

March 8, 2010

Dear Brecksville Resident,

Oh yes, the weather outside is *frightful*...but spring is just around the corner! Are you already thinking warm, sunny days in your garden? We are and that's why we're sending you this letter as a special invitation to join with us in celebrating our **Third Annual Open Garden Day** in Brecksville.

This event is sponsored by the City of Brecksville and organized by the Brecksville Beautification Committee. Thanks to many Brecksville gardeners we've been able to make this an annual event! For the past two years, we've been amazed at the gardening interest that resides in our City. We've had over 200 visitors each year despite less than perfect weather conditions (*hot!*).

This year's **Open Garden Day** will be on **Sunday, May 16, 2010 from Noon to 5 p.m.**

Won't you consider opening your garden that day? We like to describe the afternoon as an informal community get-together or outdoor social gathering. Gardeners do love to talk to other gardeners! We all have similar issues (*i.e., deer*), and we're all immensely curious about the backyards of Brecksville. Gardeners feed off others' enthusiasm: what worked for you, what didn't, and can I do this in my yard?

No need to fuss or primp; no need to worry that your garden is too simple or too small or that the gardening staff is only you! Inspiration to others can be found even in the most modest places!

We're asking only that you be on hand during the garden hours to answer questions and point out what you want people to see. The Sunday before May 16 we'll place a sign in your front yard advertising the **Open Garden Day**, and we'll publish a tour book for visitors to consult when they're planning their afternoon. Check the City's website after May 10 to see the tour book. If you want to share plant divisions or seeds or sell handcrafted garden accessories that afternoon, feel free to do so.

If you've been on the tour before, please think about joining us again. May is a different time of the year! Your garden will look different than it did last August or even in June of 2009.

Won't you please give us a call at one of the numbers listed below or send an email to [dshirer@adelphia.net](mailto:dshirer@adelphia.net). If you have questions, or need some additional encouragement to take the plunge, call and we'll help convince you to join in the gardening fun. You can help us spread the word by passing this information on to any other Brecksville resident who may want to open their garden. If you just have an address and don't know the owner's name, we'll do the follow-up. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

The Brecksville Beautification Committee Program Coordinators

Donna Shirer, 440-526-5430 (home)

Jo Ann Bartsch, 440-740-0034 (home)