

Spring Ahead!

March 2017

Volume 5, Issue 3

Are you ready?

Did the last warm streak motivate you to get your seedlings started? Were you one of those who actually got out in the garden to put a fork in the soil to see if it has thawed yet?

If so (or if not!) come talk it out at the **All-Gardener's Meeting** on March 18th. The [Evite](#) has been sent - see the following article for details.

We are receiving lots of requests from folks wanting to join the gardening ranks at the PPCG. The problem is the only availability right now are GardenShare memberships at the Towerside site.

Thanks to all of those who completed the [Survey](#). There is still time for you to do so and acquaint yourself with what will be a required step next year. We updated the [Commitment Form](#), [Gardener Handbook](#), and the Web site. And we are fine tuning the [Volunteer Hours](#) tracking process. We will review these changed at the Meeting.

So many exciting things are happening at the PPCG. It's wonderful to see so many of you plugged into building out our Urban Agrihood vision. See you at the All- Gardener's Meeting so that we can share in the excitement together.

Farmer Del

Hot Off the Press - Solar power at the Towerside site!

The Pathways to Renewable Energy Project is part of a class at the UMN that is taking the initiative to create more opportunities for renewable energy. Their group has come up with an idea to implement a solar installation in a community space, and decided a community garden would be a good place to start. They have reached out to the PPCG to see if we are interested in participating. Hummm, let me think... Among other things we could power the greenhouse and have climate control to better grow seedlings. A meeting with them is scheduled for Friday morning, March 10th. I will let you know how it goes.

All-Gardeners Meeting - March 18th

The [Evite](#) for the meeting was sent to most of you on Monday, February 20. 64% have viewed the invitation, but half have **not** RSVPed so **PLEASE** take a moment to RSVP. While space will be plentiful in the **Community Hall of the Prospect Park United Methodist Church**, 22 Orlin Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN , we still need to plan appropriately.

Once again, this is a **REQUIRED** meeting. If you are unable to attend someone must attend on your behalf. We will review policies and procedures, discuss new projects, and answer questions on your "official" plot assignments. Everyone will be required to sign the new [Commitment Form](#) and Towerside gardeners need to sign an updated Memorandum of Understanding. In addition you can sign up for your service commitments there. So again, please RSVP to the [Evite](#) so that we can plan accordingly with space, numbers of copies of the materials, etc.

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. Later in the spring we will also sponsor a plant swap. This will be an opportunity to put the extra seedlings you grow to good use and to try some new plants that others have leftover in your gardens.

Plot Fees

Thanks to all of you for getting your plot fees in by March 1st. Surprisingly we had some plots turn over at Yale and Arthur, but they were quickly filled with gardeners who have been on the waiting list. We still have a waiting list for Arthur and Yale, and perhaps for raised beds at Towerside. We do have availability for GardenShare memberships at Towerside.

Check Out Our Facebook page

Have you checked out our [Facebook page](#) recently? Someone has been busy keeping it updated! All the pics in the PicStrip this time are from there. Click to enlarge or go to the Facebook page and check them all out.

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!

- Ashley Wagner (T)
- Cindy and Bob Belgam (T)
- Dan Hudson and Sannah Kakal (Y)
- Josie Visser (T)
- Katy Polakoski (TGS)
- Shanan Seeler (T)

Worth Repeating: Changes Ahead in the Towerside Area

An [urbanist's dream of creating a new MSP Innovation District](#) that would create a [national model](#) for city living. Is emerging. The idea of an [Urban Argihood](#) is happening right before our eyes. [Rise](#) is establishing itself as a strong presence in the new downtown Prospect Park area. [Green on Forth](#), another [Prospect Park Properties](#) effort which will share the block with PPCG Towerside and the [Towerside district stormwater system](#), is scheduled for groundbreaking soon. Aeon is planning an affordable housing development across the street. A senior high rise development is planned for the corner of University and Malcolm where they hope to have a rooftop garden for their residents. And the construction for the infrastructure for [Green Forth Street](#) will begin this spring.

A [Parkland Dedication Fee](#) is being collected as part of each of these developments which is money that must be spent in the neighborhoods where it is collected. And you can bet the PPCG will have a front row seat at the table to determine how this money can be used to make this innovation district a great place to live using healthy and sustainable eating as a core value and executed through our [Urban Agrihood](#) initiatives.

So welcome aboard, fasten your seatbelts, and enjoy the ride. It's a beautiful day in the [Agrihood!](#)



SGAD Flash Mob Workday

We are thrilled that once again [Surly Gives A Damn](#) will be having a work day on April 29th from 9 AM to 11:30 AM for the PPCG projects. In addition to moving the raised beds and restoring the gravel pad at Towerside, they may help us build a senior garden area and finish the compost bin at Towerside, build Share Shelves for each site, and move the shed at the Yale site. As with last year we'll have our hands full keeping up with them so I'm going to ask that the PPCG gardeners and volunteers give them the space to do their thing and we pull the PPCG ranks in for a work day at another time. Thanks just the same to those who have offered to be there. That said, I am looking for a handful of reliable PPCG folks who can act as leaders for each SGAD work team. If you fit that bill let me know.

Thanks!

Thanks to Kit (T) for updating the Web site. Thanks to Kit (T) and Lydia (A) for updating the Handbook and Commitment Form. Thanks to Steve and Lydia for being the good cops and reminding the payment stragglers. Thanks to Steve for keeping our books in order.

The collage features five gardening guides from the University of Minnesota Extension:

- 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** - Prepared by Mary Weisz, University of Minnesota Extension, Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013.

Accompanying the guides is a large, stylized sun icon with a smiling face.