

#18 March 2020

# Green Thoughts

*Conversations and ideas about growing at The Spring Gardens*

Eventually we will mostly forget the drab phrases of this unique season – “shelter in place”; “keep social distance”; “flattening the curve”; “COVID-19” “I am a stable genius”. Instead, as



we do each year, we will tend our little pieces of land. Spring, yes spring (!), comes to the northern hemisphere, including our garden, on 19 March (11:50 PM for you equinox watchers). We gardeners tend to have a long view. It takes time and optimism to plant seeds or seedlings and expect to harvest months later. Our plots in the beloved Spring Gardens beckon us to plant. Green Thoughts would like to bring you some cheer and update you



on some of the plants that fellow gardeners are *already* growing this parlous year. All the photos were taken within TSG on 17 March. We hope you enjoy the photo album.

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## Crops started last fall that wintered over



spinach



kale



more spinach



red leaf lettuce

**Crops started from seed in January/February 2020**



beets



snap peas



kohlrabi

**Perennials**



chives



asparagus spears just emerging  
(see blue arrows)

large rosemary plant  
in flower



**Other Plants**



last year's parsley perking up



jonquils



magnolia



## **Water update**

The Gardens now has a permanent connection to City water. It originates on the North Street side. We also have a set of underground pipes, 3 feet down, i.e., below the frost line, that distribute the water to four locations along the main east/west paths. At the edge of the central lawn are 4 “hydrants” that emerge from the underground each topped with a lever-valve on them. (The adjacent clusters of vertical pipes that are capped on top are for electrical and electronic conduits) For this year the water will be connected in an ad hoc manner to the old underground PVC pipes that are connected to the faucets that are adjacent to the blue barrels. The barrels are filled with water twice daily by the very conscientious Water Committee. The water hook-up will be made in the next few weeks or sooner.

## **The bee roller coaster**

On warm days in early January we saw bees emerging from the hive in the northeast corner. Alas, we haven't seen any bee activity in the last two weeks.

Meanwhile fellow gardener Trish d’P has found a timely chart of bee-friendly flowers to plant (next page). A new honey bee colony will be ordered if necessary.





Please send your ideas, thoughts,  
suggestions and observations to:  
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that address can also be used for getting  
on the mailing list for **Green Thoughts**, or  
getting off.  
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be found on The Spring Gardens Website under  
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