

Highlights

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May 2005

The C.A.R.E. Credit Abuse Resistance Education Program - This program tries to reach high school juniors and seniors in the metropolitan Kansas City area with the message that credit needs to be handled with care before these students become the proud owner of their first credit card. Attorneys and judges of the bankruptcy court have taken the program into 15 classrooms at seven high schools across the city. Thirty attorneys and judges were trained in January over the curriculum and have made presentations about the judicious wise use of credit to over 600 students in both Kansas and Missouri during the spring semester. Carole Bozworth, Consumer and Family Economics Specialist, 482-5862.

Food Circles Networking Project is a new way of conceiving of and organizing our agricultural and food systems in which individuals come to understand their interdependency with food producers and other food eaters. It links the many people involved in food production to consumers in the Kansas City by educating producers about their marketing options. In addition, the program is attempting to educate consumers of the numerous sources for locally produced, wholesome foods. With spring here and plants in the ground you can now take advantage of the area's growing number of farmers' markets; there are over 31 in the West Central Region of the state, 3 of which are completely organic! Log onto www.foodcircles.missouri.edu or look at the state's Department of Agriculture's AgriMissouri buyer's guide for markets and retailers carrying local goods. Crystal Weber, Community Development Specialist, Local Food Systems, 876-2790.

Master Gardeners Botanical Garden - Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City took a one-day bus trip to the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis. Fifty Master Gardeners and guests were able to enjoy special guided tours given by St. Louis Master Gardeners. The educational tour included the beauty of some lovely plants in bloom, reflecting pools, a tropical lowland rain forest, a large Japanese garden, waterfalls, a children's garden and a sculpture garden, to name only part of what is available to see there. Lala Kumar, Horticulture Specialist, 252-5051.



Normal Aging and Alzheimer's disease - Forty-two Hispanic seniors participated in the "Normal Aging and Alzheimer's Disease" workshop at the Guadalupe Center. Hispanic seniors were very interested in learning about the difference between normal aging and Alzheimer's disease and how to deal with the common behaviors associated with the disease. The workshop was bi-lingual. The program partnership includes American Red Cross, Alzheimer's Association, and Guadalupe Center. Nina Chen, Human Development Specialist, 482-5850.

Identity Theft – Identity Theft was the topic of a Lunch and Learn program for employees at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City on May 12. Thirty-five employees of the bank participated in the session which explained the dimensions of this fast-growing white collar crime. They also received information about the methods used by identity thieves to obtain personal data and how citizens can best protect themselves from falling victim to this financial crime. Carole Bozworth, Consumer and Family Economics Specialist, 482-5862.

Open House – University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton will help celebrate the new location of the Eastern Jackson County Extension Center on June 22. The Showcase will be held from 4-6 pm at 1501 NW Jefferson in Blue Springs, in the Blue River Community College Building. The Showcase will feature exhibits of extension services available to Jackson County residents. Music will be provided by the University of Missouri Kansas City Student Jazz Trio.

Dr. Deaton and Blue River Community College President Malcolm Wilson will address the relationship between the community college and university as students transition to further their education. Extension then provides a unique link between the university and the community. Extension specialists offer university-based research to help Missouri residents solve the everyday problems of life. Through extension, residents can learn how to start a business, eat healthier foods, manage their land, improve their homes and community, continue their education and raise their kids. Extension programs are available to address the health concerns of every age group from nutrition for toddlers to exercise programs for senior adults. Youth also benefit from 4-H membership where they learn leadership, citizenship and life skills. Jacksonblsp@missouri.edu

Upcoming Events:

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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