

Burrrrrr...

January 2018

Volume 6, Issue 1

Happy New Year!

How have you been handling these last two cold streaks? Will the upcoming warm stretch get you stirring? Yes, it may not be time to come out of hibernation but it is time to start thinking about the gardening season.

We survived another year of construction at the PPCG Towerside site. Fourth Street has been rebuilt and The Rise across the street is leasing. The Fresh Thyme grocery store is scheduled to open in April. The place is looking fabulous. The Arthur and Yale sites were at full capacity and had a good year in 2017. Arthur has a new shed. We will rebuild the one at Yale this spring with the help of the Venture Academy interns.

It breaks my heart to share with you that we lost Steve Weeks, our Site Coordinator at Yale, in December. His cancer returned and after a valiant effort he lost the battle. We can honor him by using the Share Shelves he built for us last year. Plans are in motion to have the Venture interns make engraved wooden signs for them

Stay tuned for news on the required **All-Gardener's Meeting** this year. We are considering making some changes to the required attendance policy for those who have participated in previous years. See the February newsletter article for details.

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

Dahlia Del

First Things First:

CONFIRM YOU ARE COMING BACK!!!

Complete the SURVEY so that we can collect accurate gardener information. This will also let us know that you plan to return this year.

SEND IN YOUR DUES!!!

The fees will remain the same in 2018: \$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 deliver payment 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**.

PPCG Towerside for Urban Ag

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) is engaging in a community engagement process to develop an East of the River Parks Master Plan.

We need to you complete THIS survey to share your thoughts, ideas and experiences to help create long-term plan for parks in NE/SE Minneapolis. This work will significantly impact the new green spaces we develop in the new Towerside Innovation District, the new area being developed north of University Ave. **I can't stress how important this is to the future of the PPCG Towerside site as a community garden.** Please provide your feedback TODAY!!!!

The East of the River Park Master Plan will create cohesive long-term plans for 36 Minneapolis park properties east of the Mississippi River. The project launched last fall. Since then, MPRB staff have hosted two official Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings, visited 18 different community events and worked with a Youth Design Team to begin developing the plan.

Feedback on the Web Site

In 2017 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. Please give us some feedback on how it was to use the new Website functionality so that we can continue to make improvements.

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 know who is not returning, but we have picked up some possible new gardeners this year. Welcome aboard!

- Belle & Sandra (Y)
- Maddy Bartsch (Y)
- Thomas Brennan (T)

Service Projects

Again in 2018 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.

