

Highlights

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March 2005

Jackson County 2005 Annual Dinner – Held February 24 at Drumm Farm County Club. Jackson County Clerk Mary Jo Spino administered the oath of office to the newly elected University of Missouri Extension Council members, Teresa Dresslaer, Doris Foley, Paula Cosentino, and Annette Turnbaugh. Cynthia Zluticky, County Program Director, 252-5051.



Food Circles Networking Project - March 7th the Food Circles Networking Project, in cooperation with Bridging The Gap, held an informational meeting at the Discovery Center to discuss the “Buy Fresh, Buy Local” national ad campaign that can be used to familiarize consumers with locally produced, farm fresh, foods. The campaign, already in use in a few larger retail outlets in the Kansas City area, not only makes it easier for consumers to locate local food, but it also stimulates rural economies by making bolstering the viability of independent farms and businesses. By examining the benefits and expanding the use the campaign, both local food producers and consumers will have easier access to one another. Crystal Weber, Community Development Specialist, 252-5051.

Retiring Council Chair, Ron Ritter welcomed newly elected Council Chair, Dr. Mark Bock.

Circle Times workshop was offered to 34 early childhood educators and Head Start teachers. The workshop focused on the importance of circle times and how to help children learn and grow to become caring members of a group and good cooperative learners. Eight-six percent of the participants rated the workshop as high quality and 95% felt they learned new skills that they can use at work and home. Nina Chen, Human Development Specialist, 252-5051.

National Youth Service Day and 4-H'ers Pitching In - April 15-17, 2005, young people across America, with the help of millions of volunteers, will address important unmet community needs through service-learning projects addressing literacy, hunger, public safety and the environment. Locally on Saturday, April 16th 4-H'ers from all over Jackson County will be meeting at the Fairmount Community Center. For more than 15 years, National Youth Service Day has brought together 28 million people in thousands of communities nationwide, mobilizing millions of America's youth to identify and address the needs of their communities through community service. For more information about National and Global Youth Service Day, please visit www.YSA.org Meg Sage Mach 4-H Youth Specialist, 252-5051.

Housing and Environmental Design Leader Training - Fifty six West Central volunteers participated in the fall 2004 housing and environmental design leader training program entitled “**Divide and Conquer: Strategies For Designing Home Storage That Meets Your Needs**”. According to their written evaluations the volunteers anticipate reaching a minimum of 610 households with the program information. Marsha Alexander, Environmental Design Specialist, 482-5850

Children's Learning Differences - A workshop on Children's Learning Differences was presented to 15 parents and early childhood educators in Kansas City. Participants not only learned their own learning styles, but also gained strategies on how to identify their children's styles and work with them to provide appropriate learning environments for them to learn and grow. Nina Chen, Human Development Specialist, 252-5051.

Upcoming Events:

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| March 9 | Family Caregiving - Normal Aging
Guadalupe Center, Kansas City
Nina Chen Human Development Specialist |
| March 23 | Family Caregiving - Home Safety
Guadalupe Center, Kansas City
Nina Chen Human Development Specialist |
| April 14 | Active Kids are Learning Kids
University Extension Center, Blue Springs
Nina Chen, Human Development Specialist |
| April 15-17 | National Youth Service Day
Fairmount Community Center, 608 S Ash 9-3
Meg Sage Mach, 4-H Youth Specialist |
| May | Dramatic Play
University Extension Center, Blue Springs
Nina Chen, Human Development Specialist |

Questions can be directed to any specialist or Cynthia Zluticky, County Program Director, 252-5051.

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