



Our PV Community Garden

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27 January 2012

The Honorable Harvey Skoog, Mayor
Town of Prescott Valley
7501 E. Civic Circle
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

Dear Mayor Skoog:

Mr. Ryan Judy, at the instruction of Mr. Larry Tarkowski, requested that I send you a letter updating you on the status of the garden's water allocation. In May of 2010, the Town agreed to provide the garden with \$2,000 for water. It was to be divided between your 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 fiscal years. Due to various delays, the garden was unable to plant until last year. We only used \$386.05 during the first fiscal year. However, even though we're only half way through this fiscal year, we have exceeded our allocation by approximately \$150.

Therefore, I am writing to request that the Town provide additional funding in the amount of \$613.95 (which is the balance remaining from our first year) to see us through until July 1. That will bring the total expenditure for the Town for our water to the agreed upon \$2,000.

We'd like to assure you that our top priority is to never waste water. To that end, we installed a very efficient drip irrigation system with a separate timer for every eight plots. The timers are adjusted repeatedly during the season based on precipitation.

As you're probably aware, we were able to donate 2,686 pounds of food to Yavapai Food Bank last year because our various sponsors made it possible for us to grow food. This year we're working on setting up a food distribution system that will directly benefit and involve families with students enrolled in HUSD who have been identified by the teaching staff as most in need of the food.

This year we're adding eight additional plots. Our new community plots are being developed as a children's garden so that their teachers can bring them to the garden on field trips, and they can get the chance to learn how to grow food. Due to lack of funding, the schools aren't able to pay for transportation to the garden, so we will pay for the transportation because we think it's

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imperative to involve children and add an educational component to the garden. When the school year ends, the plan is for the identified families to come out once a week to help harvest and then take home the food.

We also have plans to develop a flower garden with the flowers being donated to area agencies who will take them to shut-ins.

Due to the expansion and our plans to begin planting earlier this year (the end of February as opposed to mid April) the garden will require more water. For next fiscal year we estimate the water will run around \$1,500, and are, therefore, requesting that our water allocation be increased. With continued community support, it is our intention to enlarge the garden in 2013 and every year thereafter until the entire plot (less parking) is under cultivation.

Mayor Skoog, it is our fervent hope that the Town of Prescott Valley will be able to find a way to continue providing the water for this unique and very worthwhile cause.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Flores

cc: Larry Tarkowski
Ryan Judy
Ron Barnes