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ARIZONA GOVERNMENT & BUSINESSES PARTNER ON BEAUTIFICATION OF CAPITOL MALL & WESLEY BOLIN PLAZA

Capitol Park & Lawn to be Focus of "Centennial Beautification Project"

PHOENIX, AZ -- In celebration of Arizona's Centennial, a collection of community leaders from both the public and private sectors are volunteering their time, resources and products to revitalize Wesley Bolin Plaza and the surrounding Capitol Mall.

Hickman's Family Farms, Arizona's only commercial egg producer, is leading a group of Arizona businesses in a literal "grassroots" effort to make the grounds around our State Capitol green and gorgeous in time for Arizona's Centennial celebration on February 14, 2012.

"Hickman's is pleased to lead the Arizona State Capitol Beautification Project in preparation for Arizona's Centennial Celebration," said Clint Hickman, owner of Hickman's Family Farms. "This project came about due to a conversation that I had with State Senator Steve Pierce, and with the commitment and generosity of our leaders in both the public and private sector, it has all been green lights to make this happen," added Hickman.

The grass on the Capitol Mall will be greening up with encouragement from Hickman's fertilizer blend "The Farms Choice" to be ready in time for February 14, 2012, a day of festivities around the State Capitol. Hickman's roll-off containers are in place around the Capitol Park in anticipation of the recyclable green waste that will soon be generated.

Local businesses and individuals are donating all products and services related to the beautification project, and government entities and trade associations are involved in giving guidance and supervision of various capacities. Inmate crews, provided by the Department of Corrections, have been handling the labor.

Those involved in the project are:

- Departments of Administration Department of Corrections Department of Agriculture State Legislature (Senator Steve Pierce) Arizona Nursery Association Arizona Rock Products Association
- Grounds oversight Labor and manpower Plant supervision Securing donations Landscape planning & consulting Landscape planning & consulting

Participating Arizona businesses include:

<u>Fertilizer & Composts (all organic)</u> Farms Choice/Hickman's Fertilizers Duncan Family Farms

<u>Trees and Plants</u> A&P Nurseries Baseline Trees Mountain States Wholesale Nursery Pima Valley Greenhouses Shady Way Gardens Western Tree Company

<u>Grass Seed</u> Arizona Grain <u>Fertilizer & Composts (all organic)</u> Farms Choice/Hickman's Fertilizers Duncan Family Farms

Decorative Rock and Gravel Granite Express

<u>Transport/Hauling</u> Hickman's Family Farms Heritage Trucking

Lawn Consulting West Coast Turf

Project Design Waibel and Associates

Cheryl Goar, Executive Director of the Arizona Nursery Association, notes that this is not just a chance to showcase and improve the State Capitol area, but hopes that Arizona residents can each take ideas from this project and implement them in their own homes and yards.

"Low maintenance landscaping and well-positioned trees are not only beautiful, but can help make your home more energy efficient, by nearly 15 percent in energy usage and costs," said Goar. "And a beautiful yard is also a factor in a home's resale value."

State Senator Steve Pierce (District 1) is happy to see the business community shares his vision and has stepped up to work on this project.

"Next February, our state will celebrate a major milestone, and Phoenix and the Capitol Plaza will be on full display with festivities taking place regularly from now through the Centennial celebration," said Pierce. "I'm proud and excited to see the finished product."

To monitor the progress of the Arizona State Capitol Beautification Project, please visit www.hickmanseggs.com.

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