

Yawnnnnn...

January 2017

Volume 5, Issue 1

Happy New Year!

Has the January thaw got you stretching for the seed catalogs and dreaming about what could be? Have you taken in a deep breath? Yes, it may not be time to come out of hibernation but it is time to start thinking about the gardening season.

We survived the year of construction at the PPCG Cornerstone site. The place is looking fabulous. We will be renaming it **PPCG Towerside** this year since the The Cornerstone Group sold the property to Prospect Park Properties. No worries, the new owner is a friend of the garden so we are looking good. And some plans are brewing to take it to the next level.

Lydia and Steve have done wonders leading the other two sites. They have never looked better.

We will have a **Steering Committee Meeting** on January 30th at 6:30 PM the Prospect Park Association offices. We will set the direction for the gardens in 2017. Anyone is welcome to attend.

We will have the required **All-Gardener's Meeting** this year in March. Hold the **18th** for now. See the following article for details.

So start thinking about what you want to do this year in the garden. I'm excited to share all the news with you at the All-Gardener's Meeting.

Farmer Del

All-Gardeners Meeting (March 18th?)

We will have a **REQUIRED** All-Gardeners Meeting on a **Saturday in March** from **10:00 a.m.—12:00 pm**. If you are unable to attend please have someone attend on your behalf. We need to confirm a location so look for that in the next newsletter. This is where you will receive your "official" plot assignments and you can sign up for your service commitments. We will also go over policies, procedures, and projects. We will need everyone to sign a new Commitment Form. Please RSVP to the Evite we will send.

First Things First:

CONFIRM YOU ARE COMING BACK!!!

Please write to us at coordinators@ppcgm.org and let us know that you plan to return this year.

SEND IN YOUR DUES!!!

The fees will remain the same in 2017: \$30 for a full plot (\$20 for a half) at Arthur and Yale, \$10 for a 4x8 raised bed at Towerside, and \$20 for the GardenShare which includes soil and hydroponic plantings at Towerside. Please mail them to:

**Prospect Park Community Gardens
125 Cecil Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55414**

Remember, we will not be chasing after people this year. If we have not received payment by **March 1st**, we will release your plot to someone on the waiting list. So don't wait - please **get your payment in**.

Feedback on the Web Site

In 2016 we reorganized the Web site so that it better supports our operations. See the pages under [Member Info](#). They include a [Volunteer Hours log](#), a [Calendar](#), and [Garden Teams](#). We also moved to a new platform where we had more functionality. Give us some feedback on how it was to use the new Website functionality so that we can make improvements in 2017.

Thanks!

Thanks to Alex (T), Cheryl (T), Kit (T), Lydia (A), Martha (A-remotely), Renee (T), Sam (Y-remotely), Shanda (Y), Steve (Y), and Vera (A) who offered to participate in the Jan 30th Steering Committee Meeting for 2017

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!

It's still too early to tell everyone that is not returning, but we have picked up some new gardeners this year. Welcome aboard!

- Roger Schmitz (Yale)
- Nate Rockey (Towerside)
- Paislee House (Towerside)
- Rasa Troup (Yale)
- Gamini (Yale)

Service Projects

In 2017 we will again be organizing around [Garden Teams](#) to handle the shared work of keeping our garden sites looking good and the organization operating efficiently. For the most part everyone did a great job of fulfilling their service hours last year. We need to make another run at composting and the food donation (garden gleaning) and make more progress there: these are two areas where we still need to do better. More on this at the All-Gardener's meeting. The teams you will be signing up for include:

- Composting (Organics Recycling)
- Food Donations (Garden Gleaning)
- Fundraising
- Site Leaders
- Technology
- Vacation Watering
- Administration

Click [HERE](#) for a description of the teams. The time spent on these projects will count towards the required service commitment.

Spring Crops!

Check out [THIS](#) seasonal planting guide for suggestions on spring veggies to plant and harvest.

Also, please remember to compost! We are encouraging techniques to compost within your own plots such as trenching. Please see the [January 2015 newsletter](#) for a great article on direct incorporation of organic matter back into the soil. If anyone would like to learn a little more about composting, click [HERE](#).

Spring Timeframe

- Click [HERE](#) for a short list of Helpful tips on beginning a garden!

- Please refresh yourself on the milestone dates in the Handbook. Click [HERE](#) to see it on our Web site.

Garden Design Resources

Looking for help in laying out your vegetable garden? Consider using the square-foot gardening technique. You can get to the material by clicking on these links:

[Garden Design Process](#): Garden design guide

[Sq Ft Gardening](#): Square foot spacing handout

Contact coordinators@ppcgmn.org if you have questions on this.

