

PPCG NEWS—FEBRUARY 2018

Awake Yet...???

February 2018

Volume 6, Issue 2

Are you getting ready?

Even though the beginning of February has been pretty chilly, it's time to consider getting your seedlings started. I planted seeds for my spring annuals a couple of weeks ago.

We will have our **All-Gardeners' Meeting** on March 24th. There will be some changes this year to who needs to attend and when - see the following article for details. An Evite will be sent soon.

We are signing up folks wanting to join the gardening ranks at the PPCG. Arthur and Yale are full. We did have some turnover at Yale but we had folks in the wings ready to take those spots. We do have raised beds and GardenShare memberships available at the Towerside site. As if things haven't evolved enough at Towerside in the past two years, we have even more plans for how to take that site and our involvement in the surrounding area to the next level. For a glimpse into our future, please see the More Changes Ahead article on Page 2.

The PPCG Steering Committee met on January 31st to figure out how we move forward and continue to strengthen our operations. More on that below.

So prepare yourself for what's ahead as the vision for our Urban Agrihood for Prospect Park becomes a reality. Some important planning meetings are coming up that we need you to attend so we can hear from you. I'm excited to share more of this news with you at the All-Gardeners' Meeting.

Del

All-Gardeners Meeting (March 24th)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We will have a **REQUIRED** All-Gardeners Meeting on **Saturday March 24th**, in the **Community Hall at the Prospect Park United Methodist Church**, 22 Orin Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. If you have not attended an All-Gardeners' Meeting previously, you are **required** to be there from **10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**, for both the **Orientation** (10 AM to 11

AM) and the **Site Breakouts**. If you have been to a required meeting in the past you can show up for just the Site Breakouts (11 AM to 12 PM). If you are unable to be there please have someone attend on your behalf. This will be a great opportunity to reunite with your fellow gardeners. This is also where you can sign up for your service commitments. Additionally we will review our policies, procedures, and projects and answer any questions. And you can catch up with any outstanding paperwork. Please RSVP to the Evite we will send soon.

A REMINDER: PLOT FEES!!!

If you haven't already done so, the fees are **due March 1st**. Fees paid by March 1 will remain the same as 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 Towerside GardenShare which includes soil and hydroponic plantings. PLEASE TAKE NOTE that after March 1, fees will increase to \$35 for a full plot and \$15 for a 4x8 raised bed at Towerside. Half plots and the Towerside GardenShare will remain at \$20.

Please mail (preferred), walk, or run payment to:

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

Remember, we will not be chasing after people this year. **THIS IS YOUR FINAL NOTICE**. If we have not received payment by **March 1st**, we will release your plot or raised bed to someone else. So don't wait - please **get your payment in NOW**.

Thanks!

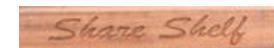
Thanks to Alex (T), Cheryl (T), Hanna [and Trigg] (T), Kit (T), Lydia (A), Vera (A), for the great Steering Committee Meeting on January 31st. I trust you realize how important your active involvement is to the future of the Garden.

Lydia will be retiring as the Site Coordinator for Arthur and Kit for Towerside. Hanna will continue as Coordinator for GardenShare. We are looking for a Site Coordinator at Yale. Cheryl will be the Events Coordinator. More on that role in the March newsletter and at the Meeting.

Welcome to the New Gardener!

See the article on Page 2.

PicStrip:



PPCG NEWS—PAGE 2

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Welcome New Gardeners!

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

- Olivia Tarlton (T)
- Seamus Kane (Y)
- Sean McKenna (T)

More 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 building continues to emerge.](#) The idea of an [Urban Arghood](#) is happening right before our eyes. [The Link](#) is open for business and the [Fresh Thyme](#) grocery store will open in April. [Green on Fourth](#), which will share the block with PPCG Towerside and the [Towerside district stormwater system](#), broke ground in late January.

Please **mark your calendars** for the [MPRB Planning Meeting and Park Design Session](#) for the parks in the neighborhood on **Thursday, February 22nd, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Luxton Park building**. This is your best opportunity to personally tell the MPRB that we want a strong urban agriculture presence in our parks going forward. The event is open to the public and light refreshments and children's activities will be provided.

What's in it for us? Prospect Park in particular is sitting on well over \$1MM of Parkland Dedication Fee money because of all the new development that is occurring along University Ave and northward. This money needs to be spent in our neighborhood. The feedback at THIS meeting will go a long way toward determining how that money will be spent. **We want the progress we have made at PPCG Towerside to remain** in some form!!! Another exciting development I have heard recently is creating a Bridal Veil Trail which will [begin to] connect East River Road with St Anthony Blvd in NE Minneapolis and thereby completing the Grand Round in this area. This is SOOOOO exciting! The short message is that **WE NEED YOU AT THIS MEETING!**

The PPCG has a front row seat at the table developing these plans to make Prospect Park a great place to live using healthy and sustainable eating as a core value and executed through our [Urban Agrihood](#) initiatives. So welcome aboard, keep you seatbelts fastened, and continue to enjoy the ride. It's a beautiful day in the [Agrihood!](#)

Venture Academy Internship Continues

We are working again with some Venture Academy students. As you may recall last year they built the demonstration senior-friendly beds at Towerside and the planter boxes for the Hanging Gardens of Towerside. On the docket for projects with them this spring are to build a produce cart so that we can deliver fresh produce throughout the neighborhood, signs for the Steve Weeks' Share Shelves, and rebuild

the shed at Yale. You can find the presentation we used for the Steering Committee Meeting [HERE](#). See more on this effort and the other PPCG projects planned for 2018. The presentation for the All Gardeners' Meeting will take root from this version.

Thanks to Lydia for making this valuable connection with Venture Academy!



Seed Swap

At the end of the All Gardeners' Meeting we'll have a **Seed Swap** again. Bring some of your extra seeds and swap them with others who have seeds you would like to try.

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 Weisz
University of Minnesota Extension
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013