

It's Harvest Season

September 2015

Volume 3, Issue 6

Celebrating and Winding Down

What a great summer for gardening, huh? Enough rain all season long and not too hot or too cold. If we had good soil our plants jumped! But then so did the weeds...

We had a bit of a problem with rodents and other pests this year, especially at the Cornerstone site — the woodchucks devastated many of the raised bed there. But thanks to Cheryl's leadership hopefully the mama and her baby are happy in their new location along the river.

The days are getting much shorter and the nights are cooler. Now it's time to enjoy the harvest and start winding down our gardens. The pumpkins are turning orange and the butternut squash is almost ready to pick. The pressure cooker is whistling and the canning lids are popping. I love the sights, smells, and sounds of fall!!!

We'd love to see you at the Harvest Festival from 6 PM to 10 PM on October 3rd at PPCG Cornerstone. More in the article that follows. And mind the fall clean-up milestones you'll find in the Gardener's Agreement as we wind down the gardens.

Happy Harvesting!

Del

2015 Gardening Milestones

- Sept 26th - GardenShare Pot Luck
- Sept 27th - Cornerstone Work Party
- Oct 3rd - Harvest Festival
- October 31st - Fall clean-up completed. Please read Articles 10 and 11 of the [PPCG Gardener's Agreement](#) for clean-up requirements.

Harvest Festival >> Oct 3rd

[Prospect North](#), [LISC Twin Cities](#), and [C4ward](#) are teaming up to sponsor the Harvest Festival this year! It will be held on **October 3rd**, from **6 pm to 10 pm** at **PPCG Cornerstone**. The event will feature sample brick-oven baked pizza, cider, other cultural food treats, a bonfire, s'mores, info booths under the big top tent, entertainment, etc. Mark your calendars

and plan to attend!

The Prospect Park Community Gardens will be providing the brick-oven pizzas. We would love our gardeners to contribute fresh garden produce that we can use on the pizzas, and some help in running the oven, cutting up the pizzas, and handing out the pizzas samples in exchange for a ticket the participant will purchase in advance.

If you can help out by contributing produce or you can work the event with us, click [HERE](#) to reply by email with how you can help out.

Work Party at Cornerstone >> Sept 27

Some of you may have noticed that the twin peaks of Mount Stump Grindings developing at Cornerstone is getting larger and larger. Well, I've arranged for a bobcat to be there on **Sunday, Sept 27th**, at **11 am** to spread the stump grindings around the garden to top dress the paths. If you can be there to use a rake to spread a thick layer between the beds where the bobcat can't fit, it would be greatly appreciated. We can also spruce the place up for the Harvest Festival the following weekend.

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP that you can help!

Winding down Gardens

We're running this one again so that you can continue get ahead on setting up your gardens for next year. Go [HERE](#) for some great info on how to put your gardens to bed for the season. Here's a summary:

- Pick the remaining produce, then pull and compost the remaining annual plants. For Yale and Arthur gardeners, please see the [January 2015 newsletter article](#) about "trenching" organic material (pg 2).
- Trim the perennials and remove remaining weeds
- Turn over or loosen the soil
- Plant cover crop and/or fertilize liberally
- Protect what remains. Once the ground is surface frozen a thick blanket of leaves is a great way to tuck your plot into bed for the winter.

Welcome to the New Gardener!

See the article on Page 2.

PicStrip (click to enlarge):



PPCG NEWS—PAGE 2

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Welcome New Gardeners and Volunteers!

We picked up more new gardeners and volunteers. We are still accepting GardenShare memberships but there is now a waiting list for raised beds at Cornerstone. The additions since the last newsletter follow. Welcome aboard!

- Jennifer Michlitsch (Cornerstone)
- Paul Schneider (Volunteer)
- Daniel Fedyszyn (Volunteer)
- Kelly Collins (Volunteer)

Garden Maintenance

When you get a chance, please pull the weeds between your garden beds and in the surrounding areas, including the paths around your gardens. The common areas of the gardens got a little raggedy this year so your extra attention here would be appreciated.

Donating your Extra Produce

The [Glendale Food Shelf](#), right in our own side yard, will gladly accept any extra fresh produce that you have in your gardens. You can drop it off, or if you pick and bag/box it and let me know where I can pick it up I'll drop it off for you. So please don't let the wonderful fresh produce go to waste in your gardens!

Location:

92 St. Mary's Ave. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Hours:

Monday & Thursday: 11 am - 3 pm
Tuesday & Wednesday: 2 pm - 6 pm

Garden Pests

Woodchuck, rabbits, field mice, and Japanese beetles have had a, well, field day this year! And I've sprayed more than one wasps nest at Cornerstone. We used a live trap to relocate the woodchucks which have done the most damage. Some gardeners estimate that they destroyed around 60% or the crops so that was a bit disheartening. But now that they are gone the plants are bouncing back nicely and look great.

Greenhouse

Rob and Del will start construction on a greenhouse at PPCG Cornerstone. The design will fit in with the other structures there—it will be 8' x 8' with lean-to cabinets on three sides for the seedling trays. We will be using some concepts from the UMN Design students

Community Design Practice class. Even though it will **not** be winterized, we can use it to help the seedlings along next spring.

Packing up the garden for the season

The time will be upon us soon to pack up for the season. We need to disconnect the hoses and pack up the other water infrastructure equipment. **If you are willing to help with that, please let us know.** We'll schedule a work day for the work. Just before disconnecting the hoses we'll fill up the water barrels so that there will be a limited supply of water for the late season plantings.

Returning Next Year?

Start thinking about next year! Are you returning? Would you like a different plot? Would you like to be more of a leader? We need your input!

We have a waiting list already for gardeners who want to be a part of our community so I'm already penciling them in for raised beds and plots I know will be available for next year. So if you are planning to return, please let us know so that we can keep your name on the plot. Or if you know that you will be leaving us, we'd like to know that, too. **We need to hear from everyone** so please send an email to coordinators@PPCGMN.org to let us know what you are thinking.

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

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

VGB 2: Planting Your Garden
Prepared by: Del 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 Wertz
University of Minnesota Extension
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013