

# PPCG NEWS—APRIL 2016

## READY, SET, GO!

April 2016

Volume 4, Issue 3

### I'm so excited!

Do you have your seedlings started? How is your soil preparation going? What are you waiting for!!!

Well, okay, the Cornerstone raised bed gardeners have a good excuse - more on that further in the newsletter. But for you Arthur, GardenShare, and Yale gardeners, if you didn't set up your beds last fall it's time to get going! I've cleaned out one chicken coop in South Minneapolis already and made two sheep manure runs. (We'll see if Jesse will dare ride with me again!) We're tracking down leads on more chicken manure. And we've put together a [one-pager](#) on organic fertilizers and soil amendments. See the article from the Compost Coordinators for more details and check out the [Compost Corner](#) on the [new Web site](#).

As I walk around the gardens it is exciting to see how the new gardeners are taking their plots to the next level. Okay, some of the veteran PPCGers are rebuilding theirs, too. But really, take a look at the work Shanda and Chase (Y), Julie (A), Kristin (Y), and Mike (Y) are doing with their plots. It's amazing.

We are still receiving lots of interest from folks wanting to join the gardening ranks at the PPCG. I have been able to clear the waiting list now that I felt like I had enough information to assign raised beds at Cornerstone. We had some turnover at Arthur and Yale, too, so I made progress getting new gardeners at those sites. The only availability again are GardenShare memberships at the Cornerstone site.

Oh yeah, did I mention that the [new Website](#) is LIVE??? Kit has done some stellar work - thank you!!! Take a look at the way she has laid out the [archive of the newsletters](#) in a table and how she is building a pictorial history of the development of the garden sites in the [Gallery](#). Now she is dragging me kicking and screaming down the learning curve on administering the new Web site. You can imagine how fun that is for her! Anyway, for the rest of us that means we can start entering in your service hours on the [Volunteer Log](#).

So let's get going! See you in the garden.

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### Recap of All-Gardeners Meeting

We had a great meeting and a wonderful turnout at the 2016 All-Gardeners' Meeting at the **Luxton Park Rec Center** Multipurpose Room on March 19! Thanks to all who attended and to those who helped prepare and attend. We need to follow up with a few of you to get a signed [Commitment Form](#) and appropriate site-specific paperwork. If you know that you hadn't done so yet please send it in ASAP.

Thanks to Lydia and Steve for stepping up to be the Site Coordinators at Arthur and Yale respectively. It's really exciting to see how your leadership is transforming the look and feel of the sites. And thanks to Vera and Alex for organizing the Seed Exchange. We're looking forward to seeing the increased diversity of plants grown at the garden this year due to your efforts.

Also thanks to Alex for offering to be the Secretary, Martha for the Compost Coordinator, and Sam for the Fundraising Coordinator. Lydia stepped up and led the task force who revised the Gardeners Agreement. The result is the [Commitment Form](#) and the [Gardener Handbook](#). Great work is breaking out all over!

Sadly we lost some gardeners because they did not RSVP, show up, or have someone present in their place at the All-Gardeners Meeting. Life goes on. We were able to replace them quickly with gardeners who have taken those garden plots to new heights.

### Water

During the work day on Wed, April 14th we connected and turned on at the Yale site. Young Hans-Peter is an all star student under the expert tutelage of Jesse. We'll get Arthur running in the next week or two. We are working with the irrigation contractor to figure out what to do for water at Cornerstone during and after the soil remediation.

A reminder to use water-wise techniques so that we can keep our operations costs manageable. See the tips in the [Water Wisdom article](#) on page 1 of the [May 2015 PPCG Newsletter](#).

### Welcome to the New Gardeners!

See the article on Page 2.

### PicStrip (click to enlarge):



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## **Welcome New Gardeners!**

We have been able to find space for the following new gardeners. Welcome aboard!

- Alex Hamann (Cornerstone)
- Dennie Kim (Cornerstone)
- Emily Royer (Cornerstone)
- Kristen Rainey (Yale)
- Mike Robinson (moved to Yale)
- Peri Bovitz (Cornerstone)
- Sara Bowman (Cornerstone)
- Stephanie Oskie (Yale)

## **A Message from our Compost Coordinators**

Hello Gardeners,

We encourage you to consider applying more soil amendments (beyond the vegetable based compost delivered by the city) to your garden plot. There are lots of options to consider when choosing an amendment, but it could be as simple as organic composted chicken, cow, or horse manure.

By doing this you will be more likely to have healthier, more disease resistant plants. An added bonus will also be plants that produce more vegetables. The additional organic matter added to your soil not only adds nutrients, but also increases the water holding capacity of your soil resulting in less need to irrigate.

Click [HERE](#) for a one-pager that is intended as a resource for you to use in selecting an organic amendment, along with suggestions on where you can source products.

Let us know if you have any questions about any of this information, or about selecting and/or sourcing a product for your plot.

Happy Gardening!

Your friendly PPCG Compost Coordinators

## **Update on the at the Cornerstone Site**

We met with the property owner, the engineers, the soil remediation contractor, and the storm water collection system contractor yesterday and received more details on the planned work. Based on that I was able to determine where we need to move the raised beds and assign them to gardeners. That plan has been delivered to the Cornerstone raised bed gardeners. Nothing on the west slope will be affected.

- The SGAD work day is this Saturday, April 16 We hope to get all the

raised beds moved then. We are asking that the PPCG gardeners stay clear so that the 56 volunteers from SGAD who have signed up can work efficiently.

- The excavation work will start in late April. They will start with the west side of the property (where the garden is located) first and expect that to take a week.
- They will backfill the area with soil before turning the area back over to us to occupy in mid-May (estimated).
- We will move the Surly raised beds and the rest of the raised beds in place after they are finished.

## **The New and Improved Web Site is LIVE**

The new PPCG Web site is live! We cut over to it on Tuesday evening, April 12th. You can use the same URL (<http://www.PPCGMN.org>) - that will redirect to the new site. The [Volunteer Hours log](#) is live and awaiting your entries. Kit and Kompany have done an absolutely fantastic job of building this out. They will also help with maintaining the [Facebook group](#).

Let us know what you think of the new site!

