

# **FY26 NMCB Coffee Hours-02.05.2026 City of Gallup Hope Garden-TRANSCRIPT**

0:02

Good morning, everybody.

0:03

Thank you so much for joining Coffee Hours this morning.

0:06

We have Elizabeth and Sherrie from Keep Gallup Clean and Beautiful and we are going to toss it over to them.

0:12

So thanks so much for joining us and thank you to Elizabeth and Sherrie for agreeing to present.

0:18

And again, we wanted to thank everybody for chiming in and visiting us today with Keep Gallup Clean and beautiful coffee hours presentation about our local Hope Garden.

0:30

And it's an event that is actually a garden event.

0:36

And next slide, please.

0:43

OK, that also includes our Earth Day free tree giveaway.

0:48

So we also got awarded this year.

0:51

The City of Gallup did with the FY26 NM clean and beautiful grant award

0:56

This is last year's event and we're going to be having another one in April 18th where it features a collaboration with Mr.

1:05

Bud Lopez standing there that gives an educational piece about how to plant trees, how to grow trees.

1:13

And eventually this year we will have an outdoor hands on demonstration how, you know, to actually, you know, plant the trees.

1:21

So we got funding this year for approximately 30 trees and last year we got more.

1:27

So hopefully in future we can get more as well.

1:30

We had a small turn out that day because of snow, but are planning one this Saturday.

1:36

Hopefully the weather is going to be great and we advertised it on our City of Gallup website as well as Facebook.

1:43

Next slide.

1:46

These are the seven trees we gave out and the hackberry is wonderful in our area.

1:52

It's a beautiful tree.

1:54

We gave out the locust trees and they're green similar and then also the Canada red choke cherry.

2:01

It's a small, brilliantly burgundy colored leaf tree for this event.

2:09

Apricot trees and couple of crabtrees, Crabapple trees, I mean, and the espresso coffee tree.

2:16

How did that do?

2:17

Wonderful.

2:18

Awesome.

2:19

Oh gosh, it's already getting big.

2:21

So that that's what we want to see.

2:23

Trees that are going to survive our cold temperatures and our high desert area weather.

2:31

So also the box elder.

2:33

I will.

2:34

And we're going to hopefully try to get a hold of people.

2:36

It's kind of hard to call people back and see how their tree is doing.

2:40

Our trees locally that have been planted nearby are doing great.

2:45

So I've had a lot of people come in and say they're doing good.

2:49

They're still, they're so thankful, Yeah.

2:51

And that's wonderful.

2:52

And it makes our area more beautiful because again, we're really in a drought.

2:58

Right now and you really have to baby the trees, mature and adult trees next.

3:07

This is the Hope Garden entryway.

3:10

So I wanted to thank our guest Sherrie, who is the leader out there of all the people who take care of the garden.

3:22

And we also have a composting element that includes hands on composting education, which helps divert food waste from our landfill and by holistic ways of returning the needed nutrients back to the soil.

3:41

And in the future, we are looking at hopefully for our next tree giveaway event, adding that hand on composting education, along with how to literally plant a tree in person and do it hands on way.

3:57

So this is Sherrie McDargh she's with Hope Garden staff.

4:04

And then we're going to be talking about the composting pile that we have in that picture and she'll take it from here.

4:11

So I am the master gardener at Hope Garden.

4:15

I've been there six years and just love my job.

4:21

This year we were able to make our compost a lot larger through the help of your guys's grants and the composting supplies that we got.

4:32

We're also able to show the public how to do it from their home.

4:37

A lot of times all the waste goes to landfills and they're really surprised when they learn what they can compost.

4:46

We did a tea composting also where we put a bunch of fish, fertilizers, some soil that comes from underneath native trees.

4:59

It has a lot of kelp in it and then it's goes in a bubbler and a 55 gallon drum for maybe 3 days.

5:06

And then we dilute it with the water that we water trees and it's really helped all of the trees, the asparagus around there.

5:15

I'm a full believer in it now, but the public just loves learning this stuff and they can't wait till the next composting venture that we do.

5:27

So next here are some slides of the garden and if you want to describe anything, and these are inside the greenhouses that we have.

5:37

We have 4 greenhouses and then we have we have one acre and four greenhouses inside the great.

5:46

This is a lot of tomatoes hanging and then along the fence line in the public area where the public gardeners were growing.

