

We're 'Sowing The Seeds' For a Great 2018 Season!

During these dark dreary days of winter, it is exciting to anticipate turning over the soil on a new garden club year. Planning for a renewed sense of community, fun activities and loads of fresh flowers and vegetables begins NOW!

Aspirations for 2018 - Several ideas were discussed at last Wednesday's meeting and, once the officers for next year are elected, planning on how to implement these and any other ideas will be explored. Major themes include:

- Return to planning by committees/teams, with members involved in one or more teams where they can best contribute
- Develop a communications strategy and send out agendas for meetings well in advance to inform all members of any decisions or votes that will be taking place
- Convenient access to the gardens for all members
- Flexible work times to fit individual needs
- Work closely with new HOA management to take advantage of the resources they bring to the community.

Team-based activities - Team sign up will be on the membership application and at regular club meetings. **However, there are three teams that need to hit the ground running in January:**

- **Planting**- Develops the plans for planting vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Coordinates and schedules group work sessions at the gardens.
- **Recruitment**- Recruits new members to the garden club and facilitates their sign specific team(s).
- **Engineering**- Maintains the systems, structures, and tools needed in support of the garden (i.e., irrigation, sheds, tools).

If you have an interest in serving on any of these three teams, please respond (please do not hit "respond all") to this email with your **name, phone number, email** and **indicate which team interests you**.

Listed below are additional teams that will need volunteers in the new year. These teams are likely to kickoff later in the first quarter of 2018:

- **Fundraising**- Organizes fundraising events to support/promote the garden club (i.e., poinsettia sales, pancake breakfasts).
- **Social**- Organizes educational and social events that support the mission of the garden club (i.e., harvest dinner, cooking classes, holiday lighting)
- **Communications**- Manages the website and other communication tools to facilitate sharing of information to members and the Briar Chapel community.

- **Community Outreach and Children's Programs-** Runs the children's garden and activities, distributes excess harvest to food banks, and coordinates programs with the wider community.

Governance - Nominations for next year's officers were taken at the Dec 6th meeting. If you would also like to throw your hat into the ring, please respond to this email address by **5 pm on December 20th** indicating which position you are interested in. If additional nominations are received, a second email will be sent out with the new information that week. **Elections will take place at the Jan 9th meeting.**

The nominations taken at the meeting are:

President

Laurie Leichman and Liz Rolison as Co-Presidents

Secretary

Billie Baker

Treasurer

Mark Sonnentag and Jean Holstein as Co-Treasurers

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, at 7 pm at the clubhouse. We hope to see you there.

Happy holidays to all!

The Briar Chapel Garden Club