

# THE HOUSE REPORT

## THE GREENHOUSE PROJECT – News, Notes & Events

Mar/Apr 2021  
Vol. 4 Issue 2



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*Ask not for whom the seed sprouts.  
It sprouts for thee.*

~Millie Karol

### COVID NOTICE

We are continuing to observe safe practices these days. If you would like to stop by one of our sites or wish to donate items, please call ahead and speak to:

**Cory King, Green Central**  
(main Carson High School site) 775-600-9530

**Will Pierz, Foothill Garden**  
(CarsonTahoe Medical Center site) 775-600-9552



### MINDING YOUR PEAS & CUCUMBERS

by **Cory King**  
**TGP General Manager**

We are making some changes to our **plant sale** format this year.

Cool season vegetable and herb seedlings should be ready by the end of March or early April, available for purchase through **our new online store** at [ccgreenhouseproject.myshopify.com](http://ccgreenhouseproject.myshopify.com). You will be able to order your plants throughout the week and pick them up the following Saturday. Sales will continue weekly as we add more to the inventory, including flowering perennials.

Summer seedlings (plants that are NOT frost-tolerant) will be online in May and available to pick up at the Mother's Day Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9.

Go to [ccgreenhouseproject.myshopify.com](http://ccgreenhouseproject.myshopify.com) to sign up for updates, and to find out when the shopping is live. As always, we want to help you grow a successful garden this year!

# THYME ON MY HANDS

Director's Report, Jon Ruiter

## Introducing our Sustainability 2021 Campaign

Despite the redefined world we now live in, through hard work **The Greenhouse Project** (TGP) was again able to donate more than 4,500 pounds of fresh, healthful produce to the food insecure of our community in the past year. Since inception, TGP's efforts have helped reestablish the Agricultural Sciences program at Carson High School (CHS) which has grown to 200 students and two full-time instructors. Through fundraising and grants, we have created much needed instructional space in the form of an outdoor classroom at **Green Central**, our main site on the CHS campus. We've continued our cultivation and the local merchant sponsorship program for the 80 hanging flower baskets that beautify our downtown corridor each summer; our way of giving back to the community. In collaboration with Chamber of Commerce leadership and Carson City Parks & Recreation, we helped complete the **Serenity Trail** at the **Foothill Garden**, our site on the Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center campus. This hoop house, with expansion of outdoor planting beds, has helped to meet increasing produce donation needs. In the past year the popular **Foothill Garden Education Series** pivoted to an interactive virtual gardening class, via our Facebook page. *All these accomplishments and adjustments have been made with a 3-person staff, AmeriCorps members, CHS Ag Sciences students and CHS CriticalLifeSkills/special needs students, plus our valuable community volunteers!*

A hard lesson learned from the challenges of 2020: our primary annual fundraiser, *The Concert Under the Stars*, is no longer workable in an unpredictable world. Therefore, we ask for your help in launching a **Sustainability 2021 Campaign** with a two-pronged approach to ensure our financial security in perpetuity.



First, as a **GuideStar Silver Seal of Transparency** non-profit, we have created a "**Friends of The Greenhouse Project**" *endowment fund* which will encourage donations, to minimize our reliance on fundraising. Instead, we will concentrate on "**friendraising**," thus utilizing your gifts, now and in the future. An ambitious long-term goal of \$1 million will provide an annual return on investment to support TGP's financial security so we can continue our mission.

Second, sales from the expansion of our *vermicompost program* (an ecosystem of microbes and earthworms) and the development of a *wholesale crop program* will subsidize our operations, while also providing new learning opportunities for students.

Donations in any amount will help us reach this goal. We at The Greenhouse Project greatly appreciate past generosity and hope you will support our Sustainability 2021 Campaign.

You may mail a check to:  
**The Greenhouse Project**  
**Sustainability Campaign**  
**PO Box 2024**  
**Carson City, NV 89702**

*Please specify in the memo line whether you prefer to donate to the endowment fund or the crop program.*

You may also visit our website at [www.carsoncitygreenhouse.org](http://www.carsoncitygreenhouse.org) and click on the [PayPal Giving Fund](#) or [GoFundMe Charity](#) donate buttons.

**Legacy Giving** can make a lasting impact! If you're interested in considering a legacy gift to **The Greenhouse Project** in your will, please let us know. (Be sure to consult with your attorney or financial planner.)

Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to a long-lasting relationship with our community!

Contact Board President Karen Abowd at 775-232-8626 or [karenabowd@hotmail.com](mailto:karenabowd@hotmail.com) if you would like more information.

## 2021 Foothill Garden Education Series

**The Greenhouse Project** presents virtual classes: **2021 Foothill Garden Education Series** with **Will Pierz**, Foothill Garden site manager.

Will successfully launched growing operations at the **Foothill Garden** in August, 2017 and continues to apply his knowledge and creativity, surpassing growing goals with his energy and dedication. Guest presenters will augment his engaging class style and you'll come away with a wide range of gardening tips and tricks.

All classes are free and will be held from 11:00 am until 12:00 pm, broadcast live on **The Greenhouse Project** Facebook page. All past broadcasts are also available to watch any time.

*(As corona virus restrictions allow and weather permits, we aim to hold in-person classes at the **Foothill Garden** site, located behind Carson Tahoe Hospital Cancer Resource Center (1535 Medical Parkway). In the event of inclement weather, an indoor location on the hospital campus will be posted.)*



### **March 5 – Growing Superb Strawberries!**

In this installment we'll be diving deep into strawberry cultivation. We'll talk about varieties, propagation, fertility needs, tricks to maximize harvest and protect from pests, as well as best growing locations in your landscape. A limited supply of plants propagated from the **Foothill Garden** site will be available for sale.

### **April 2 – Mushrooms 101**

We'll discuss the basics of home mushroom cultivation. We'll describe foraging in the Northern Nevada area, and the fundamentals of identifying wild mushrooms for consumption. We'll also cover basics of mushroom biology, key differences vs cultivating plants, different substrates, and growing techniques from countertop to large scale.

### **May 7 – Growing Top-Shelf tomatoes and Pretty Peppers with Cory King**

Here we'll talk about the intricacies of growing incredible tomatoes and peppers. From fertility management and soil preparation to pruning techniques and season extension techniques. You'll leave feeling confident in this year's crop.

### **June 4 – Apples in the Orchard and Grapes on the Table with Cory King**

You'll learn strategies and maintenance techniques for maximizing the harvest from your fruit trees and vines. We'll be talking about managing your yard/orchard for the benefit of your harvest and covering some midseason management techniques to keep your flowers blooming.

*Remaining class topics TBA*

Will Pierz, **Foothill Garden** Site Manager & Educator

### **QUICK TIP**

Delay yard and garden cleanup until overwintering beneficial insects wake up. Wait until after several days of 50° or higher temperatures to give them a chance of survival.

# OUR FANS!

## AmeriCorps Members

We build a new crew of AmeriCorps members each season to help with our efforts in the community. These young folks receive a living stipend and, upon completion of their service terms, an education award to apply to the institution of their choice. They help with planting, watering, harvesting, and other typical garden maintenance. They also assist with garden education, outreach, donation deliveries, floral arranging, and farmers market sales. When time allows, members also take on special projects at **Green Central** and at the **Foothill Garden**. We couldn't do what we do without their hard work and commitment to our mission.

### 2019-20 Crew

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Doressa Williams | Alex Hunter  |
| Jessica Gerou    | Hannah Hoyos |
| Tricia Reimer    | Rebekah Rhea |

### 2020-21 Crew

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Tricia Reimer | Christin Cohee |
| Amelia Graul  | Rebekah Rhea   |
| Kailey Bass   |                |

Will Pierz, Alex Hunter, Vicki Crabb (TGP board member) and Rebekah Rhea at the Carson Farmers Market



Doressa Williams, AmeriCorps Intern



Hannah Hoyos, AmeriCorps Intern

**THE GREENHOUSE PROJECT**  
Mail: P.O. Box 2024, Carson City, NV 89702  
775-291-2984  
[www.carsoncitygreenhouse.org](http://www.carsoncitygreenhouse.org)  
[jon@carsoncitygreenhouse.org](mailto:jon@carsoncitygreenhouse.org)



### The Greenhouse Project

**Growing, Giving and Teaching** for a greener, healthier, sustainable community. A nonprofit Nevada corporation, we use ecologically sustainable growing methods and renewable energy sources to supply year-round produce to the food insecure of our community. We provide work-based educational and vocational opportunities for students and other community youth and adults. We are proud to grow and maintain the summer flower baskets, our contribution to the beautification of downtown Carson City.