



# Greene County “Reaching Out” Report

University of Missouri Extension

Activities for October 2008

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
**M**Extension

## County Program Director & Civic Communication Specialist Report

By David Burton

### Community contact:

4 columns in the Springfield News-Leader  
2 columns in the Republic Monitor newspaper  
News stories edited/written -- 36  
Spots on KOLR - 1  
Phone calls – 6 special inquiries of me  
Public e-mailed questions responded to – 42  
Office visits – 2  
Media requests for story help -- 8  
Botanical Center calls/contacts – 3; worked on submitting 2nd \$100,000 grant to Kresge Foundation (see letter outlining progress made on grant applications) and a \$400,000 grant request to Titus Foundation. We remain about \$400,000 away from the goal. Oct. 23 event “site dedication” was set up by Friends of the Garden for the purpose of raising awareness and “raising money,” not a ground breaking as reported since the money does not yet exist for the building.

### Southwest Region News Service value:

# of stories used in print during September: 242  
# of subscribers added: 8  
Value of print coverage in September:  
\$119,981.75  
Cumulative print and TV value for 2008:  
\$1,644,545

**Presented at:** 1) Program on media relations at the New Employee Orientation session in Jefferson City.

**Participated in:** monthly Community Relations Group meeting, two County Commission meetings, researched MU Extension involvement in agriculture program at Silver Dollar City and opportunities at Wilson-Rutledge Farm Park.

**Working on:** 1) Logistics and team needs for the Wilson A/C/CW Super Precinct at Remington’s for the Nov. 4 election. At the request of County Clerk Richard Struckoff I’ll be working on Nov. 3 to set up the center (first time this has been attempted in Greene County) and will be serving as the supervisory judge over all of the teams at this location. This will be the largest vote center ever attempted in the state of Missouri. 2) Researching possible grant funding opportunities for YPA position. 3) Holding planning sessions with associate professor of journalism at MU about jointly hosting a SPJ/MU Extension journalism conference in southwest Missouri, will be meeting with Dean of the School of Journalism on Oct. 28. 4) Have worked out details on four on-air presentations to be made during November and December on KOLR about holiday safety issues; I’ve also been working with the News-Leader on a special holiday safety feature which will emphasize ladder safety. And 5) all of the necessary pieces (printed items) for our fall alumni funding raising letter. Thanks to work and research by Lorri Winters and Nancy Chambers, we will be doing this mailing (and all printing) with AAA mailing services for a cost of \$1,900, compared to \$2,800 for the mailing last year.

**CPD Duties:** CPD related meetings 48; CPD specific related communications - 178; worked on budget and personnel issues, 4-H related issues and questions, 4-H Foundation issues, council meetings and committees meetings and council elections. Budget hearing with county is on Monday, Nov. 17 at 3:30 p.m. Audit committee will be meeting Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. **Meeting with architects on Botanical Center project (10/20)**

## Horticulture Specialist Report

By Patrick Byers -- For the period 9/24-10/25

### TV and Radio

- 4 taped spots for KOLR10 “Weekly Gardening Tips with Jill Gilardi”
- 4 live interviews -- KOLR10’s Tom Trtan
- 2 interviews with Debbie Johnson, MU Radio News Producer, on tree placement in the landscape and pumpkins

### Requests for information (9/19-10/20)

- Site visits – 6 made for consultation
- Telephone contacts – 50 for advisement
- Email contacts – 31 contacts
- Office visits – 2 for consultation

### Programs Presented:

- “Getting Started in Produce Farming”, presented at the Hummert International open house and vendors show (9/24)
- “Landscape Design”, Level 1 Master Gardener training, Buffalo (9/25)
- “Fruits in the Edible Landscape,” State Master Gardener Conference, Branson (9/28)
- “Home Fruit Production”, Level 1 Master Gardener training, Independence (10/1)
- “Plant Disease”, Level 1 Master Gardener training, Hermitage (10/2)
- “Home Fruit Production”, Level 1 Master Gardener training, Buffalo (10/9)
- “Raised Bed Gardening”, OACAC-Headstart (10/16)
- “Amending and Improving Soil,” Kimberling City Fall Gardening Workshop (10/25)

