



INDIANA COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

Greetings! The Indiana Community Garden will soon inaugurate its very first year. In order to keep everyone informed of the garden's progress and needs, we plan to publish a newsletter on a regular basis. Welcome to our first issue.

What We Have Accomplished

As you know, we have a dedicated space for the Indiana Community Garden, located on approximately one acre of Mack Park, closest to the intersection of South Sixth Street and Carter Avenue. We have now marked our space by a colorful, eye-catching banner displayed on the exterior, corner fence and visible from both streets.

We have received approximately \$700 in monetary donations and several donations in kind:

- Risinger has donated ten tons of their highest-grade topsoil and has promised free delivery.
- Bonnie Plants will donate enough plants for at least one of the 8' x 16' "community" beds
- The Indiana Garden Club has committed to planting one of the corner 4'x 20' beds.
- We are awaiting a decision by Lowe's regarding a donation of lumber for the shed/pavilion and possibly beds.

A group of students from IUP's Department of Geography and Regional Planning are working on the overall design of the garden. We have finalized our list of rules and regulations for gardeners, and thirteen individuals have committed to gardening a plot for

the 2012 growing season. In addition, Horace Mann Elementary School and Cucina Mia Restaurant have expressed interest in getting involved in some capacity.

The garden project has received excellent early publicity through an article in the *Penn* and a forthcoming, front-page piece in the *Indiana Gazette*.

We have a bank account, a website, and—as you can see—a newsletter in the works!

What Is to Be Done

This is a critical moment for the ICG: **fundraising must go into high gear!** We will not be able to build and fill with soil all of the raised beds we hope to have in place this year—not to mention build our shed/pavilion and arch—without more funds in the account. Our goal is to raise \$1,500 by April 2, and we ask that all readers of this newsletter do their best to participate in fundraising. The following information is useful when approaching potential donors:

- \$100 covers the cost of lumber and soil for a 4' x 12' raised bed. Anyone donating this amount becomes an official sponsor of a bed and will be recognized with a plaque displaying his/her name.

- \$42 covers the cost of lumber for a 4' x 12' raised bed.

- \$58 covers the cost of topsoil for a 4' x 12' raised bed.

Sandi Petkus has put together an effective sponsorship flyer; if you have not received a copy, please contact her at sdpetkus2@gmail.com.

But most importantly—ANY level of commitment is most appreciated! All checks should be made out to Penn State Extension/ Special Account.

Volunteers for many other aspects of ICG development are of course welcome: please contact Marie Olson at molson88@verizon.net.

Important Dates

March 24: Organizational Meeting
We will gather at the Penn State Extension Office's first-floor meeting room at 827 Water Street. Time: 10:00 a.m.

April 14: Building Day
This is "D-Day" for the ICG! We will be organizing teams to place, build, and fill raised beds at our garden site on this day. In case of inclement weather, we will shift this date to April 21. Time: dawn to dusk (individual schedules to be arranged)

