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Winter 2021

A PERIODIC UPDATE ON QUEEN ANNE AVENUE STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS FROM THE FOLKS AT PPQA

We hope this newsletter finds you doing well and continuing to stay safe. Congratulations if you've received your vaccine!!

HEY, THERE'S A SOFTWARE ENGINEER WITH PRUNING SHEARS IN THE GARDENS!



Proof positive that this has been another warm winter for the record books:

- Margaret's eight-year-old grandson who eats his way through her garden during the summer has been able to continue to feast on his favorite garden green, sorrel, as well as on arugula, and mint this winter.
- Marianna Clark, PPQA's professional gardener, has told us that the Salvia 'hot lips' and Penstemon haven't gone dormant, as is their usual custom. "It's hard to prune things when they're still green and looking good."

Still, the calendar says it's winter. When we caught up with Marianna in February, she was cutting back the red twig dogwood in the large Galer bed. She was picking out particular twigs she thought could grow into new plants and neatly stacking them. These she was planning to use in the garden of a financially strapped client. In December, she took clippings from plants to create festive containers for the holidays.

Winter in the gardens is for pruning and preparing the beds for spring. Marianna is very methodical in her approach and, as you can see, employs sustainable gardening techniques. She likes to prune the perennials in turn in each bed. She lets the fallen leaves from autumn remain in the beds to feed the worms and protect the soil. Right now the beds are nice and full, and the ground cover is doing its job beautifully.

Originally from Texas where tumbleweeds, cotton, and dust dominated the landscape, she has found Seattle and the Northwest to be a veritable plant paradise.

So, what's this about a software engineer with pruning shears in our gardens?? Well, Marianna Clark is a software engineer who worked at her computer for 20+ years before she was laid off in the tech bust of 2001. Living here and being given numerous rose bushes by relatives who equated roses with Seattle and expected that of course she knew how to care for them, inspired her to enroll in South Seattle Community College to learn about plants (among them roses!) and pursue degrees in landscape horticulture and design. She got involved with Plant Amnesty, serving on the board, helping out with pruning and gardening at yard make-overs, and organizing pruning classes and workshops.



And now, here she is, 20 years later, in the gardens at Galer, Boston, and McGraw—deadheading flowers, pulling weeds, and pruning away! She loves it when people stop by and let her know how much they appreciate the gardens. Thanks to Marianna, the gardens provide much to be admired and appreciated.

Last year, PPQA earned \$49.89 from the purchases you made at [amazon smile](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile). While this may not seem like much, it represents another ongoing donation stream that flows directly into the garden beds. One of PPQA's longtime donors who makes sure she shops using this [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile) link, was happily surprised to learn that purchases she made between Dec 2020-Feb 2021 contributed to the \$29.36 that Amazon most recently donated to PPQA.

NEW PAVERS IN THE LARGE GALER GARDEN BED

We invite you to stop by and take a look at the new pavers located curbside just south of the driveway at Galer & Queen Anne Ave. We're thrilled that, thanks to those whose inscriptions you see on the pavers, we were finally able to complete this pathway.

We were very fortunate to be able to work with Bernie Clites of Artistic Sandblasting in Snohomish in this endeavor—one that was made all the more challenging by the pandemic and the retirement of Donna Wescott at Mammoth Stoneworks. Though busy with large public projects, Bernie was able to fit our project into her schedule, locate the needed pavers, and make a trip to the gardens to be sure she could match the font, special embellishment, and spacing that Donna used on the original pavers. Indeed she could and she did a great job!

Thanks to our donors, as well as to Denny Bird, who picked up the completed pavers and, with help from Ellen Monrad, laid them into the bed. Enjoy your walk in the garden!



We're excited to be a part of giveBIG again this year!! Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this two-day online fundraising extravaganza. This is your BIG opportunity to help raise \$10,000 to provide professional maintenance and watering so the gardens remain beautiful and welcoming to all.

You Can Be Tending The Gardens Every Time You Shop at Bartells and Amazon.

Sign up for a Bartells "B" Card at the checkout counter. Designate Picture Perfect Queen Anne as a nonprofit you'd like to support. Then be sure to use your "B" Card every time you shop at any Bartells.

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile). This link takes you directly to [amazonsmile](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile), where you'll be able to shop as you always do and Amazon will automatically donate 0.5% of what you spend on qualifying purchases to PPQA!

May Your Garden Grow!
Denny, Ellen, Judy, Kathy, Laura, Margaret

Plant. Weed. Water. Repeat.

