



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

JANUARY 2022 REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community Development provides educational programming to assist leaders, communities, and organizations realize their full potential. We work with communities to build the vitality that enhances their quality of life and enriches the lives of their residents. We educate in leadership development, organizational development, food systems, community economic development, local government education and much more. In short, the Community Development Institute plants and cultivates the seeds for thriving communities and organizations.

Kevin Struck, Community Development Educator

- Kevin completed a research project using GIS and Sheboygan County parcel data to determine the extent of conversions from owner-occupied residences to rental units in a sample of neighborhoods. The conversion rate was 38% in one of the larger neighborhoods and 27% in another. Results from this research may help officials determine whether they should implement 2017 Wis. Act 317, which allows a local government to establish a rental property inspection program for limited purposes. The governing body may designate districts in which there is evidence of blight, high rates of building code violations, deteriorating property values, or increases in single-family home conversions to rental units. Periodic inspections of rental properties located in a designated district may be required.
- Per a request from the City of Sheboygan Falls, Kevin reviewed the last citizen opinion survey the City had done (2009) and made recommendations for a new survey to be conducted in 2022. He identified questions that should be removed, edited others, and suggested new ones. He also presented a comparison of the pros/cons of doing an online survey versus an entirely paper version.
- Kevin discovered several typos and omissions in a local town's zoning and subdivision ordinances, including one that limited the Plan Commission's involvement in pre-submittal consultations with developers, and another that failed to list any acceptable zoning districts for recreational activities that require a conditional use permit. Worked with the town to revise the ordinances and to create appropriate public hearing and ordinance amendment templates.



Large residence that has been converted to multiple rental units



AGRICULTURE



If it happens on a farm or in a field, the Extension Institute of Agriculture works with you to achieve better results. Our innovative dairy management programs range from genetics to farm and business management. Extension researchers work hand-in-hand with row crop, forage and fresh produce growers to provide best practices for every aspect of the growing phase. We also advise communities on using sustainable practices to create inviting spaces free from invasive species.

Crops and Soils

Mike Ballweg, Area Crops and Soils Agent

- A webinar series (Badger Crop Connect) for farmers, agronomists and agriculture professionals, where they learned about research to address timely crop production practices and emerging agronomic concerns. Through this program, attendees implemented these practices on their farms or used the information to advise their clients.

Farm Management

Stephanie Plaster, Farm Management Educator

- A presentation for farmers and agriculture professionals, where participants learned how to use a SWOT analysis for business and personal growth. This effort was designed to help participants assess their skills, assets, personalities, and/or networks to help make a decision about a business opportunity or new enterprise.
- An activity for farmers and agriculture professionals, where participants identified their stressors, strengths, and resources. This effort was designed to provide an opportunity for participants to recognize the common stressors, strengths, and resources among their peer group.

Dairy & Livestock

Tina Kohlman, Dairy & Livestock Agent

- A presentation for dairy farmers, calf managers, farm workers, and agribusiness professionals, where they learned calf health benchmarks, hygiene practices, housing considerations, and disbudding considerations to improve calf growth, health, management, and profitability while maintaining animal health and wellbeing.
- A training for youth dairy project members, where they learned animal handling, husbandry, and herd health management practices to improve dairy production management and animal health and well-being.



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FOOD SECURITY, HEALTHY EATING, AND HEALTHY LIVING



FoodWise advances healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for families with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels. FoodWise reaches individuals and families through local community partners by providing nutrition classes in-person and virtually, indirect education (newsletters, etc.), and social media/marketing. FoodWise is an obesity prevention program that addresses policy, system and environmental changes through local and state public health efforts.

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

Amanda Miller, FoodWise Coordinator

- A series of classes on Discover MyPlate for each kindergarten classroom at 7 different elementary schools in Sheboygan County in English and Spanish. Discover MyPlate introduces the 5 food groups in an age-appropriate manner and recipe samples. The goal of these classes is to encourage youth to try healthy new foods.
- Leadership and planning in partnership with Master Gardener volunteers to plan the 2022 Junior Master Gardener Program (JMG). JMG is a summer-long youth gardening and nutrition program that promotes seed to plate and increased fruit and vegetable consumption among young children.
- Leadership of the SCAN (Sheboygan Coalition on Activity and Nutrition). The SCAN health coalition brings community partners together to address obesity, food security, and chronic disease related health issues identified in the Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Leadership, technical assistance, and coordination of a food resource hub for the Fond du Lac Food Providers Group that helps local agencies direct community members to local and state food resources. This food resource hub creates coordination between local emergency food agencies and individuals impacted by food/nutrition security.
- Partnered with ADVOCAP Head Start to teach a series of nutrition education classes to preschool students in 17 classrooms at 6 different sites. These classes help encourage healthy eating habits starting young by introducing healthy foods and taste testing opportunities.
- Partnership of a COVID-19 vaccination education and awareness campaign for Fond du Lac County residents to receive current information on the vaccine. The goal is to increase vaccination rates and help community members make more informed health decision.



