



# Winter 2025 Newsletter

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*"Yet art thou welcome, welcome as a friend ..."*  
*"Chaste Snowdrop, venturous harbinger of Spring"*  
*Excerpted from "To a Snowdrop" by William Wordsworth*

## Annual Seed Giveaway 2/22



Our annual seed giveaway will be in the Garden classroom on **Saturday, February 22nd from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

NOTE: seed giveaway is for BFCG gardeners in good standing ONLY.



Tickets are available now!  
 Tables may be reserved for parties of eight (8) or more.  
 Vegan options available upon **advanced** request.

## Fundraiser Donations Needed



### Baskets & door prizes

We welcome your basket of goods for our basket raffle! Or, if you would like to donate a gift card, bottle of wine, or an item \$10-20 value, we would love



### Bakery

We are in need of baked goods for our fabulous dessert buffet. This is

to give it away as a door prize! NEW items, only, please.

Contact **Marissa** at [\(757\) 880-4420](tel:(757)880-4420) or **Jennette** at [\(216\) 543-2820](tel:(216)543-2820).

For your convenience, door prizes may be dropped off at the **Historical Society of Old Brooklyn Museum**, 3430 Memphis Avenue on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays from 1–5:00 p.m. Please leave your name with the item you are donating so your contribution can be recognized.

your chance to show off your baking skills! We are expecting around 200 attendees, and we'd like to have 2–3 pieces of dessert available for each person.

Please use this form to sign up to bring bakery: <https://forms.gle/dotkyJiXi2of>.

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**THANK YOU for your support of our main fundraising activity of the year.**

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## 2025 Garden Season Applications

If you indicated, when you signed out in October, that you will be returning for the 2025 gardening season, your application will be sent **during the week of February 17th**. We'll send it to the postal or email address we have on file for you. If you chose email, please check your spam folder.

**If you do NOT receive your application** by the end of February please email [communications@benfranklincommunitygarden.org](mailto:communications@benfranklincommunitygarden.org).

Gardeners must be in good standing at the close of the 2024 season in order to receive an application.

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March 29, April 26, May 3

### Spring Cleaning – Volunteer Opportunity

☐ **Get a Jumpstart on Your Volunteer Hours!** ☐

Ready to get the garden prepped for the season? We've got a to-do list that'll get you moving and get the garden ready to grow! Whatever your skills or ability, there's a job for you—from cleaning up monkey balls to reinforcing the deer fence, spreading woodchips, picking up debris, general organizing, and more.

**Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until about 2:30 p.m. (weather permitting):**

- **March 29th**
- **April 26th**
- **May 3rd**

No need to sign up—just drop by and lend a hand! Stay for as long as you can, and enjoy some community spirit along the way.



☐ **We're making it a party!** ☐

Grill's going up for hot dogs and veggie dogs to fuel your efforts, and it's a great way to catch up with your fellow gardeners after the winter break.

Come get your hands dirty and help us prepare for another great season—see you there! ☐

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## Winter Sowing in Milk Jugs

You can start your seeds outside in their own little greenhouses right now or when you get your seeds at the Seed Giveaway 2/22. Gardener Jim Kasper shows us the simple process using plastic milk jugs in this video.

<https://youtu.be/HZmQJfuMuYg>

## Starting Sweet Potato Slips

Want to try your hand at growing sweet potato slips? We have a two-part series where gardener Elicia Polacek shows you how.

Part I: <https://youtu.be/BxJfVlrJ8QE>

Part II: <https://youtu.be/FBVR7GQ3F0Q>

Don't want to try your hand at growing slips? Don't worry. The Garden will have slips available for purchase once the garden opens.



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## New Pollinator Plantings

We're excited to announce a new initiative at the Garden! In partnership with [Pollinator Partnership](#) (P2) and supported by funding from USDA NRCS, we're establishing a 3,000 sq. ft. demonstration pollinator habitat on our grounds. This project is part of a larger effort to promote pollinator-friendly practices in urban agriculture and to enhance our own garden's growth. Pollinators are vital to healthy ecosystems and food production, and this habitat will not only support them but also provide benefits like improved soil health and potentially increased crop yields. We think it will look great too!

In January, we kicked off the project with a hands-on workshop led by Alyson Scheibe, Agricultural Coordinator with P2, who guided a group of gardeners and Master Gardeners through the installation process. We sowed seeds right on the snow-covered ground, which actually helps the seeds stratify for better germination. This is just the beginning of a project that will continue to evolve, so stay tuned for updates and upcoming opportunities to get involved!

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## Garden Operating Committee Monthly Meetings

Your Garden Operating Committee meets year round! Unless otherwise indicated, committee meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation, 4274 Pearl Road, rear entrance.

All gardeners and members of the public are welcome to attend!



### Ben Franklin Community Garden

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A program of

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.

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

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