

Ohio State University Extension Connection

Bringing OSU to You in Medina County

Featured Highlights

OSU STEM Engagement Led by OSU Community Development Program in Medina County



Over the summer, OSU Extension was busy assembling STEM activity kits for youth. These family-friendly projects were distributed through the Lodi Community Care Center, Brunswick's Back-2-School Fair, and the Cloverleaf Food Pantry. Over a seven-week period, approximately 2958 STEM kits were distributed to an estimated 780 youth.

Developed by OSU's community development program and executed by program assistant Rachel Chapman, kits engaged youth in science, technology, engineering, and math skills at home during Covid-19 stay-at-home protocols. Many local celebrities, including Mayor Dennis Hanwell of the City of Medina, assembled kits with their families and participated in the fun!

One partner shared, "our superintendent, Daryl Kubilus, often says we as a school district have two responsibilities, educating kids and feeding kids. I really felt that Medina County Extension's STEM kits helped feed students' minds while we fed their bodies". Kit distribution will be available through fall. Local Pastor Mark Ruffin has requested 150 kits for his parish and more can be requested by contacting Kyle White at white.2811@osu.edu.

Government Academy

The Medina County Government Academy was launched in 2017 by Ohio State University Extension (OSUE) as an expanded in-depth training to enhance the highly regarded Leadership Medina County (LMC) Government Day. The idea originated from several class members who were interested in additional information and a deeper dive into other government related topics. The Government Academy was a response to a need and has grown into a collaboration and partnership between OSUE and LMC. It continues to evolve and transform based on requests from members of the community. The launch of the 2020/21 Leadership Academy began with a Political Basics 101 Class held in July 2020. The class discussion was facilitated by two veteran politicians, former Congressman Jim Renacci and former Congressman Zach Space. In October, a Public Meetings and Board Procedure Class was held and is one of four (4) classes in the Government Academy series taking place this year that offers two (2) General CLE credits for Attorneys.

The Government Academy is open to the public for anyone interested in learning more about government operations and related topics. Classes are held the second Thursday of every month through May 2021. Individuals may attend single classes and do not need to commit to the whole series. The cost varies depending on the number of classes enrolled in, and a discount is available for registering for 5 or more in the series. Adult learners interested in an opportunity to interact with others who are inspired by continuous learning and civil discourse are the target audience. For more information contact Kyle White at white.2811@osu.edu.

Garden Advice Gone Virtual!

Garden Hotline is a service offered by OSU Extension and its Master Gardener Volunteers. Call us with your questions about home lawn and garden and we will work to research answers to your inquiries. During Covid, you can also make an appointment to bring in plant samples or meet with the Agriculture and Natural Resource Educator at our office. Dial 330-725-4911 for more information.

We are also sharing videos and conducting virtual programs addressing garden issues with local groups!

Food Preservation

Got produce to preserve? OSU Family and Consumer Sciences is offering pressure canner testing for \$5, by appointment, and the OSU Extension Food Preservation Team has created recordings of their virtual office hours!

Answers to your most common food preservation questions can be found in these recorded videos. Food Preservation recordings can be found at go.osu.edu/canningFAQvideos



pounds of produce

Donated to area food banks and ministries by the **OSU Master Gardener Volunteers 2020!**

Master Gardener Volunteers

Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) stayed engaged in the community during COVID! Volunteers have donated produce from their home gardens to Feeding Medina County and other food insecurity organizations throughout the county, as well as harvesting and donating produce from the Medina Community Garden at Liberty and South Jefferson. Volunteers are providing virtual workshops online.

New Master Gardener Training is being planned for late 2021. If you are interested in learning more about our program, feel free to call Ashley Kulhanek at 330-661-6404 or at kulhanek.5@osu.edu.

Family and Consumer Science

If you are looking for free programming related to: parenting, basic budgeting, nutrition, or stress management, please contact Family and Consumer Science Educator, Erin Ruggiero at ruggiero.46@osu.edu.

FCS has been teaching programs such as Mindful Wellness, Generation Rx (Safe Medication Practices), Trauma Informed Care, Parenting Classes, and Nutrition Basics virtually!

SNAP Ed Works to Keep Medina Healthy

SNAP ED is a grant-supported program through OSU Extension that provides nutrition and health information to low-income individuals and groups. The SNAP staff have provided live and virtual nutrition sessions with J.O.G. and Office of Older Adults in Medina County.

Nutrition-focused newsletters are provided to eligible citizens through such partner agencies as Medina Housing Authority, Office of Older Adults, Kindercare, J.O.G., Lodi Ambassador & Aristocrat Apartments and more to keep families engaged with healthy information throughout socially distancing protocols.



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