

Highlights

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Kansas City Home and Garden Show - University of Missouri Extension, teamed up with Kansas State Extension, to designed and developed an exhibit for the Kansas City Home and Garden Show March 17-20, at Bartle Hall. The emphasis at this years display was Infonet, the web based informational resource available 24 hours a day. The website is supported by MO and Kansas Extension and features over 500 answers to our most frequently asked questions. The exhibit specifically highlighted home indoor air quality information that is part of the Infonet resources. Denise Schmitz, Jackson County Extension Specialist is pictured holding a carbon monoxide detector, one of the door prizes distributed during the show. Over 70,000 area residents attended the 4 day show. Marsha Alexander, Environmental Design Specialist, 482-5850.



Circle Times - The "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.

Kansas City 4-H After School Programs - University of Missouri Extension Jackson County 4-H has partnered with the Local Investment Commission (LINC) 21st Century in providing staffing and programming at 10 Kansas City area schools. The 17th Annual National Youth Service Day was held April 16th but the students and staff seemed to think one day is not enough! Seven days have been set aside from April 15 through June 4, to clean up and beautify their schools and surrounding neighborhoods, help the elderly and the homeless and do their part to make Kansas City a better place to live. Organizers expect 250 youth volunteers grades K-8 plus 300 or more parents and adult volunteers. The Youth Service project wraps up June 4 at C.A. Franklin Elementary, with a celebration for all of the school site volunteers, 4-H staff and high school and adult volunteers. Leon Moon, 4-H Youth Specialist, 252-5051.

Extension Specialist in the News - Thursday's Kansas City Star featured an article where Marsha Alexander, Housing and Environmental Design Specialist created a painting and poem that was selected for the opening of Missys' Mirror, an appearance boutique for cancer patients. The poem and painting are meant to be an inspiration for people facing serious illness. The boutique is the only one of its kind in Kansas City and there is only a handful in the country. Hopefully you or a loved one won't need the services but if you ever do, it is a wonderful resource. For more information call Marsha Alexander, Environmental Design Specialist at 482-5850.



Welcome Blue Springs Newest Employee – Brinda James, not a typo, Brinda is the newest addition to the Blue Springs office. Brinda's experience as a Volunteer Coordinator is sure to come in handy when working with the Master Gardener program. Please feel free e-mail or call her at 816-252-5051, Jamesbj@missouri.edu.

Helping Kids Eat Healthy - Forty-three early childhood educators and child care providers signed up for the workshop and 38 of them completed the training in Blue Springs. This workshop helped participants learn new ways to encourage children to make healthy choices for proper diets and eating habits to promote positive healthy behaviors. Nina Chen, Human Development Specialist, 252-5051.

New E-mail Address - University of Missouri Extension Jackson County now has a new e-mail address. Our new address is Jacksonblsp@missouri.edu

Upcoming Events:

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| May 12 | Dramatic Play 6:00 - 8:00
University Extension Center, Blue Springs
Nina Chen, Human Development Specialist |
| Jun 16 | Boost Kids' Brain Power - 6:00 - 8:00p.m
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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