



## What Happens at the Desert Dreams Garden?

THE PAUL VAN HOOK  
DESERT DREAMS GARDEN

**Located on the land** next to the Community Center, purchased in 2015 and donated to JVIA by Paul Van Hook, it's a desert demonstration garden now widely adopted by this community and its many visitors.

### The Garden Committee

In early summer of 2015, Court Prittie, Ken Cash, and Don Minnix began planning, planting, trenching for underground irrigation, and landscaping. With major donations from Jim Weishaar, the garden now boasts drought-tolerant trees, plants, a pavilion, a fountain, two water

features and a G-scale garden railway with village, enhanced with an amazing collection of donated boulders. Above it all, Ed Warren's home-built airplane now does duty as a wind vane!

**Other developments** include the transformation of three donated trailers into garden storage with whimsical false fronts: the Hotel California, the Sheriff's Office with jail, and Cash's Golden Falcon Cantina.

The crew have adorned them with donated "yard art," signs, and license plates. You

find them lined up on a remnant of the original Old Woman Springs Road. Now preserved where it crosses the Garden property, this trail was followed by prehistoric nomad tribes, cowboys, and homesteaders, then abandoned in the sixties when the county road was re-routed to become Hwy 247.

With these buildings and the pavilion by the railroad you find shaded sites to relax and enjoy the view. Folks come out to watch the sunsets in the cool of the evenings. Parties and special events happen here: so far, the Desert Dreams Garden has witnessed Cinco de Mayo Fiestas, many Oktoberfests, a romantic proposal and an open air western-themed wedding.

### Who supports the Garden?

What makes all this possible? Volunteers – plus many donations of money, vintage equipment, original art, and desert plants, coming in from everywhere.

Commemorative bricks: An ongoing program raising revenues from donations aids in the continuing success of the Garden and the Community Center. Donors' messages go into a pathway and other locations for visitors to see as they wander through.

### Flyover Previews

Log on to YouTube and search for "George Cayer" and "Johnson Valley." Since the summer of 2015, George has documented the progress of the Garden and railway, with still shots and videos made with GoPro camera mounted on trains as they run around the layout, and on a quadcopter drone.

### Admission Information

- Visit at any time.
- No admission fee.
- Only authorized vehicles.
- Watch your step. Pathways not paved; equipment and trenching may be anywhere.
- Please be sure the kids do not go into the train layout.
- The trains run on Saturday mornings after the crew finishes breakfast, if weather permits and enough crew are available to help.
- Ask if the trains are running when you come to Saturday Breakfast, 7-10 am at the Community Center .
- Ask to sign the guest book, if the crew forgets to set it out. Print your e-mail address to receive news about Garden or train events.
- Please leave everything as you find it.

**G-gauge fans! Welcome!** Bring your loco or rolling stock by appointment. Call Betty 760-364-2646, please leave message.

PAUL  
VAN HOOK  
DESERT  
DREAMS  
GARDEN  
JVIA