

**From:** Aalt Brouwer <aalt@ironsprings.net>  
**Date:** Mon, 3 May 2010 09:51:58 -0700  
**To:** Patty Lasker<pat92@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** Lew Rees<lew@fainsignaturegroup.com>; Brad Fain<brad@fainsignaturegroup.com>; Ron Barnes<ronbarnes@cableone.net>; Ramon Ortega<ramon.ortega@aps.com>  
**Subject:** Community Garden

Dear Councilwoman Lasker,

My name is Aalt. I'm responding to your request for information about the community garden on behalf of Lew Rees. We greatly appreciate your interest in the project. Please let me know how I can help.

The community garden is an idea that grew out of concern among members of Prescott Area Leadership regarding hungry children in Prescott Valley. In 2009, 55% of Humboldt Unified School District children qualified for the school lunch program. According to Arizona Department of Education reports, 78% of children at Lake Valley Elementary, and 82% of children at Mountain View Elementary schools qualified in 2009. More families are applying this year.

Our children and their families need help. Prescott Area Leadership is supporting this project as a way to feed hungry children through supplying nutritious food to Prescott Valley charities and schools that distribute it to those in need. We also hope to use the garden as a vehicle for bringing community members together to share a community building experience - to garden, to learn about growing food, to build relationships by working together toward a good cause, and to make a difference in our community. We believe it is particularly critical to make every effort to build community spirit during an economic downturn and the tension and uncertainty that accompanies it. What better way than gardening together and helping kids go to bed fed?

Prescott Area Leadership has already been joined by some wonderful partners in this project, including Brad Fain, Lew Rees, the Fain Signature group, Albertsons, and Ace Hardware. Fain signature group is offering over an acre of land for our garden. We hope to get many community members involved by offering family garden plots as well as opportunities to work the community space. Family plots will comprise less than half of the garden. The majority will provide space for community crops and a kids garden to interactively teach our children about the wonderful experience of planting a seed and enjoying the crop it produces. Offering family plots for a low rental fee will help to sustain the garden and provide families with the joy of gardening together. There will be hands-on classes to help folks learn about gardening in our area.

Time is critical. We need to get the garden planted within the next few weeks. A community garden in Prescott at the Prescott YMCA is already planted, and provides a model. They offer the same mix of family, children's garden, and community space, and have found that working together in the community garden is the most popular and

fulfilling part of their garden. We need to get started now on our Prescott Valley garden, so we produce full crops this season.

You are welcome to contact me with questions and comments. We hope to have even more information after an important meeting of the garden partners tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Aalt

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