

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

- Acting on a request by a town plan commission, Kevin did research to determine the number and location of large irregularly shaped lots within the town. Due to a very basic “lot width” definition in the zoning ordinance that was written for rectangular lots, these irregularly shaped lots are unable to meet the definition. This makes them nonconforming even though they would have plenty of width if a more modern “average lot width” definition was used. Kevin then worked with the town to draft a more flexible definition that if adopted would allow a larger variety of lot shapes.
- Kevin met with officials from the Town of Sheboygan Falls and summarized the recent history of Wisconsin’s Farmland Preservation Program in the town and explained the process for recertifying the town’s preservation zoning before it expires at the end of 2024. In addition to providing an incentive of over \$30,000 in yearly income tax credits to two dozen farmland owners covering 4,215 acres in the area, the main goals of the Program are preserving farmland from inappropriate development, properly managing nutrients on farm fields, and controlling runoff. The town indicated it would like Kevin’s assistance in moving forward with recertifying.

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.

Alicia Utke-Becher, Human Development & Relationship Educator

- Met with community partners at Aging and Disability Resource Center, Home and Community Education, Uptown Social, and Plymouth Intergenerational Coalition to build relationships, identify community needs and identify alignment with Extension’s Life Span and Financial Security Program efforts.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

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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.

Dairy

Tina Kohlman, Regional Dairy Agent

- Developing and planning a four-part Spanish dairy webinar series for Spanish-speaking dairy managers, herd managers, herds persons, and employees. The goal of this effort is to teach unbiased, university-based research in the areas of reproduction, nutrition, dairy management, and milk quality so they can improve farm viability and food safety, while maintaining animal wellbeing and welfare.
- Planning and development of a carbon conference for dairy owners and managers, consultants, engineers, and agribusiness professionals in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension, University of Minnesota Extension, and University of Illinois Extension. The goal of this effort is to teach individuals best management practices to reduce or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and how to enter, navigate, and discuss carbon markets to address dairy production management, thus improving farm business management viability and environmental sustainability.

Crops

Liz Gartman, Regional Crops Educator

- As a new regional crops educator in Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Washington, and Fond du Lac counties, it is necessary to determine the needs of the agricultural community related to crops programming. To best understand the needs of the growers, community groups and agribusiness professionals in the region, the crops educator will meet with these potential partners to determine gaps in programming and specific educational strategies necessary to properly serve the region. As of August 20, 2023, the educator has met with the director of the Clean Farm Families watershed group, Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers board members, financial officers from Compeer Financial and an editor for Hay and Forage magazine, while also making connections with other UW Madison-Extension educators, county Land & Water groups, producer, agronomists and support personnel. The educator is asking questions and recording the responses to generate a needs assessment which will provide guidance into programming plans. Further, the educator has provided support to local growers as needed by leveraging UW- Madison Extension professionals. This outreach will continue over the next 6 months to develop relationships with potential partners to establish an Extension presence in the crops programming area in this region.



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.

4-H

Sarah Tarjesson, 4-H Youth Development Educator

- Distributed a monthly newsletter starting in January throughout the year geared for New or 1st Year 4-H Families to introduce various components of the 4-H Youth Development Program, develop a sense of belonging to our organization and build confidence in parents and members as they participate in club and project opportunities.
- A learning opportunity for new parents and members to orient themselves to the 4-H Program in order to successfully engage in their clubs and countywide activities.

Positive Youth Development

Lisa Sanderson, Positive Youth Development Educator

- Sheboygan Outreach Collective partnered with the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association (HMAA) for the second year to present a family resource fair at the Hmong Summer Festival. The HMAA generously waives the individual vendor fee for our participating organizations, which include Lakeshore Community Health, ADRC, Lakeshore CAP, League of Women Voters, Above & Beyond Children's Museum, Sheboygan County Department of Health Bilingual Community Health Workers, Habitat for Humanity, Safe Harbor, and more. Free health screenings, which were well utilized by festival attendees last year, were provided again this year thanks to Lakeshore Community Health. At least ten people had a free health screening with Lakeshore Community Health; twenty asked about home safety programs at the Lakeshore CAP booth, and thirty people stopped at the Sheboygan Abortion Access booth. Other counts have not been provided by guest orgs to Extension at time of this report. Our next event will be Back to School Night at Farnsworth School in late August. Lisa Sanderson thanks the County Extension Committee for member individuals' generous offer to support lunch for a second annual Youth Government Day event. "Thank You!" capacity to respond to this crisis and identified Mental Health America as a partner. Increasing positive culture in school communities and helping youth to destigmatize and normalize informed discussions of mental health topics are goals of the Mental Health America Student Mental Health Ambassadors program. Mental Health America staff are engaged in establishing this group at area high schools. Lisa Sanderson will partner with those staff and school counseling staff to build youth capacity to be Youth Mental Health Ambassadors. This program focuses on supporting youth-facilitated discussions of youth mental health topics and youth ideas for mental health advocacy. A group of South High youth and the school social worker met with us to discuss establishing this program. Youth will take training at the end of the summer. Other Sheboygan area schools have been identified as potential partners by Mental Health America.

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

- Hosted farmers market tours for WIC (Women, Infants and Children) families at the Sheboygan farmers market. These tours provide information on how to shop at the farmers market, use the various benefits offered, meet the farmers, and ways to select, store and use fresh produce. (Amanda Miller)
- Partnered with Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization to conduct surveys for EBT (FoodShare) customers at their farmers markets. The goal is to collect feedback on customers' understanding and use of farmers market incentive programs, which help address food insecurity in Sheboygan County.
- Providing technical assistance for the state FoodWise office to develop a plan and apply for a federal nutrition incentive program. The goal is to offer nutrition incentive programs at farmers markets across Wisconsin and to support local farmers markets, which helps bring fresh fruits and vegetables to families in need.
- New partnership with Partners for Community Development (P4CD), a local organization that provides affordable housing and weatherization programs, to offer FoodWise classes at their newly built community center. The purpose of these classes will be to highlight the importance of food budgeting and healthy eating to P4CD's residents.

Sarah Tarjeson
4-H Youth Development Educator

Tina Kohlman
Regional Dairy Educator

Jayna Hintz
Area Extension Director

Kevin Struck
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