

# THE PATCH POST



T H E G A R D E N P A T C H C O M M U N I T Y N E W S

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Avondale Backs the Garden to the Tune of \$3,000
- Breakfast turns to Dinner
- Remember to Signup to do your part
- Donate to the Fence Project.

[www.signupgenius.com/findasignup](http://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup)

with our email:  
garden.patch@yahoo.com



## SPRING HAS BEEN BOUNTIFUL

The past few months have been a really fruitful for the Garden. Vitally needed record rains and cooler temperatures were delightful. The peach and apricot harvesting was enjoyed by gardeners and guest during May's Community Day breakfast. Tomatoes are plentiful and the squash and zucchinis are growing to monstrous proportions. Even our garden family has grown. Two new families have joined us and we even have a returning gardener. Welcome back Albert (E-3)!

Special thanks goes out to Stephanie Karlin, Garden Patch Founder, Garden patch Ad Hoc board member (2010–2015) and Avondale City Vice Mayor (2015-2016). On June 1st,

Stephanie presented the Avondale City Council with a proposal on behalf of the Garden, for some funding



Vice Mayor Stephanie Karlin

from the City to help maintain, improve, and grow the Garden. She urged the Council for \$3,000/year in support. After some friendly discussion about the Garden's value to the City, and

the possible "Slippery Slope" of misuse of City resources and personal, the Council agreed to provide the Garden with a one time payment of \$3,000 out of the City's General Fund, and a request for donations of additional funds from the individual Councilmen's and City Departments' discretionary funds. The City has agreed to re-examine the their support for the Garden on a yearly basis with consideration of how the funds have been unutilized.

The Board will discuss how we should use this very generous gift from the City. Completing the fencing, installing watering system for the trees, and community outreach and assistance programs are possi-

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## MORNING TO NIGHT

With temperature rising and the sun rising earlier than should be legal, we have decided to have dinner instead of breakfast for Community Day during the summer months.

Our next Community Day will be Friday, June 19th with a spaghetti dinner

served at 7PM. The homemade pasta sauce was made with ingredients from the Garden. John and Lyn (I-3) donated tomatoes. Onions, garlic and herbs came from Scott (H-1) and Dawn (J-2). Albert (E-3) has offered to bring homemade artisan bread.

If you would like to help, please go to [www.signupgenius.com/findasignup](http://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup) with our email: garden.patch@yahoo.com.



Any help you can provide, with any of the tasks, would be greatly appreciated.

TOTAL OCCUPIED PLOTS: 23

LAST MONTH'S WATER BILL : \$145.75

MONTHLY COST PER PLOT: \$8.80

## BEATING THE SUMMER HEAT

June is the driest month of the year but so far this month, but this past weekend the Arizona broke records – first time in 100 years that it rained on June 6<sup>th</sup>. That's good news, we can all use the moisture, but it is still going to get hot.

Summer can be challenging, not just for us people, but also for our plants, which must endure our hot dry summers. Here are few things that may help to make your summertime gardening more successful for you and your plants. Healthy plants are more resistant to the stress of hot weather, more resistant to sunburn, and more

resistant to pests and diseases. Healthy plants also recover quicker from any of these problems.

Which brings us to watering, be sure to check your automatic watering systems for leaks. Remember to water to a depth of 12 inches to keep your veggies and herbs hydrated. If you were watering every three days, increase it to every other day. Usually 30 minutes will suffice to wet the entire root zone. This is only a guideline as only you can tell how fast and how much water your soil can soak up. Applying a 3" layer of mulch or

other coarse organic material can help conserve moisture, moderate soil temperatures, and help keep weed populations down. Check the batteries in your timer, you surely don't want to arrive at the garden and find everything dried out because the timer stopped working.

Don't forget about Yourself. Drink lots of water. Drink before going out and working in the sun. Drink after coming in out of the sun. Dehydration comes on quickly and at the point you realize that you are dehydrated, you could be in some dire straits.



Keep hydrated.

