



**OKLAHOMA COUNTY
EXTENSION**

REPORT TO THE PUBLIC May 2022

Eastside Fresh Market Grand Opening

Tuesday, May 3rd, was the grand opening of the new Eastside Fresh Farmer's Market located at the Oklahoma County OSU Extension Center at 2500 NE 63rd Street in Oklahoma City.

District 1 County Commissioner Carrie Blumert and Ward 7 Councilwoman Nikki Nice celebrated the grand opening of the market in NE OKC with their attendance and ribbon cutting.

The Eastside Fresh Market is a food access hub for Northeast Oklahoma City and has created new opportunities for NE OKC farmers and other Oklahoma City area businesses.

The market features locally grown produce, meat, eggs, plants, and flowers as well as homemade jams & jellies, baked goods, fresh cheese and much more!

Eastside Fresh Market accepts SNAP benefits and is open to the public every Tuesday from 4 to 7 pm.





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OHCE HOLDS SPRING ACHIEVEMENT LUNCHEON

The annual OHCE (Oklahoma Home and Community Education) achievement luncheon was held to recognize members who excelled at giving back to their communities. Since the ceremony hasn't been held since 2019 due to COVID, awards were given for 2020-2022. Volunteers were recognized for county participation, community service, education, and county fair participation. OHCE Genealogy was announced as the outstanding group of the year.

SNAP benefits available at the Eastside Fresh Market

During the month of May, our Nutrition Education Assistants with the Community Nutrition Education Program (CNEP) helped families with SNAP benefits to purchase foods while at the Eastside Fresh Market. Each week CNEP will feature recipes provided by our partner, Oklahoma Nutrition Information and Education (ONIE), highlighting fresh produce that is currently available at the Market. CNEP will stream "Harvest Highlights" on Facebook Live monthly featuring a live market tour, including interviews with vendors, while purchasing ingredients from the market that will then be featured in a Facebook Live demo. So be sure to follow the Oklahoma County OSU Extension and the Eastside Fresh Market on social media for more information on upcoming demos.





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Master Gardeners Helping the Hungry

This month the Oklahoma County Master Gardener volunteers put in a special garden planting for the “Plant a Row for the Hungry” program (PAR). This project is a national “people-helping-people” program that encourages gardeners to grow a little extra and then donate their excess produce to local soup kitchens and food pantries that serve the homeless and hungry within their local communities.

The vegetable garden was planted at the Oklahoma City-County Health Department Community Garden and includes tomatoes, sweet peppers, cucumbers, summer squash, winter squash and watermelons. This produce, along with extra produce that Master Gardeners have from their own personal gardens, will be donated to local food pantries in the Northeast sector of Oklahoma City.

Future plans are to expand the planting and include vegetables to be planted for a fall garden.





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Second Annual Compost Festival a Success

Oklahoma County OSU Extension helped to facilitate the second annual Compost Festival. This event was held at Scissortail Park in Oklahoma City on Saturday, May 7th, as the culminating event for the International Compost Awareness Week (May 1-7). The Compost Festival offered visitors two compost seminars which were taught from the Love's Travel Stop main stage. The first seminar was presented by the Oklahoma Compost and Sustainability Association titled "Create Your Own Home Compost." Urban Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, Joshua Campbell also taught a seminar on "Incorporating Compost within the Landscape." The festival also offered visitors access to 12 booth spaces with local compost vendors, municipalities, and non-profits who offered products and information for the general public. The event was attended by several hundred community members and was a huge success.





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Four Seasons Living: Success in Summer

The quarterly Four Seasons Living Workshop series, "Success in Summer" was held on Friday, May 20th, at the OSU Extension Conference Center. This program is a joint effort between Oklahoma County Extension Educators Julia Laughlin, Horticulture Educator, Taylor Conner, Family & Consumer Sciences Educator and Registered Dietitian, and Joshua Campbell, Urban Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator.

