



Linda Elkin and Brandi Beckett

southside
place
community
garden

UNSUNG HEROES

by Julia Babcock

Our member list is growing, our coffers are replenished after our October Outstanding in the Garden fundraiser, and our fall planting is in full swing. Many members attend our workdays every first and third Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. What goes under the radar are the members of the Operations Committee who work the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. and water the plants during the week. They also fill in the gaps between work days if things can't wait until a work day. This team does a yeoman's job. This team -- Emma Eggleton, Louise Symmes, Lisa Roy, Vicki Piper and Brandi Beckett literally keep the garden from withering on the vine.

Southside Place resident, Linda Elkin, is the Chair of the Operations Committee. One of the biggest

parts of her job is to plan what we plant each season. Linda researches the best variety of seeds and "starts" (seedlings) to plant in the raised beds. Sometimes the best seeds are those we gathered from a prior year crop, which we do on some hard to find varieties of plants. She also keeps historical records of what was planted where so that we ensure proper crop rotation. The basic rule is if a root vegetable was planted one season, an above the ground vegetable should be planted in that spot the following year. If in doubt, we plant beans of any kind, which fix the nitrogen in the soil.

Linda also researches the method for planting (how deep, how far apart, on the trellis, within cages, etc.), how to address any problems that come up (pests, fungus, etc.) as well as the timing of harvest for each of the items that we plant. The Operations Committee works tirelessly with her to make sure these things happen and that the rest of the volunteers know what is happening in the garden and how to best assist. If you are available Wednesday mornings, do consider joining this active committee, the backbone of the Southside Place Community Garden.