### Coordinated:

- Planning activities for Beginning Vegetable Growers meeting, including attendance at the Hwy C Produce Auction (10/3)
- Horticulture soil test reports - recommendations and distribution for SW region – 63 reports

### Participated in:

- Ozarks Sports Turf Association mtg (9/24)

- Missouri State Master Gardener Conference (9/26-28)
- Greene County Extension Council (9/29)
- Orientation, Kansas City (9/30-10/1)
- Farm Fest, Springfield (10/2-5)
- Ozarks Plateau Master Naturalists (10/4)
- Greene County Master Gardener Board Meeting (10/7)
- Luncheon with Richard Louv (10/8)
- Quarterly meeting of the Greene County Environmental Collaborative (10/10)
- Tour of Valley Water Mill Park (10/14)
- Greene County Master Gardener monthly meeting (10/14)
- SW Region Ag Category Staff (10/17)
- Meeting with architects on Botanical Center project (10/20)

### Human interest

- OACAC-Headstart gardening project – I’m excited about cooperating on this project with Keesha Hyder, education specialist with Ozarks Region OACAC Headstart. She is coordinating a grant from Lowes to develop vegetable gardens at several Headstart facilities in Greene County, with the potential for additional gardens at facilities around the region. The gardens will be used as a “hands on” learning tool for young children, and as a source of vegetables for families involved in the Headstart program.
- Produce farming interest in the Webster county area is developing, in part in response to the establishment of the Highway C Produce Auction, located north of Seymour. Several Extension specialists are cooperating to offer a beginning vegetable producers workshop, scheduled for Nov. 11 in Seymour. Among the clientele that we hope to reach are the Amish and Mennonite communities, strong supporters of the produce auction.

## 4-H Youth Development Specialist Report

### VELYNDA CAMERON:

PR opportunities: Farm Fest Oct 3-5, and the Child Care Provider Health Conference Oct 18.

Programs Presented: Making the Best Better; An Orientation for all Missouri 4-H Volunteers Oct. 7, and (2) Professional Trainings for Professional Childcare Providers (R. Wardlow) Oct. 13 & 20 in Christian County. Counseled with (2) 4-H clubs concerning policy and leadership. Counseled Taney County (4-H) Volunteer Personnel Committee – positive background check. Counseled the Greene County (FLEX) Future Leaders Exchange Program host family and their exchange student in behalf of Joyce Taylor (State Program Coordinator.) Will attend the 2008 Extension Annual Conference in Columbia Oct 28-30.

#### **4-H Activities attended and participated in:**

- Greene County Jot-Em-Down 4-H Club meeting (Sun) Oct. 5
- Greene County 4-H Recognition Night (Sat) Oct. 11
- Christian County W.H.O.A. 4-H Club meeting (Mon) Oct. 13
- 4-H Southwest Region Category Meeting (Tues) Oct. 14
- Greene County 4-H Fair Committee meeting – horse – (Tues) Oct. 14
- Greene County 4-H Leaders Council (Thurs) Oct. 16

- Answered many telephone calls of inquiry about the county 4-H clubs
- Anticipating the arrival of the 4-H club enrollment forms beginning Oct. 31

#### **Currently working on:**

- The November edition of the 4-H newsletter *Clover Talk*
- Sorting/Organizing and Updating the 4-H curriculum files
- Inventorying 4-H ribbons, medals, supplies
- Sorting/Organizing and Updating the (my) office files, storage spaces and other 4-H files and materials

### BECKY FAY / YPA

#### **4-H Activities attended and participated in:**

- Greene County 4-H Recognition Night (Sat) Oct 11
- 4-H Southwest Region Category Meeting (Tues) Oct 14
- Greene County 4-H Fair Committee meeting – horse – (Tues) Oct 14
- Greene County 4-H Leaders Council (Thurs) Oct 16
- Continues to work down comp hours

## Nutrition Specialist & Family Nutrition Education Program Report

*By Terry Egan*

**Terry Egan:** Programs Presented: two staff trainings; 13 days of new staff training; Cox Dietetic Interns; and supervised three dietetic interns rotations. Health Fairs: Child Care Provider Health Conference. Participated in: CPD Civil Rights training and 2008 Extension Annual Conference

**Marty Wood,** nutrition program assistant working with adults, presented classes at the new Pregnancy Care Center site and participated in the Partners for a Better Tomorrow committee.

