

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 03-05-03) , ©2005

Vegetable gardening season is upon us. If your own garden isn't conducive to growing vegetables and you've always wanted to try your luck you might want to lease a p-patch through: Bainbridge Island Parks & Rec at 206-842-2036; Bremerton Parks & Rec 360-478-5305; and (Poulsbo) North Kitsap Parks & Rec 360-779-9898. Bremerton's patch is on Sylvan Way near Pine Road; the Bainbridge location is at Battle Point; and Raab Park is the p-patch area for Poulsbo. P-Patch plots are usually very low cost between \$25 to \$35 per year per plot. The fees usually cover water and other amendments.

Community related gardens are also sprouting up all over Kitsap County. BUGS (Bremerton Urban Garden Society) has entered into a partnership with Bremerton Foodline to put in p-patches to grow fresh vegetables for Foodline or harvested directly by the residents who plant and tend the gardens. For more details contact Mac Black at 360-373-0614 to volunteer your time and talents. You can also help BUGS out at Matan's Garden P-Patch in Anderson Cove in Bremerton. BUGS goal is to promote organic earth-friendly gardening throughout Bremerton. Donors to either of these gardens can contact Mac Black or Foodline.

One group of project volunteers from Leadership Kitsap's Class of 2003 is working diligently organizing and funding a community garden and p-patch at the Port Orchard Care Center. A dedication ceremony is planned to coincide with the Care Center's annual Easter Egg hunt on April 20. The group is looking for donations of: benches, tables, arbors, fountains, art, plants, trees or shrubs. These items can be made in memory of a loved one and may be marked by the donor with a small brass plaque or similar engraving. Leadership Kitsap project volunteers will visit any organization or group with a presentation on this project. For more information or to make donations contact Deanna Peck, 360-396-8919 or email Deanna.k.peck@lmco.com.

WSU Master Gardeners are creating a small community garden for the residents of the Retsil Veterans Home. Megan Allen 360-876-5233 is the contact for this project for donations of plants or funding.

WSU Master Gardeners on Bainbridge Island are beginning their third p-patch gardening year at Helpline House. The garden is moving this year from the driveway area to the west side of Helpline House. The Master Gardeners would welcome help in moving the garden on Saturday March 8. Contact Rick Holben at 206-855-1769 or Elizabeth Vroom at 206-842-4489. I'm sure they'd accept donations for this worthy garden too.

The Kitsap Community Garden Foundation has just celebrated its second anniversary. The KCGF is a private not-for-profit organization promoting and supporting community organic gardening in Kitsap County. The Foundation works in partnership with public agencies and private support. By planting the seeds of leadership, resources and education, the KCGF can provide individuals and families in Kitsap County an opportunity to enrich their lives and participate in the growth and stewardship of

community gardening. You can contact the KCGF by calling 360-337-7224 or by sending correspondence to P.O. Box 2673 Poulsbo WA 98370.

Senior residents at Martha and Mary Care Center in Poulsbo donated 96 pounds of produce to Fishline Foodbank last year from their garden. The residents have created a wonderful gardening. To support their gardening expenses they've created a great calendar showcasing photos of their beautiful garden. To purchase a calendar for ten dollars stop by Martha and Mary on Front Street in Poulsbo.

The groups mentioned in today's column are 501C3 organizations and any donations are tax-deductible.

Kitsap County's WSU Cooperative Extension Office has numerous publications available for advice on growing your own fruits and vegetables. Stop in the office at 715 Sidney in Port Orchard or call 360-337-7157 for more information. Seattle Tilth's "The Maritime Northwest Garden Guide" available at local garden centers and nurseries and also through Tilth 206-633-0451 or www.seattletilth.org is the best month-by-month guide I've found for information on growing in our area.

Contact Peg in care of this newspaper or email at ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us or gardenmentor@yahoo.com