MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Jeff Hoyt (B6 & B7)

1. **When did you join OPCG?** My journey began early in 2018. My neighbor Lydia had been telling me about it for a year, and when she took me for a tour, I was hooked!

2. **What is the favorite plant you have grown?** Broccoli, cauliflower, and lettuce. I like growing in the winter best because there are fewer critters. But in the summer, I love artichoke and tomatoes.

3. **Top tips for compost?** Tip #1 rotating drum type composter. You rotate it every few days to increase oxygen & speed up the process. Tip #2 50/50 green to brown. Green is all my kitchen scraps including my favorite coffee grounds. For brown I use wood shavings.

4. **Tell us about your asparagus**. My parcel had asparagus that was planted by the previous renter. It came up as a surprise and has spread further each year. There are male and female asparagus, and if you allow the females to flower they produce red berries which really spread the growing area.

5. **What is your favorite tomato?** Indeterminate varieties that grow like vines rather than determinate ones that are like a bush. Although I like growing Early Girls, Celebrities, and the common Disease resistant ones, my favorite variety is called Large Cherry. Some years I have more tomatoes than I can pick. I looked in my garden folder and I had given away a little over a pound of tomatoes to 38 friends and relatives multiple times. Some five times. That's over 75 pounds.

Spring is natures way of saying "Lets Party ! " *Robin Williams*

Monarch madness continues—9 and counting in the last few weeks!

Board Members:

President: Bill Colangelo

VP: Lekshmi Nair

Treasurer: Alison Batten

Secretary: Amanda Martin

Garden Manager: Bob Kieling

Important Links:

oakparkcommunitygarden@gmail.com

www.instagram.com/oakparkcommunitygardenca

www.facebook.com/oakparkcommunitygarden.org

Important Dates

March General Meeting at the Mae Boyer Meeting Room – 03/19/2025

Workdays – TBD

Organic Pest Control

Ants

1. Sprinkle cinnamon to disrupt scent trails
2. Use food-grade diatomaceous earth to dehydrate ants
3. Pour boiling water on ant nests
4. Watch Gary Pilarchik's Youtube for Borax and sugar tips

Fungal Blight – Tomatoes can be quite susceptible to the spores of fungal blight. If infected, tomato plants will have poor prouction.or you can loose the whole plant. Bob, our garden manager and tomato king suggests the use of organic sprays and good growing practices to combat the blight.

1. Captains Jacks Copper Fungicide used per directions
2. 1-2 tblspns baking soda , 1 tblspn vegetable oil, 1 gallon of water and 1 tblspn dish soap Spray every week.
3. 8 tblspns of hydrogen peroxide to a gallon of water used as a spray weekly.

Keep plant leaves trimmed and off the ground. Remove any infected leaves. Create air flow by pruning.. Do not water plant foiliage, use drip system to prevent soil bourne pathogens splashing up