Julia shared summer gardening tips on topics such as pruning spring blooming shrubs, deadheading roses, and how and when to harvest early spring produce like potatoes and garlic. Taylor conducted a food demonstration using a Greek Potato Salad recipe that was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Joshua discussed mulching, weeding, and proper watering of crops and lawns during the hottest season of the year. He also spoke on maintaining turfgrass and best practices for landscape management throughout the summer months.

Julia, Taylor, and Josh will continue with their Four Seasons Living Workshop series on September 23rd when they present "Do It All in The Fall."





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 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**



Food Showdown

Oklahoma County 4-H sent the winners of the County Food Showdown in the junior and senior divisions to the Southeast District 4-H Food Showdown Competition. The Senior division participants were Mucio Davila, Natalie Teel, and Audra Krischel. The Junior division participants were Jaden Gray and Rexton Potter. Both teams placed fifth in their divisions. Teams also competed in the Consumer Decision Making Contest and the FCS Skill-a-thon. The Senior Team included Mucio Davila, Natalie Teel, and Karson Potter. The Junior Team Consisted of Taron Krischel, Rexton Potter, and Jaden Gray. The Junior team placed 9th and the Senior Team placed 4th in Consumer Decision Making. The Junior team placed 9th and the Senior team placed 2nd in the FCS Skill-a-thon. Natalie Teel was the Senior High Individual in the Skill-a-thon!

Summer H.U.G.S. Kick-Off

Oklahoma County 4-H is expanding the HUGS (Hats, Underwear, Gloves, and Socks) donation program in partnership with the Lynn Institute to help meet the needs of the unhoused population this Summer. Throughout the month of June, donations can be brought to the Oklahoma County OSU Extension office at 2500 NE 63rd St., OKC. We are looking for NEW sunblock, deodorant, hats, shoes and would also appreciate new jeans, tents, sleeping bags, new SPF lip balm, and travel size toiletries are needed. All items are being donated to the Homeless Alliance.

The Lynn Institute sponsored a Kick-Off Party for 4-H teen leaders with pizza, dessert, and drinks. It was a great way to get everyone excited for this service project.

Summer H.U.G.S.

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OAE4-HYDP Conference

The Oklahoma Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals had their annual conference May 16th-18th in Durant. Oklahoma County 4-H Educator, Mindy McNeil, presented in the "Share Fair" about the Summer H.U.G.S. project in partnership with the Lynn Institute. The "Share Fair" was a round of short presentations for educators to share the innovative projects happening in their counties so other educators can learn new ideas to share in their home counties.

The educators were also given a tour of the Choctaw Cultural Center. It was a wonderful way to learn about the Choctaw people and their treacherous, forced journey to Oklahoma.

While at the Conference, Mindy McNeil received two awards, the Clover award and the Communicator Award for an Educational Piece.

The Clover award is given to outstanding educators with less than three years of service.

The Communicator Award for an Educational Piece was awarded for Mindy's brochure on water conservation called "Kid's Guide to Saving Water".

Mindy was also elected Treasurer of the Association, which has a two year term.





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Extension Staff:

LaDonna Hines - Extension Director

Lisa Hamblin - Family & Consumer
Sciences Educator

Taylor Conner - Family & Consumer
Sciences Educator

Julia Laughlin - Horticulture Educator

Josh Campbell - Urban Agriculture
& Natural Resources Educator

Cody Yount - 4-H Educator

Mindy McNeil - 4-H Educator

Rachel Morse - 4-H Youth Mental
Health Multi-County Educator

Lori Goodbary - CNEP Area
Coordinator

OSU Extension provides research-based resources you can use to improve your home, workplace and community. We offer programs and services that are specifically designed to solve the problems that county residents face. Please check out our website for the calendar of events <https://calendar.okstate.edu/oces/> to learn of new workshops or programs being offered.

You can follow us on Facebook for a glimpse into how your Oklahoma County Extension Educators and staff are serving you and the community.

Contact Us:



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