

# THE GARDENSIDER

A publication of the Gardenside Neighborhood Association

## Gardenside Needs a Tree Champion



Gardenside Neighborhood has an opportunity to participate in a residential tree planting campaign, administered by Friends of Wolf Run and funded by a LexGrowTrees grant. If the request is funded by LexGrow Trees, this campaign would provide property owners with large (1.5" caliper/balled/burlapped) tree(s) planted on their property by a qualified landscape installer for a co-payment of \$50 per tree. The resident must agree to suitable planting locations and tree species for the site, and agrees to water and provide care for the tree for two years as it becomes established.

To facilitate this program, Gardenside Neighborhood Association is seeking a volunteer resident of the neighborhood to act as a liaison between the resident seeking participation in the campaign and Friends of Wolf Run. The neighborhood volunteer would answer homeowners questions about the campaign, and if the property owner decides to move forward, make sure all elements of the LexGrow Trees program are being fulfilled. This volunteer would be called a Tree Champion. Having a Tree Champion in place by the time funding becomes available would be most helpful. The initial goal is to secure places for 10 trees to be planted on private homeowners property. The Gardenside Neighborhood Association will assist with promotion and publicity. As residents start seeing trees planted in the neighborhood, and interest in participation grows, another 10 trees can be allocated.

If you would be interested in being our Neighborhood Tree Champion or finding out more about what the Tree Champion does, contact Kris Goggin at [ksgoggin@gmail.com](mailto:ksgoggin@gmail.com). This person is an important piece of the success of this program; GNA is proud to sponsor the Tree Champion with a small honorarium for their time.



# Marksbury Family Branch Library Open Now

The opening of the Marksbury Family Branch, Lexington Public Library was a blast! Families and community members came together, soaking up the excitement. It was a packed house all day! It is clear that it's going to be more than just a library—it's where friendships can form, stories can unfold, and imaginations can run wild. It's a great addition to our local community, be sure to check it out and renew your library card!



## We Need You!

The Gardenside Neighborhood Association is looking for people to serve on the Association's board. The GNA board is a great way to get involved in the neighborhood and help keep us all connected. For the Gardenside Neighborhood Association to fulfill its mission, we need people to step forward to serve on the board. The board meets every other month for about 90 minutes, usually on Zoom, so it's not a huge time commitment and more than worth it. If you think you might be interested in serving a two year term on the Board, please send an e-mail with your name and contact information to [gardensidelex@gmail.com](mailto:gardensidelex@gmail.com), and we will contact you to answer your questions and talk about the next steps.



The mural is returning to Gardenside Park.

## Join the GNA

Membership for the Gardenside Neighborhood Association (GNA) is \$20 a year for either an individual or household. Membership goes from January through December. You may JOIN or RENEW in two ways.



### Pay Via Mail

1. Mail a check to:

**Gardenside Neighborhood Association**  
P.O. Box 4065  
Lexington, KY 40504

2. Be sure to provide an email address.

### Pay Online

[www.Gardensidelex.org](http://www.Gardensidelex.org)

1. Click on Get Involved
2. Select Join the GNA Online
3. Pay with a credit card or PayPal
4. Be sure to provide an email address

## Spotlight on Gardensider-Ella Sears

Ella Sears has lived in Gardenside for the past eight years. She came to this country from New Zealand with her family. Ella is a fourteen year old sophomore attending Lafayette High School's Pre-Engineering Program. She hopes to become a pediatrician as an adult. In addition to a rigorous school curriculum that includes numerous AP classes, Ella established a weekly playgroup for children 5-10 years of age called Fun Tuesdays.

Fun Tuesdays meet at Gardenside Park on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00-5:30 PM, weather permitting. It started last fall with 2 to 4 neighborhood kids participating and has blossomed to up to 14 children. Often, during the playgroup sessions, parents are on the sidelines enjoying adult conversation! Ella started the playgroup last fall after a few parents in the neighborhood discussed with her the stress their young children were encountering with organized sports which put performance above participation and play. Ella started thinking about ways to provide outdoor play without the stress of organized sports. She pulled from her background as a Girl Scout Camp Counselor and came up with activities that include kids of all skill levels, ages and sizes in every game. Her guiding principle is play through group teamwork and cooperation, assigning children to teams that have an even distribution of ability. Many of the games she uses are Girl Scout games that don't require equipment because she has limited equipment for a variety of games. The playgroup is free and requires no commitments. She does request the children bring water and a snack to the playgroup. She is CPR, AED and First Aid certified.

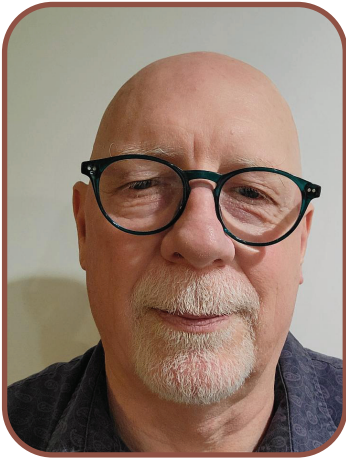
This young woman also has developed a kids audiobook/podcast called the Willow Creek Bunch about a North Carolina family and their dog. It is geared toward elementary-aged kids.

Available at [willowcreekbunch.fireside.fm](http://willowcreekbunch.fireside.fm) or on Spotify or Reason.

Gardenside Neighborhood is fortunate to have such a bright, creative and dedicated young person doing so much for our community.



## President's Farewell



I became President of GNA in the Spring of 2019. I had enjoyed being part of several GNA projects and decided that I'd like to get more involved. The neighborhood association was strong and growing, and we were preparing to deal with the city's sewer project. Then, in March 2020, the covid pandemic happened. We had to learn new ways of being a neighborhood association and try to hold together what had been accomplished so far, in addition to

negotiating with the city about the sewer project on behalf of GNA. In my time as GNA President, I think I am most proud of helping guide our neighborhood association through this time. Judging by our last GNA Potluck, it looks like we have come out of all that in good shape, with an invigorated board working to continue building our neighborhood community. I look forward to seeing what happens next!

**Eric Huffer**

**Thank you for your service to the GNA!**



## Gardenside Board

**Laura P. Combs**  
Acting President

**Kris Goggin**  
Vice President

**Kari Patrick**  
Secretary

**Mary Malone**  
Treasurer

**Members at Large**  
Jennifer Noran  
Matt DeMers  
Nathaniel "Nate" Burr

## Newsletter Staff

**Kari Patrick**  
Writer and Compiler

**Jennifer Noran**  
Graphic Design and Layout

## Save the dates!

# 2024 Spring Workdays Gardenside Park



Please join us for volunteer work in Gardenside Park's stream bank. No experience is required and limited tools, gloves, waste and yard bags will be provided. Sign in and out under the park pavilion on the Holly Springs side of the park to help document the work hours donated that go towards our funding grant. Please bring your own water. We will be gathering, weather permitting, on the dates listed below:

The April workday will focus on planting tree and shrub whips along the stream bank, picking up trash in the creek (please wear waterproof boots) and the removal of invasive wild mustard. Hope to see you there!

### What You Need To Know

**9 AM to Noon**  
April 13th    May 11th    June 8th