Also check out these websites for many practical choices in sun protective clothing:

Duluth Trading Company  
[www.duluthtrading.com](http://www.duluthtrading.com)  
 Sunday Afternoons  
[www.sundayafternoons.com](http://www.sundayafternoons.com)

## WHAT TO PLANT IN JUNE

Armenian cucumber, basil, black-eyed peas, pinto beans, yardlong beans, sunflowers, snap cantaloupe, okra, corn, sweet potatoes (transplants/slips), eggplant, pumpkin, peanuts, squash (zucchini, Straight Neck), Winter squash (Butternut, Spaghetti, Acorn), tomatillos, and watermelon, jicama, Malabar spinach.

*"I walk without flinching through the burning cathedral of the summer. My bank of wild grass is majestic and full of music. It is a fire that solitude presses against my lips."*

*~Diolette Leduc,  
Mad in Pursuit*

The fun of growing vegetables is eating them, but it is sometimes difficult to tell when they are ready. Use some of the following tips to determine when your vegetables are ready to eat:

Pick cantaloupe when the skin is well netted and the fruit slips from the vine with a little pressure.

Corn is ready to eat when the tassels turn brown, milk comes out of the kernels if they are gently cut with a fingernail, and all the kernels are full-size.

Use eggplant once the skin is firm, dark, and shiny and the fruit has quit growing. Oriental-type eggplants can be harvested any time after they are 3 inches long, and they keep longer on the plant without becoming bitter than do other varieties.

Most peppers are sweeter after they turn color, but pick them when they are full-size and the skin is firm and shiny.

Watermelon is ready when

## Up Coming Events

June 19th Community Day in the Garden  
 7:00PM Spaghetti Diner, board meeting, and socializing

the fruit has quit becoming larger, it feels heavy for its size, and the tendrils closest to the fruit begin to turn brown. Ripe watermelons often have yellow spots on the underside.

Cucumbers and summer squash are best they are small. Pick while the flower is still attached or when fruit is less than 4 inches long.

Keep an eye out for "Citrus Drop", it is a naturally occurring way for citrus to thin out fruit. Ex-

pect citrus trees to drop small immature fruit this month.

Caterpillars (worms) will be on the increase- remove them by hand and squish them, or use B.T. (*Bacillus Thuringiensis*) to help control them.



By Master Gardener:  
 Esmie Avila (B-2)

**SIGNUP GENIUS**

There is a lot of work to do in order to keep a Community Garden operating. The Garden Patch has been trying out some new idea with the hopes that it would be easier for you, the Gardeners, to help.

Dawn, our Garden Volunteer Chairperson, has been separating some of the maintenance duties that need to get done. Her hope is that we can get enough members to signup for 1 or 2 small jobs ever week, that no one person has to shoulder more than their share.

Dawn has setup a few of the

tasks on a website called Signup Genius

With signup Genius, you can view all the tasks that have been listing, see the requirements for the task, see what your fellow gardeners have signed up for, find an available date and time that works with your schedule, and signup for that task. You will receive an email 2 days before your scheduled day for that task. If you signup, but find out later that the date you picked no longer works for you, you can swap/trade dates with other Gardeners.

Signing up for a task is easy. When a new task is created with Signup Genius, you will receive an email. Simply click on the link in the email and you're there.

If you would like to view all of the tasks that the Garden Patch has, click the link below and type in our email address (garden.patch@yahoo.com)

[www.signupgenius.com/findasignup](http://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup)



**COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE MONTH**

**Silvia Zavala** (F-1 & E-2)

Silvia has been helping a fellow gardener take back their plot. Life got in the way of gardening, and weeds took over to the point that they were to overwhelmed. Even though Silvia is still in the process of setting up her own plots, she stepped in to help.

Thank you from all of us at the Garden!

Working together is what make us a Community.

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS**

The Yarosh (Yar-ish) family, Dawn, Scott, and Tyler, joined the Garden Patch in December, 2012. Scott leased the plot as a Christmas gift for Dawn.