**Teresa DeFord** is teaching FNEP middle school curriculum at Reed.

**Youth NPA's Tylane Garrett, Dina Good, and Becky Roark** are teaching youth at Willard South Willard Central, York, Robberson, Bingham, and Fair Grove schools in October.

## Human Development Specialist Report

By Jim Wirth

**Programs: 32 programs for 716 attendees.**

*Program Topics were as follows:*

### **Presented these Programs**

- Becoming a Couple
- Communication (2)
- Conflict Management (3)
- Connecting for Baby Relationship Skills
- Deepening Dialogues & Marriage Outcomes
- Discussion Skills
- Fighting Obesity through Active Play
- Humor & Other Interesting Things
- Labyrinth Experience
- Managing Emotions
- Mind-Body Relationship & Health
- Money Dynamics
- Obese Kids: They are what they eat
- Parenting Stressors
- Poverty & Economic Class in MO

- Problem Solving
- Raising Children in a Violent World
- Self Change & Helping Others Change
- Stress Reduction
- Teaching English to non-English Learners—ELL (2)

### **Coordinated these Programs**

- Autism Seminar
- Broadway Music
- Election Year Issues
- History of the Silver Coronet Band
- Piano & Violin
- Severe Storms
- Songs to Remember
- Southwest Senior Center

**Took Professional Development Training in Intermediate Word 2007**

## Housing and Environmental Design Specialist Report

By Jeff Barber

### **Downtown Visioning collaboration with Drury Center for Community Studies**

- Attended the Webb City proclamation ceremony with Governor Blunt for Webb City's DREAM designation.
- Submitted an award application to the ACSA (American Collegiate Schools of Architecture) for the collaborative effort of Downtown Visioning and Revitalization with Drury University.
- NextStep 2030 effort presentation for the DREAM Initial Assessment Meeting in Lamar to kick-off DREAM implementation.

### **Programs:**

- USDA Homebuyer Education for four (4) individuals originated from US Bank. This represents a near doubling of 2007 students in just one month!
- Brookfield LoftWalk with Drury architecture students and the Project Team. An investigation and rediscovery of the spaces above Main Street. 2 more trips!

- Childcare / Foster Parent Training session "Healthy, Efficient & Safe Homes" to ten (10) persons
- 12 phone consultations & one site consult for topics including pests, alternative energy systems, mold and home / site planning.

### **Training and Conferences:**

- Annual Conference in Columbia, participant in the HES and Community Development tracks.

### **Participated in:**

- Richard Louv lecture and luncheon for the presentation of "Last Child Left in the Woods", a book that has inspired the federal "No Child Left Inside" legislation.
- OGBC (Ozarks Green Building Coalition) MLS committee meeting to develop the tools for listing homes and buildings by realtors that can responsibly represent "green aspects and features".

## Extension Office Activities

### Nancy Chambers

Soil Tests Submitted – 39 soil tests  
Pesticide Training –  
Correspondence Tests Proctored—2

**Monthly Travel**—Enter and print monthly travel reports for Greene County office. Imported regional travel into Quickbooks; processed thru QB and printed checks.

**Daily**— Reviewing all publications in front file cabinets: removing outdated literature or adding labels to cover old logo on current publications. Numerous phone calls and walk-in inquires to be researched, answered, info mailed out and/or referred to appropriate persons. Assist all specialists as needed for mailings, projects, questions, etc.