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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS



*The Extension Institute of **Human Development & Relationships** provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.*

Jane Jensen, Human Development & Relationship Educator

SPOTLIGHT

The HDR Educator along with the state evaluation specialist and a team of statewide educators developed, piloted and administered anonymous evaluations to determine the outcomes of programming with family caregivers. Locally the evaluation was administered to family caregivers who had participated in the six- part Powerful Tools for Caregivers and the monthly family caregiver education/support group co-facilitated by the HDR Educator in 2021. The survey had a fifty-five percent return rate in Sheboygan County. One hundred percent of the respondents indicated that as a result of participating they identified and tried one or more new ways to take care of their physical, mental or emotional well-being. All indicated that they had tried new ways of being hopeful or found themselves being more hopeful with more positive thoughts through program participation. Three-quarters were able to name between one and three resources that they had not been aware of before participating in either program and had reached out for those resources. One hundred percent had identified and tried new ways to manage their stress. Almost seventy-five percent had been able to identify who supports them and had reached out for help while seventy-five percent had attended a support group as a result of program participation. When asked to describe changes since participating one caregiver said, "To stay mindful that I have resources." Another said, "I need to take care of my well-being so that I can continue to provide care for my loved one."



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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Positive Youth Development prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and after-school programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

Positive Youth Development

Lisa Sanderson, Positive Youth Development Educator

SPOTLIGHT

Anecdotal reports from various Sheboygan area service organizations, including Department of Health staff, indicate a “referral gap” in connecting Sheboygan residents with the many services available to them in Sheboygan. Barriers may include language, marketing/awareness, location/transportation, and multiple referrals in attempts to obtain the same service. In response to this articulated need, the Positive Youth Development Educator has partnered with Sheridan Elementary School staff, Partners for Community Development, and Staff Management Johnsonville to create and coordinate “Familias Unidas”, a family resource fair event to be held February 17 at Sheridan Elementary School. Featuring bilingual support for and outreach to the LatinX community, but open to all Sheboygan school district families, the event will bring family resources to the communities they serve in a trusted and familiar setting in an attempt to close that referral gap. Participating organizations include Mental Health America, Safe Harbor, Sheboygan Head Start, Sheboygan Food Bank, St. Clement’s Church, Lakeshore Community Resources, Lakeshore Technical College, Staff Management Johnsonville, and Partners for Community Development. The Sheboygan Department of Health will be present to provide masks and vaccination opportunities. Social distancing and staggered entry will be observed. UW Extension will be represented by Positive Youth Development Educator, 4H, and FoodWise staff. Meijer has provided financial support. Follow up surveys or calls will be made with hopes of measuring referrals success. St. Clement’s has offered to host the next event, which we intend to plan with youth in a youth-adult partnership modality. A waitlist to participate in the next event has been started due to lack of space for interested organizations. Many organizations will provide bilingual support. Sheridan School has coordinated robocalls to families throughout the entire district to create awareness of the event. 4-H

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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT *Continued*

4-H

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

- A Ongoing facilitation for the 4-H Horse and Pony Project Committee, providing them with resources and strategies to make sure they have authentic organizational structure and leadership within the project. Supported adult volunteer leadership creates and increases opportunities for youth to master new skills and knowledge.
- Ongoing planning and facilitation for the Youth Government Day. This effort is designed to increase youth participants knowledge of our county's civic organization and responsibilities and to increase the opportunity for participants to become engaged in local decision making.
- Support and leadership for the statewide 4-H American Spirit committee, where Extension facilitated discussions and provided information on requesting and submitting contracts. The goal is to ensure sustained youth programming in accordance with university regulations.

Sarah Tarjeson
4-H Youth Development Educator

Mike Ballweg
Area Crops and Soils Agent

Cindy Sarkady
Area Extension Director

Lisa Sanderson
Positive Youth Development Educator

Stephanie Plaster
Area Farm Management Educator

Tammy Zorn
Support Staff

Kevin Struck
Community Development Educator

Tina Kohlman
Area Dairy & Livestock Agent

Emily Jensen
Support Staff

Jane Jensen
*Human Development &
Relationships Educator*

Amanda Miller
FoodWise Coordinator

Cassi Worster
Area Marketing Specialist

Janeth Orozco
FoodWise Educator