



July 2026 Newsletter

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Message in your email may be clipped for length. Please expand to view all.



Volunteer days — next up

Looking ahead, here are our next scheduled days for general upkeep and routine tasks—including cleaning up the alley for school traffic! No advance sign-up needed; please come for whatever time you can spare.

Further ahead, we'll need volunteers for the Harvest Picnic on Sept. 13th. Watch GroupMe for a notice.

- **Thursday, August 13, from 6–8:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, August 18, from 6–8:00 p.m.**

Reminder: Please record all volunteer hours in the **volunteer logbook at the garden**, under the main gardener's name. Every hour helps us track and celebrate your contributions!

Wednesday, 7/29 – A sweet tradition

Ice cream socials have been bringing people together for more than 150 years. As ice cream became more available and affordable, churches, schools, and community groups discovered that a simple bowl of ice cream was the perfect excuse to visit with neighbors, welcome newcomers, and strengthen community.

That's exactly what we do each year at the Garden. So put down the hoe, grab a scoop, and spend an hour with your gardening neighbors. A sweet treat and good

conversation? That's a tradition worth keeping.



John Orsini Jazz Quintet

Performing music from the 1940s, 50s and 60s

Next up: August 15

THE RHONDAS

This trio of female vocalists and instrumentalists will perform a mix of covers and originals, ranging from soft and sweet to sassy tunes to get you dancing.



2026 County Fair runs August 11–16



Plans for our Community Garden competition entry taking shape

Design of our entry in the Garden & Produce Community Garden competition is well underway. Of utmost importance, of course, is the fresh produce from our garden plots that will be featured in our display. **Fair**

committee members will be on hand during Art Fest, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7, and again Saturday morning to collect donations.

If you'd like to enter produce or preserved foods on your own, you'll find entry information in the Fair's [Premium Book](#). And if you win a ribbon, take a photo and let us know. We'd love to brag on your behalf!

Stay tuned!

You'll be seeing a colorful new look in the months ahead

You may have noticed some activity around the steel container over the past few weeks. The "Container" was placed behind the shed more than 15 years ago. It was painted a cream color and, over the years, filled with a lot of garden equipment.



Time and the elements have taken a bit of a toll on it. Bees took refuge inside, while both groundhogs and skunks dug their homes underneath. It was clearly time for a facelift.

Already, the area around the Container has been cleaned up. The groundhogs and skunks received their eviction notices, and the bees' entry point has been sealed. Over the next few months, The Container will get a new look with the help of volunteers and under the guidance of the Operating Committee Project Team.

Thanks to a private donation, we hope to transform the Container into a showpiece for the garden, not just a place to store equipment.



The Garden is a Hop Stop at Art Hop

The Third Annual Old Brooklyn Art Hop is a celebration of creativity throughout our neighborhood, bringing together local artists, makers, businesses, and community spaces for an evening of discovery.

Ben Franklin Community Garden will be one of the featured Hop Stops, with local artists setting up in the pavilion area. Gardeners are encouraged to stop by, enjoy the artwork, meet the artists, and try your hand at making something of your own. Artist bios will be posted on our website.

And don't stop your hopping at the Garden! Visit the other Hop Stops throughout Old

Brooklyn. Each participating Hop Stop will have a venue-specific Mini Art Print for visitors to collect.

<https://www.pinwheelgallery.co...>

Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County

Tuesday Talks at Ben Franklin

Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County **Tuesday Talks at Ben Franklin, 7–8:00 p.m.**

- **August 11: Garden Myths – What do you believe?**
- **September 8: Starting a Vegetable Garden**



Full descriptions and **free registration:** <https://cuyahogamg.org/TT>

Need a hand? Just ask.

By now, we're well into the gardening season. If you're new to community gardening, or if this season just isn't going quite as planned, please don't hesitate to reach out to Greg or a member of the Operating Committee.

Whether you're wondering how to tackle a weedy plot, need advice on getting things back on track, or simply aren't sure what to do next, we're here to help. We want every gardener to succeed, every garden plot to thrive, and our garden community to remain a welcoming place for everyone.

A conversation now can prevent frustration later on and help ensure that you're able to return next year. We're all growing together.

The only surprise we don't like is discovering someone needed advice or help but didn't ask.



Keeping the Garden Growing

Take a Seat at the Table

Every September, gardeners elect members to the Operating Committee. This year, we'll have several openings, and we hope you'll consider becoming part of the team.

The Operating Committee does much more than oversee garden guidelines. It plans improvements, organizes workdays and events, manages projects and equipment, solves problems, welcomes new gardeners, and helps keep Ben Franklin Community Garden thriving for everyone. Yes, sometimes that means having difficult conversations, but far more often it means working together to make this a place we're all proud to call our garden.

If you've ever thought, "Maybe this could be better," or "I have an idea," committee service is your opportunity to help make it happen. Fresh ideas, different perspectives, and new voices make us stronger.

Many current committee members have been serving for years. We've been happy to do it because we love this garden. But for Ben Franklin Community Garden to remain healthy and vibrant for years to come, a new generation of gardeners needs to step forward.

You don't need to have all the answers. You just need to care about the garden and be willing to work with others. If you'd like to learn more about what committee service involves, talk with Greg or any current committee member. We'd be happy to answer your questions.

For a complete description of Committee responsibilities, see the [Garden By-Laws](#). Committee members serve three-year terms, but no one serves alone. Experienced and former committee members are always available to help new members get started, and you're always welcome to attend a meeting to see what committee service is all about.

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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