

NEWSLETTER

September Vol I 2023

Community x Gardens = Lifelong Friendships

Beautification Initiative



As a community we understand how difficult it can be to maintain a small garden. In the wake of Covid and the unusually warm weather, our gardens have diminished. The Beautification Initiative is looking to re-vamp and sustain the gardens within Douden Park. We need help uniting neighbors who would volunteer time and resources to rejuvenate the gardens to desirable conditions. One way to help is to provide time, talent or treasure for a clearing event scheduled **September 23 from 7am-11am**. Please consider joining in our efforts that day.

Recipe:

Cucumber Salad

2 medium cucumbers
1 Roma tomato
1 small onion
½ cup of blueberries
4 ounces plain yogurt
1 tablespoon fresh dill
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon lemon juice
Pumpkin seeds
Sunflower seeds
Salt and pepper to taste

What's Growing On?

"A society grows when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in"
~Greek Proverb

- ◆ **Garden Committee:** A committee was formed with like-minded gardeners to address processes and cleanup of the gardens. The newsletter was generated to communicate our progress. The next committee meeting is September 19 at 10am. Stay tuned for more updates.
- ◆ **Beautification:** On **September 23rd, 7am-11am**, there is a scheduled clear out event for the upcoming growing season. Please join us and meet fellow neighbors and gardeners.
- ◆ **Homegrown Ideas:** We are interested in hearing local thoughts. Please share your ideas on gardening tips, submit helpful articles, or, forward in a favorite recipe from your garden delights for the next Newsletter. Send your ideas to Burgett_tracy@yahoo.com

Steps:

1. Wash and cut up cucumber, tomato, and onion. Place items in a strainer to release excess water.
2. Whisk the yogurt and lemon juice together in mixing bowl. Refrigerate for 15 minutes.
3. Gently add the vegetables and blueberries to the mixture. Fold in the dill, garlic, salt and pepper.
4. Refrigerate cucumber salad 1-2 hours before serving.
5. Garnish with pumpkin and sunflower seeds.

Recipe from [Local Garden Member](#)

Never Enough Thyme

One of the biggest issues with gardening is finding time and energy to commit to the project. Life seems to get in the way. In an effort to support our community gar-



dens, we are in the process of inviting the Juvenile Probation Department to assist with sweat equity in exchange for Community Service hours. Other project ideas include youth programs. We would like to engage with schools and invite extra curricular groups to participate in learning programs.

Tips

- Hot days can make gardening tedious. A frozen towel placed at

Reflection: Consider reaching out to local landscape companies who may assist with seasonal turnovers of garden beds.

the nape of the neck with a hat, works wonders to cool the body in hot humid temperatures.

- When preparing your garden for planting, recycle used cardboard boxes as a weed barrier. It is an inexpensive option that decomposes and minimizes weeds.
- Are you looking for alternative weed killer or bug spray? Try using a salt and vinegar solution for weeds. A substitute for chemical repellents are a blend of Cayenne pepper and water, or, plain Castile soap and water.