5:56

And then she has these wildflower seeds that you can see in the upper right hand corner that visitors that drive into the parking lot, that's the first thing they see when it's time for blooming.

6:08

And here's examples all over the garden of how beautiful you know, it is intermixed with edibles and also herbs.

6:18

Yeah, herbs and natives and low water using plants as well as all the above.

6:25

So it's a a mix garden event.

6:27

Next.

6:31

This is the public garden.

6:33

So visitors can come.

6:35

They can get a bed.

6:37

We do.

6:37

We give free garden beds to snap also to schools like Red Rock School comes, they get a whole row and they bring 15 children and they all get to learn how to garden in each one of these beds.

6:53

They all have their own water spigot, which we use municipal water out in the garden and also some rain water barrels that we have next.

7:07

This is the bales that we've gotten from you and we've made beds out of all these bales.

7:16

What you see is a spare.

7:18

Let's see, one of them has asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower and corn behind the bales.

7:25

But the pill, the bales really hold the moisture in.

7:28

So we're teaching people that they don't have to have a special place to grow.

7:32

They can build one with great soil and how to put the soil in and let it mature and for the next year.

7:41

Next.

7:46

Yeah.

7:46

This is also the public areas.

7:50

It looks like we have maybe some pumpkins in there and sunflowers.

7:54

We also harvest all of our seeds and then we're able to give the seeds away free to the public.

8:01

Next.

8:03

What time do I need to leave?

8:05

Also, another field we have, there's a lot of Peppers in here, zucchini growing down each row, going both opposite ways of the archway there.

8:19

The archway does cucumbers and gourds, native stuff that everyone loves around here, vining plants.

8:25

And what are those flags doing there?

8:27

Oh, they're the, the public likes to come and help decorate.

8:31

So we had a volunteer come right before veteran's day and put all of those up for us.

8:38

Yeah, you can also see all that from the freeway.

8:42

So they like to be patriotic for our city, America's most patriotic, Yeah, deemed many years back that came that please go for it next.

8:56

And this one is a drainage way that is right next to, you know, the the garden areas and as you can see in the background.

9:05

And what do you do in those?

9:08

It has native grasses that grow in there.

9:11

There's cattails and things like that.

9:14

But the the drainage from the road comes off, goes underneath the parking lot and these big pipes and then it comes back through the back.

9:21

And it's just a natural drainage that goes through part of the property there.

9:27

We don't really do much there, but thin and out every year and clean it up.

9:31

It kind of comes back all on its own.

9:34

Yeah.

9:34

It's a beautiful, you know, natural area that's part of the garden in useful intertwining.

9:41

They also have, chime in please Sherrie, volunteers that do all that woodwork.

9:48

Oh yeah.

9:48

We couldn't do the garden without volunteers.

9:51

Not at all.

9:53

So they'll come and volunteer and stay a day.

9:56

Some of us stay a week.

9:57

And we also have a lot of volunteers coming from Pennsylvania called ANA.

10:02

It's Americans for Native Americans, and they bring 15 people and they come and volunteer and give us great ideas and it's very helpful.

10:12

Yeah, I couldn't do it alone.

10:15

Next.

10:19

And again, next to that Native area, just a little further down, she uses recycled products like, you know, tires.

10:27

And what do you plant in there?

10:29

Well, we can't plant stuff that you're going to eat.

10:32

So there's just a lot of flowers in there.

10:35

Things that are just to look up.

10:38

People love to bring products to me to help.

10:41

So what you're seeing if the boxes is the side of them are actually garage doors, old garage doors that would have went to the landfill and then of course, some boards on the edge.

10:52

And in those we all have.

10:54

We have Peppers and herbs and spaces there.

10:59

Yeah.

10:59

It's a very interesting place to go next when you have no money.

11:05

You try to do whatever you can with straw bales and time.

11:10

It's to go to

11:11

Yeah, here you go, recycling things.

11:14

And this is the other side of the cornfield.

11:19

Looks like you're seeing a bunch of pumpkins and things like that there.

11:22

Yeah, it's a challenge to grow corn here.

11:24

It only seems to get about 3 feet high.

11:26

Do you get much yield from that?

11:28

Not really, but it looks ornamental.

11:31

But we also have bees, so the bees love to just go around and pollinate it.

11:36

So, yeah, and we have to be really careful with those, the little insects because they're constantly having being challenged by weather issues and pesticides.

