

Winding Down

October 2017

Volume 5, Issue 5

Reflecting on the Great Season

The productive gardening season hangs on, huh? Still raining and not too hot or too cold so that we can continue to harvest as long as the plants have oomph. The long, warm fall weather help those tomatoes and peppers that were slow to produce.

It was great to see the huge gathering of people at the 2017 Harvest Festival! A good time was had by all.

But now the days are getting much shorter and the nights cooler. The first light frost for us is just a few days away. See the article below about winding down your gardens.

Will you be returning next year? I know it's a bit early to ask the question but by February I need to be a sense of what space will be available for new gardeners. Mind the milestones early next year if you plant to hold on to your plots and/or raised beds.

Happy Harvesting!

Farmer (or Dahlia) Del

2017 / 2018 Gardening Milestones

- October 31st - Fall clean-up completed. Please read pages 3 and 4 of the [PPCG Handbook](#) for clean-up requirements.
- Feb 1st - Complete survey
- March 1st - Plot fees due
- Mid March 1st - Required All-Gardeners Meeting

Harvest Fest on Oct 7th

We had an amazing turnout at the Fall Harvest Festival! It was a beautiful, sunny fall day and the pizza from the brick oven was fantastic. See the pics in the PicStrip. And remember that you can click on the pics to enlarge.

Thanks to the PPCG volunteers who lined up additional support, cleaned up the garden space, helped with the set up, staffed the food and beverage tables., and helped with the tear down.

Winding Down the 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.

Water Access

The City has pulled the water meters from the hydrants that service the Arthur and Towerside sites so you will need to provide your own water if necessary. The water at Yale will stay connected as long as the weather allows.

The road and sidewalk construction has damage the water lines at Towerside. Our irrigation contractor has repaired it once so that we could continue to have water this fall. Now we will wait until the spring when the construction is completed to repair the line and reconnect to the hydrant.

PPCG Sites for 2018

We have been quietly expanding the list of PPCG sites. On the slate for next year:

- PPCG Arthur - Community Garden site
- PPCG Bedford - Pollinator and giving garden
- PPCG Franklin - Pollinator garden
- PPCG Seymour - Memorial and pollinator garden
- PPCG Towerside - Community Garden site
- PPCG Yale - Community Garden site
- The Hanging Gardens of Towerside - Ornamental vertical garden

Welcome to the New Gardeners!

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. And we are getting inquiries about garden space for 2018. The additions since the last newsletter follow. Welcome aboard!

- Maegan Johnson (Towerside)

Donating your Extra Produce

Don't let your extra produce go to waste!!! The [Glendale Food Shelf](#) and [Teamsters Helping Teamsters Food Shelf](#), both right in our own side yards, 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. You can also leave it in the Share Shelves at each site so that passers by can enjoy it. So please don't let the wonderful fresh produce go to waste in your gardens!

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

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

Teamsters Food Shelf
3001 University Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Hours:
Tuesday & Wednesday:
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Packing up the garden for the season

The time is upon us to pack up for the season. We need to disconnect the hoses, blow out the water lines, and pack up the other water infrastructure equipment. **If you are willing to help with that, please let us know.** We'll schedule a day for the work.

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 already receiving requests from gardeners who want to be a part of our community in 2018 so we are penciling them in for raised beds and plots we know will be available for next year. 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.



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VGB 1: Getting Ready to Garden

Prepared by: Dal Hampton
University of Minnesota Extension
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013

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VGB 2: Planting Your Garden

Prepared by: Dal Hampton
University of Minnesota Extension
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013

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VGB 3: Veggies One By One

Prepared by: Mollie Dean
University of Minnesota Extension
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013

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VGB 4: Designing Your Garden

Prepared by: Julie Davis
University of Minnesota Extension
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013

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VGB 5: Maintain Your Garden

My garden is all planted. Now what!

Prepared by: Mary Stewart
University of Minnesota Extension
Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County 2013

