



# Departing Board Members Appreciation



Thank you to our outgoing board members for their garden service and support. Our garden community is stronger for the work you have done:



**Nancy Hughes**  
outgoing board  
secretary



**Joy Williams**  
outgoing section C  
captain



**Joe Gorin**  
outgoing section D  
captain

We thank all of you for the work to support our small but mighty garden board!

If you see any of our outgoing board members in the garden, please thank them for all the hard work they have put in to ensure our garden runs smoothly.

# How to Request a Plot Relocation

## \*\*Accepting 2023 Applications Through January 13, 2023\*\*

Are you a community gardener in good standing? Are you interested in applying for a different plot at Blair Road garden? If so, read on!

Before offering our 2023 open plots to waiting list applicants, we are reaching out to existing gardeners to see if any are interested in relocating.

### Am I in Good Standing?

Given the limited number of plots available, we will not be able to grant all requests. The board will use the following criteria to determine whether a community gardener is eligible for a new plot:

- History of violations or probation actions
- Previous community engagement in 2022
- Willingness to actively contribute to 2023 community projects and tasks

### How Do I Request a Plot Relocation?

Complete the **online form** using the QR code to the right or fill out the form attached in this mailing and submit to the shed mailbox by 1/13/2023.



Easiest  
Option!



# Meet the 2023 Blair Road Community Garden Association Board of Directors

These board members were elected during our November Membership meeting on November 12, 2022.



**Nicole Ifill**  
*President*



**Molly Fleder**  
*Section A  
Captain*



**Heather  
Hunter-Nickels**  
*Vice-President*



**Wendy  
Caron**  
*Section B  
Captain*



**Christina  
Armas-Ed  
wards**  
*Secretary*



**Ben Vauter**  
*Section C  
Captain*



**Silvia  
Roberts**  
*Treasurer*



**Jeff  
McQueen**  
*Section D  
Captain*



**Stephanie  
Scott**  
*At-Large  
Member*



# Garden Appreciation

As we reflect on the 2022 garden season, the board wants to recognize the following gardeners for their exceptional service this year, going above and beyond to support our community.

Amina Amin  
Amy Belasco  
Anica Allen  
Antoinette & Jonah Campbell  
Ben Steinberg and Maya Rhodan  
Beulah Brock  
Christiane Rosamont  
Christina & Frances Armas-Edwards  
Christopher Moriarity  
Claudia Marquez  
Dionne & Clinton Frost  
Edgar L. Stanton  
Edwin Nchofua & Delphine Mewuo  
Greg & April King  
Hazel Greene  
Jeannette Theobald  
Jeannie McIver  
Jose Campos  
Jose Santos Portillo  
Juan I. Valdez  
Linda R. Lee  
Luke Turner  
Marlyn Webster  
Nicolas Iraheta  
Nona W. Kumah  
Stephanie Fosberg & Laura Brown  
Steve Shapiro  
Tiana McFarlane  
Tiffane S. White

# Fall Membership Meeting Recap

## 2023 Garden Accomplishments

### 1 Increased Engagement

- Monthly email newsletter updates read by nearly 60% of gardeners
- Increased community volunteerism by 10%!

### 2 Improved Inspection Process

- All new gardeners required to participate
- Less than half as many plots cited for monoculture (14, down from 35 last year) and trenches (11 this year).
- Similar number of visibility and weed issues (15 and 30, respectively).

### 3 Continued Food Security Plot Initiative

- Secured vegetable plants from the UDC greenhouse/DC Master Garden program and seeds from HarvestShare.
- Partnered with Takoma Park Middle School and Magruder High School to start seedlings in their respective greenhouses.
- Donated ~40 pounds including cantaloupe to the House of Ruth in DC, a domestic violence shelter.

## Enacted By-Laws Changes: Board Term length and Limit

### Rationale

- One-year terms cause knowledge loss and disrupt garden momentum. (Both the President and VP have departed at the same time 5 times since 2015.)
- Staggered elections reduce same-year turnover in complementary roles like President and VP.

### Impact

- Elected garden members may still serve on the board as long as they choose.
- Members may only spend 4 years in a row in the same role. (This has only happened once in the last seven years.)
- Members may serve in another role immediately or wait 2 years to run for the same position.

### Results

✓ Yes - 37  
No - 4  
Abstain - 1

**Term of Office:** Two years. The Executive Board members' and Section Captains' (the Board's) terms of office will be staggered to ensure board continuity. The President, Treasurer, Section Captain A and Section Captain C will be elected in even numbered years and the Vice-President, Secretary, Member At-Large, Section Captain B and Section Captain D will be elected in odd numbered years.

**Term limits for board members:** A board member may serve two consecutive two-year terms in the same position before stepping down or assuming a different board position. If an individual steps down or otherwise leaves the board, that individual must wait two years before seeking nomination to the same position.

## Save the Dates!

Mark your calendars with these upcoming events! Full season schedule will be shared with renewal packets.

Friday, January 13 @ 5 p.m.	Relocation requests due!
Saturday, February 11 @ 10 a.m.	Informal work day
Saturday, February 25 @ 10 a.m.	Maintenance committee member training on power tools, tool maintenance, water shut off and plumbing, safety (open to all garden members)

# Message From The President: Nicole Ifill

I am so humbled to be reelected to lead this great community during the 2023 and 2024 garden seasons. As everyone gears up for the growing season, I want to highlight a few important areas of focus for the upcoming year: **Strengthening Community and Building Awareness.**



## Strengthening Community

As we move into 2023, your Executive Board will remain focused on increasing gardener engagement, ensuring all plot owners complete their minimum three hours of required service to the association. Gardeners who do not complete their community-wide service may be placed on probation or, worse, not invited back for the next garden season!

### Ways to get involved during the garden season

- Attend one of our four community work days
- Assist with the food donation plot
- Support our annual inspection process, and more!

Remember that as you sign your Permit Agreement, you are agreeing to be an active part of our community. **It's never too early to start—contact the board to support an upcoming project.**

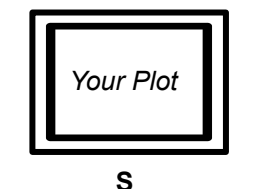


Gardeners enjoy a potluck at the community picnic in September 2022.

## Building Awareness

### Pathways

Every gardener is responsible for maintaining their **EASTERN** and **SOUTHERN** pathways throughout the garden season.



### Fencing

Fences should be well maintained with fence posts within plot boundaries. Pathways should be at least 2 ½ feet wide for easy gardener and wheelbarrow passage throughout the garden. Gardeners with fencing that extends into the pathway will be required to make the necessary changes before their 2023 renewal is approved.

### Pollinator Plots

Did you know that each section maintains a dedicated pollinator garden to attract bees, butterflies, and other insects? We plant and tend native plant species, attracting pollinating insects that benefit our garden and the environment. Reach out to your section captain if you would like to get involved!