Dawn, Tyler, & Scott Yarosh (H-1 & J-2)

Scott said "Our ultimate goal is to build a self-sustainable subsistence homestead farm to retire on. We know that it won't happen overnight, and there are a lot of thing to learn before we can survive solely on what we produce ourselves." "Learning how to grow our own crops, what works and what doesn't, is one of the most important things to know. That's why we joined the Garden Patch. It was the first step toward achieving our dreams."

They know that it sounds crazy to say that they plan to move to the middle of the desert and live on whatever they can grow, raise, build, or recycle/repurpose, but "if you break it down into small steps and take your time, you can accomplish anything."

*"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken"*

*~James Dent*

**PLOT TO POT**  
RECIPES FROM THE GARDEN

**10 Minute Tomato Sauce**

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup [onion](#)
- 2 tablespoons [butter](#)
- 1/4 teaspoon [dried oregano](#)
- 1/2 teaspoon [salt](#)
- 2 [garlic cloves](#), crushed
- 28 ounce [crushed tomatoes](#)
- 1/4 teaspoon [sugar](#)
- 1 tablespoon [olive oil](#)
- 2 tablespoons [fresh basil](#), chopped

Instructions

- Melt butter in saucepan over medium heat. Add 1/4 cup onion. Sauté 2 minutes. Add oregano and 1/2 tsp salt. Cook with stirring 3 minutes until onions begin to brown. Add crushed garlic. Cook 30 seconds. Add crushed tomatoes and sugar. Turn heat to high and cook with stirring until simmering. Turn heat to medium low. Simmer 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in olive oil and basil. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve over pasta.





[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AVONDALEGARDENPATCH](https://www.facebook.com/AVONDALEGARDENPATCH)



**GARDEN PATCH  
COMMUNITY GARDEN**  
[HTTP://WWW.AVONDALEGARDENPATCH.COM](http://www.avondalegardenpatch.com)

OUR GARDEN IS LOCATED AT:  
11350 W. CIVIC CENTER DRIVE  
AVONDALE, AZ 85323

MAILING ADDRESS IS:  
P.O. BOX 816  
CASHION, AZ 85392

PHONE: 602-329-7597  
E-MAIL: GARDEN.PATCH@YAHOO.COM

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY BY BRINGING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND CULTURES TOGETHER TO CREATE A WELCOMING, SUSTAINABLE GARDEN.

The Garden Patch is Avondale Arizona's first community garden. The Garden is open to any person regardless of race, creed, color, age, sexual orientation, or handicap. The Garden Patch is a community outreach garden. We work with the city of Avondale to promote environmental stewardship of our natural resources, land, air and water. The Garden Patch is solely funded through annual plot rental fees and donations and managed exclusively by an unpaid, all volunteer, board of directors with help from the garden members themselves.

We believe in healthy and affordable foods, healthier meals and reducing the carbon footprint. Food doesn't have to travel long distances in a big truck and we get exercise involved in the gardening process, and helps reduce stress.

**Garden Patch Board Members**

- President:** Scott Yarosh (H-1, J-2)
- Vice President:** Esmie Avila (B-2)
- Secretary:** Russ VanLeuven (D-1)
- Treasurer:** Dominique Rose (D-3)
- Ad Hoc:** Stephanie Karlin

**FENCE POST PROJECT DONORS**

We has a few Gardeners that donated cash towards the fence project. They did not request any advertising in the Newsletter. If you donated and would like to advertise something, please let Scott know  
scottyarosh@gmail.com

*Thank you for your Donation!*

We're moving forwards on the fence project one step at a time. It may seem like it is going slowly, which it may be, but it is progressing.

10 more post holes have been dug between the citrus trees and the drainage basin. We will continue to dig more as whether permits (Rainy days make it easier to dig) Scott is in the presses of trying to find a company that would be willing to work out a better deal on post if be buy a bundle.

Donate a Fence Post and bag of concrete to the Garden for our Chain-Link fence and we'll advertize your organization, group, family, or just yourself.



Contact the Dominique Rose phone/text/email  
niquie.rose@gmail.com | 602-881-7721

**If you have experience installing chain link fencing and would be willing to help, please contact Scott  
602-329-7597**