

# Benjamin Franklin Community Garden

A program of Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.  
2339 Broadview Rd.; Cleveland, OH 44109

## Operating Committee 2010 Annual Report

### Garden Maintenance and Improvements

- Scheduled spring tilling and fall brushhogging and plowing
- Purchased rakes, other garden implements and supplies
- Purchased whiteboards to post messages for gardeners
- Supplied gas for equipment
- Distributed seeds from the
  - \* Summer Sprout program
  - \* Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds
  - \* America the Beautiful
- Distributed plants from Rosby's through Summer Sprout
- Moved Garden Kick-off Meeting to Brooklyn Senior Center, a larger facility with ample parking
- Opened and closed gates on Sundays beginning in July and on other days, as needed
- Purchased podium, sound system and canopy for events at the garden
- Completed inventory and marking of tools and equipment
- Created raised bed to showcase landmark plaque
- Funded and supervised tree trimming to enhance safety, strengthen trees and decrease shade on plots
- Inventoried and marked trees
- Oversaw planting of six tree saplings
- Supervised service projects by volunteers from Key Bank, Baldwin-Wallace College

### Other Accomplishments

- Won Blue Ribbon at the Cuyahoga County Fair - Judged best community garden for the third year in a row
- Tracked donations of garden produce, created thermometer sign to mark progress
- As of September 11, 2010, have helped deliver 2000+ pounds of produce to local hunger centers
- Replanted an abandoned plot, earmarking all proceeds for the hunger centers
- Tracked hours of service volunteered by gardeners
- Updated website, [www.oldbrooklgm.com/BFCG](http://www.oldbrooklgm.com/BFCG), frequently throughout the year

- Provided articles and photos about gardeners and garden events to the *Old Brooklyn News*
- Prepared cross-stitched scroll recognizing donors of memorial contributions
- Established end-of-season check-out process for gardeners and updated garden rules

#### Hosted or Supported Garden and Community Events

- Mid-winter seed-starting class - February 20, 2010
- Kick-Off Meeting - May 6, 2010
- Landmark Plaque Unveiling Ceremony - June 19, 2010
- Ice Cream Social - July 14, 2010
- Harvest Picnic - September 11, 2010
- Old Brooklyn Pedal for Prizes - May 22, 2010
- Old Brooklyn All-Access Bicycle Tour - July 17, 2010
- Theater Under the Stars presentation at Harmody Park - July 31, 2010
- Loaned garden equipment to various community groups undertaking beautification projects

#### Fundraising

- Applied for and received a grant from Neighborhood Connections to support:
  - \* Fall brushhogging and plowing of the garden
  - \* Tree trimming to increase safety, strengthen trees and decrease shade on plots
  - \* Garden events
  - \* Purchase of garden equipment such as a leaf blower, pruning shears and other tools
- Applied for and received a Community Leadership grant from KeyBank
- Organized a highly successful fundraiser at Cleats on March 6, 2010
- Conducted 50/50 raffles at the Kick-Off Meeting, Ice Cream Social and Harvest Picnic
- Created two T-shirt designs and sold T-shirts
- Supervised ongoing sale of water and soft drinks at the garden
- Sold hot dogs at Sears Hardware Outlet in North Olmsted on several Saturdays
- Prepared Letter of Intent for Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation grant

Committee Members      \*Served for part of the year

Operating Committee members that served during the 2010 season include:

John Jenkins, Chairman

Jeff Kostura, Vice Chairman\*/Treasurer\*\*, Finance Sub-Committee Co-Chair

Kim Repinski, Treasurer\*, Finance Sub-Committee Co-Chair

Lisa Young, Secretary, Fair Sub-Committee Chair

Dave Aloï\*      Jan Papez

Hallie Forcinio, Preservation Sub-Committee Chair

Kim Hageman\*

Dave Kuebler

Dan Misztal\*

George Oryshkewych, Governance Sub-Committee Chair

Bill Smith, Vice Chairman\*

Mark Tapajna, Projects Sub-Committee Chair

Neal Wilds\*, Nominating Sub-Committee Chair, Events & Information Sub-Committee Chair

Mike Theus

Special thanks to Phyllis Crespo who served as the Committee's legal advisor

Bruce Page\*

Bill Smith, Vice Chairman\*

Mark Tapajna, Projects Sub-Committee Chair

Neal Wilds\*, Nominating Sub-Committee Chair, Events & Information Sub-Committee Chair

Special thanks to Phyllis Crespo, who served as the Committee's legal advisor

\* Served for part of the year