot, reach out to a committee member.

Garden Opening & Closing

Please note that garden hours are Monday-Saturday 9a - 8p and Sundays 9a - 4p. (Labor Day hours will be 11a - 4p)

BFCG 2022 Calendar

[View Calendar](#)

Monthly Garden Committee Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, committee meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden classroom. **All gardeners and members of the public are welcome to attend!**



SHARE TO FACEBOOK



SHARE TO TWITTER



FORWARD EMAIL

Benjamin Franklin Community Garden

1905 Spring Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44109 United States

communications@benfranklincommunitygarden.org

You received this email because you are a current or past gardener.

[Unsubscribe](#)