**Other Activities:** Obtained quotes from mailing service for alumni mailing; obtained BR permit for mailing. Staffed booth at Richard Louv Presentation (went for Master Gardeners, but spoke about all Extension Services). Mailing to veteran organizations for Jim's programs. Registrations for Jim's fall childcare classes & Patrick's Vegetable workshop. Assisted with preparations for classes & workshops—certificates, snacks, receipts, class material as needed

**Weekly News Articles** — 8 to 10 uploaded to AgEbb ; faxed and/or mailed copies to other parties

**Weekly Calendars**—Coordinate and print weekly calendars for Greene County office; email calendars to other regional counties

**Newsletters Mailed:** *Master Gardener Newsletter* -- 260 copies—prepared & printed election ballots; folded, labeled and sealed for bulk mailing

**Master Gardener Activities:** 150+ Hotline gardening calls recorded by Master Gardeners. 2009 Master Gardener Class—38 on mailing list for new class in January; Maintain member rosters; maintain Grapevine mailing list; track annual service hours for volunteers.

### Lorri Winters

**Regional Travel:** Processed regional travel for the 16 counties in the SW Region and printed checks for the SW Region specialists and support staff. Reconciled check book in QuickBooks to bank statement, made bank deposits, prepared reports for extension council monthly meeting.

**Ext. Council Bookkeeping:** Prepared/processed bills & printed checks for Council. Processed payroll, monthly reports, made bank deposits & reconciled checkbook in QuickBooks to bank statement.

**Other Activities:** Trained Nancy on Regional Travel Procedures (this training will be ongoing until she can complete travel on her own.) Prepared 4-H Clovertalk for bulk mailing. Assisted walk-in customers on various subjects, & answered phone calls. Cleaned up the future CPD's office and prepared computer equipment for recycle.

*The "Greene County Reaching Out Report" is a communication tool used by MU Extension staff and specialists in Greene County to concisely communicate activities, contacts and events to members of the Greene County Extension Council and the Greene County Commission on monthly basis. For more information about this report contact the County Program Director at (417) 862-9284.*

October 24, 2008

## **Supporters of Botanical Center Dedicate Site, Get Energized for Final Fundraising Push**

The Friends of the Garden, Inc. and Springfield-Greene County Park Board hosted a progress announcement event and site dedication on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the future site of the Botanical Center in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic Ave.

According to organizers, the site dedication was an opportunity to show the footprint in which the center will be built, along with updating the community on fundraising.

To-date, about \$1,372,942 has been raised for the \$4.3 million project. A large portion of the building will be paid for by the 2006 voter-approved 1/4-cent sales tax for Springfield-Greene County Parks which will generate \$3 million.

That means \$256,338 is left to raise privately for this building by February 2009.

“We’re almost there, and I couldn’t be more proud and appreciative of everyone here today,” said Adams. “What we will have here, once it is completed, is a building that will remain an area landmark for 100 years or more.”

The 12,700-square foot building will be developed on the 55-acre Close Memorial Park and will overlook Drummond Lake. The building will eventually house offices for horticulture focused parks staff, specialists and staff with Greene County University of Missouri Extension and Friends of the Garden. The building will include classrooms, a multipurpose room, gardening related library, space for the Master Gardener help center and a gift shop.

The building is being designed in accordance with The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System in order to earn certification as a “green building.” Once completed, the center itself will provide a local site for hosting all types of horticulture-related classes, workshops and special events geared toward identifying, growing and caring for plants of all kinds.

Tax deductible contributions can be made payable to the University of Missouri with “Greene County Extension/Botanical Building” in the memo portion of the check. Checks can be sent directly to the MU Extension Development Office, 109 Whitten Hall, Columbia MO 65211 or to the Greene County Extension Center, 833 Boonville, Springfield, Mo. 65802.

For more information, media contact: Susan Boswell, Friends of the Garden, (417) 882-7439 or (417) 860-1285; David Burton, University of Missouri-Extension, (417) 862-9284; or Parks Director Jodie Adams, (417) 864-1329.

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