11:46

So we try to encourage that to make the gap again, the garden more beautiful.

11:51

So we use 0 pesticides, which is again, we try.

11:55

And what do you use in its place?

11:56

Just native natural things that you can get out of your kitchen.

12:01

Well, if you just keep most of the area clean, you're not going to get a lot of pests.

12:07

We're fortunate and not having anything so far.

12:10

The squash bugs will come every now and then, but yeah, just last year we had none.

12:14

It was great.

12:15

I've had a challenge with them and I've had to use soap and water.

12:18

So anyway, that's the constant challenges for gardening and gardeners.

12:24

Next, that's our apple orchard.

12:29

There's a lot of apples and pears out there.

12:31

That's along the side of I-40.

12:35

And with that composting tea that has really helped all of those trees just do so much better.

12:42

And she has a challenge with the trees too, because it's the opposite.

12:46

If you don't, you know, baby it and try to take care of get them in enough water.

12:51

They just have a really rough time out in our freezing weather here in in the winter especially.

12:55

And so it it makes a huge difference.

12:59

And then it looks like you put a lot of ornamental flowers at the edge of the bed.

13:04

Marigolds keep a lot of the bugs away.

13:06

So you're seeing a lot of marigolds right there.

13:08

Marigolds don't like the smell of it and kind of keeps the bugs away.

13:12

So they're natural gardening.

13:14

Yeah.

13:14

To to control that.

13:15

Yeah.

13:16

Next.

13:20

This is our gazebo area where the public can come and have demonstrations.

13:26

We also have people come, schools come, they get together right there and they'll have lunch, then they'll come out and help with the volunteering work.

13:36

And so it's a fun place for them to all go and have their little talks.

13:40

And, and also I noticed you have those educational signs.

13:44

Who makes those?

13:46

We do right there.

13:48

The young lady at the front desk will make it and then laminate it for me.

13:52

Then of course, a volunteer will help make the signs of reused wood.

13:58

Yep, wonderful.

14:00

Next.

14:03

And I love your your, your gardening decoration ideas.

14:07

And yeah, when you can't use a wheelbarrow again because it's got cracks in the bottom, we just kinda use it for planters.

14:14

It's better than going to the trash.

14:17

And what is the yellow plant called for the flower?

14:21

Don't know what that was there.

14:22

Trumpet vine or something like that.

14:24

I don't think it is a vine.

14:25

It's not a vine.

14:26

A Bush maybe.

14:26

No.

14:28

OK, so a lot of the the volunteers come and they'll bring stuff and want to plant.

14:33

And this was one of the volunteers little projects that they did there.

14:39

I think she's like 13 years old and she had the idea, you know, let's do this.

14:45

We also have like the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts, they'll come and they did our whole, they have a project that they need to do at the end of the year and they'll get together with the city, with businesses around and they'll get all the product free.

15:01

Kaylee is the one that did last year and we were able to get a sidewalk all the way around the public gardens where they can walk and see everything.

15:10

And she got probably 30 volunteers and all the cement donated and they got it done in like 2 weeks.

15:20

And it was.

15:20

It's so awesome.

15:21

Wonderful.

15:22

Yeah, that's one of her projects there too.

15:25

Next and I noticed this cute decorations in the garden.

15:31

Well, it keeps that cup from keeps the birds and the Hawks away.

15:35

It's for the most part, not really, but it looks cool for the public October that, you know, fits that time of year.

15:44

It's it's wonderful.

15:45

Yeah.

15:45

Decorations of the garden, art places.

15:49

And next, any questions?

15:55

No, not for me.

16:02

Hi everyone, If you have any questions for Elizabeth and Sherry, please either unmute or just write them in the chat.

16:11

And thank you for our wonderful presentation and thank you for the opportunity of your grant and, and helping everybody, all the communities and the people attend today and and listen to this in the future.

16:22

You know, it's just a gift to all of us in our communities to be, you know, given all these tools to make our community and the state of New Mexico clean and beautiful, of course.

16:38

Thank you guys so much.

16:40

Sorry, we really appreciate you sharing all of these wonderful pictures and all of these ideas.

16:46

I think that this is something that other communities can emulate and bring into it.

16:51

I do have a question about the garden itself.

16:54

The land that you have the garden on, who owns that?

16:58

The community pantry is it's a 501-C, so I'm not sure if they own it.

17:06

Yes, OK.

17:07

It's, it's on their property board.