

Dear Gardeners:

It's been an active few months since the last update and there's a lot to share. First of all, the shipping container has arrived and is now in use as the garden storage shed, which means another important piece of infrastructure is in place. Next, volunteers built frames for 20 raised garden beds, which will soon be available for use by community members upon payment of a user fee. There is still some prep work to do, but the beds are close enough to completion to take reservations; please reply to this email if you would like more information.

Another important update is that the *Second Annual Ann Wasserman Memorial Community Garden Plant Sale* was a huge success, thanks to the tireless efforts of Master Gardener and Plant Sale Chair Marsha, aka "The Tomato Lady". She started several hundred tomato plants, along with a good helping of eggplants and peppers, from seed for the sale and tended to them for months, coordinated the vendors, and did so much more to make the sale our best fundraiser to date. Many thanks to Marsha and the entire plant sale team for all of their hard work.

Brunch Fundraiser:

Please save the date for our next fundraiser, which is scheduled for **January 20th, 2024**. The goal is to raise funds for a permanent irrigation system and a solar panel set up to both run the sprinkler pump and meet the electrical needs of the garden. (A light in the storage container and a way to recharge power tools would be welcome!) As a pilot program for the county, it's important to set a good example for future gardens, and utilizing renewable energy is definitely a good example.

This exclusive fundraiser will honor and feature keynote speaker **Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz**, who has supported the garden from the beginning. Sponsorship opportunities at various levels are available; please reply to this email or call if you would like to be included. The invitation is attached and is for members and friends only, please do not post publicly.

Rotary Partnership Update:

The Rotary Club of Sunrise is supporting the garden whenever they have an opportunity to do so, and the partnership is much appreciated. Two Rotary events are coming up, a **tree planting** to supplement the Food Forest on January 13th at 10:00 am and a **pet adoption event** on February 10th. The pet event will include vendors and all fees will go to the garden.

Eagle Scout Project Update:

A Boy Scout selected the garden to be the recipient of his Eagle Scout project and built two sturdy wooden trash can containers for the space. They look wonderful and are a welcome addition to the garden. Many thanks for his efforts, he did a great job.

Volunteer Work Days:

The next volunteer workday is scheduled for **January 13th** from 10:00 am to noon for the Rotary Tree Planting day (see attached flier). The **February** work day will be on the **10th** when the plan is to complete the raised beds. Additional items on the “to do” list include planting pollinator plants and lemongrass to ward off some of the mosquitoes, and building iguana covers for the raised beds. This will be happening concurrently with the **Rotary Pet Show**, so volunteers can visit the show in the open area of the garden before or after working in the back garden. Check the Facebook page for further updates closer to the date.

Board Expansion:

The Weston Community Garden Society has openings for additional board members. The board is hands on and involved in garden operations, which run the gamut from fundraising to pulling weeds. Board meetings are either virtual or hybrid so board members can be from out of the area. If you are interested, please respond to this email.

In Conclusion:

Thank you to all of the volunteers who are making this garden a reality! The support is invaluable, and every volunteer is needed and appreciated. If you would like to support the garden too, by donating, volunteering, or both, please visit the webpage at <https://westoncgs.org/>

Sincerely,
Kim

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Kim Schnitzius, MNM

Founder and President

Weston Community Garden Society

The Ann Wasserman Memorial Community Garden

<https://westoncgs.org/>

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