

# PPCG NEWS—MARCH 2015

## READY, SET, GO!

March 2015

Volume 3, Issue 3

### Sooo...

By the time you read this the frigid weather is giving up its last stand for the season and the warmer weather is moving in. I'm hoping to get some seeds planted in the cold frame next week, and maybe some spinach and radishes in the ground. Has your planning got you **Ready** and **Set to Go**?

The PicStrip reflects the progression we should see over the next couple of months: Our planning is completing; the seeds are arriving - we'll have a seed exchange scheduled as a breakout at the [All-Gardeners' Meeting](#); you can get the seedlings that need more time planted now; we should get out in the garden soon and fortify the soil with nutrients for the season; and look what the results will be if we follow this progression.

New gardeners and volunteers continue to flow in - it's absolutely amazing! We built it so now they're coming. We've had to get a larger meeting room for the [All-Gardeners' Meeting](#) at the [Luxton Rec Center](#) in order to accommodate everyone. We have a flash mob work day scheduled for March 28th, weather permitting, thanks to the Surly crew. And someone has surfaced who may help fill Elliot's shoes in continuing the ongoing build-out of Cornerstone.

I'm so excited!!! I looking forward to seeing everyone at the [All-Gardeners' Meeting](#).

Del

### All-Gardeners Meeting (March 14th)

We have sent out the Evite for the [All-Gardeners' Meeting](#) on **Saturday March 14th** from **10:00 a.m.—12:00 pm.** at the Luxton Park Rec Center. **Please RSVP ASAP** to the [Evite](#) so that we can plan accordingly. This is a quasi-mandatory meeting! It will be a great opportunity to meet your fellow gardeners. This is where you can sign up for your service commitments. We will also go over policies, procedures, and the milestones as detailed in the gardeners agreement plus share essential info about the upcoming year. And we'll have a break out for

the Cornerstone GardenShare members so that Cathy can set the expectations for the year.

If you can't attend please send someone who can stand in for you or [RSVP](#) to let us know.

### Seed Swap

At the end of the meeting we'll have a **Seed Swap**. Bring some of your extra seeds and swap them with others who have seeds you would like to try. Last year's feature vegetable was [zucchetta](#). This year it is [kwintus pole beans](#). I have extra seeds of both if you would like to grow them. They will be featured in the Prospect Park Garden Club cook-offs in July and August so I'm looking for folks to grow them so that we have extra to use for the cook-offs.

We'll also have an education station set up for those who want to learn more about starting your own seedlings. Plus I'll have some free seeds packets.

I've received about 2500 bean seeds from the HCMGs for use in Community Garden program. Roughly 1250 are *Strike*, about 575 are *Magnum*, and approximately 775 are *Slenderette*. *Strike* is a smooth, medium-size, green bush bean; *Magnum* is a flat green bush bean; and *Slenderette* is a slim, long, green bush bean. ALL three varieties are certified Minnesota Winners (which means they have won at the UMN Extension Master Gardener Seed Trials at one time).

All are leftover from the May, 2014 Plant Sale but have been carefully protected. As a result they wouldn't have lost much viability.

Let me know if you'd like some of these seeds.

### Gardener's Agreement

If we do not have a signed [gardener's agreement](#) on file for you we need to make sure we have one before leaving the meeting. We will have a list of your status at the meeting along with copies to sign. Because of the agreements we have with our property owners and the City of Minneapolis we need to have one. In addition, for Cornerstone gardeners we will need to have an updated agreement signed. More on this at the meeting.

### Welcome to the New Gardener!

See the article on Page 2.

### PicStrip (click to enlarge):



# PPCG NEWS—PAGE 2

March 2015

Volume 3, Issue 3

## **Welcome New Gardeners and Volunteers!**

Almost all of the gardeners returned this year and we have picked up quite a few new gardeners. The additions since last month follow. Welcome aboard!

- Cheryl Rivinius (Cornerstone)
- Chris Pratt (Cornerstone)
- Dana Thorgrimson (Cornerstone)
- Jean Emmons (Cornerstone)
- Rob Weum (Volunteer)
- Tom Neufeld (Cornerstone)
- Tristan Kusner (Cornerstone)

## **East Side Services, Surly Brewery, and the Textile Center:**

I am happy to announce that East Side Neighborhood Services and Surly Brewery will have a sizable presence at Cornerstone this year! East Side Services will have at least four (4) raised beds to use for their summer youth gardening program. They will also schedule other activities at Camp Cornerstone throughout the year.

Surly will build out some raised beds to use in addition to possibly growing hops. We are planning a flash mob workday with them on Saturday, March 28th, from 9 a.m. to noon. We may have up to 30 of the Surly employees showing up to knock out a bunch of project on the list.

And, of course, the Textile Center with their expanded plans for the wonderful dye garden are an important constituent.

## **Service Projects**

We will be focusing on **composting** and **garden gleaning** as the two service areas to develop this year. Martha has offered to lead the composting effort across all the gardens but we need a coordinator at each site. And we are looking for a leader for the garden gleaning program. That will be an effort to ensure that no produce goes to waste in our gardens. If you can't use it please make sure it ends up at a food shelf rather than let it rot and go to waste in the garden. More on all this at the All-Gardeners' Meeting.

In addition, we'll be setting up work teams to tackle the other garden projects. They will include:

- Setting up the water system (at least one person for each site)
- Mowing, weeding, and common area maintenance
- Building projects at Cornerstone and elsewhere

The time spent on these projects will go towards the required four (4)

hours minimum in service to the garden during the year. If you are interested in leading one of these work streams please let us know.

Below is the list of projects so far for the Cornerstone work day on March 28th with the Surly flash mob, in particular order: What doesn't get completed that day we'll take on at a slower pace over the summer as time and resources allow. And this just in yesterday: A group of 10-15 Fellows and staff from the Humphrey Fellowship would love to help out gardening and/or any other work sometime in April. Amazing!

- Move lumber from parking lot to garden site
- Build 20 4x8 raised beds and 3 longer beds (1 for GardenShare and 2 for Surly)
- Build beds and framing for hops
- Build gazebo
- Fill beds and amend soil
- Shingle and side the tool shed
- Cover paths with stump grindings
- Build hoop house
- Brick the dye garden edges
- Enhance compost bins

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION  
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013

**VGB 1: Getting Ready to Garden**  
Prepared by: Dal Hampton  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013

**VGB 2: Planting Your Garden**  
Prepared by: Dal Hampton  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013

**VGB 3: Veggies One By One**  
Prepared by: Mollie Dean  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013

**VGB 4: Designing Your Garden**  
Prepared by: Julie Davis  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013

**VGB 5: Maintain Your Garden**  
*My garden is all planted. Now what!*  
Prepared by: Mary Weum  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013