

Put A Little Green In Your Life

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Welcome to Issue #1 of the 2011 Put a Little Green in Your Life newsletter!

Put A Little Green in Your Life offers information on how to save on your energy costs and how to live a more green lifestyle. Our website and this newsletter will both show you many ways to save money on food, utility bills, cleaning supplies, and more!

For residents of northern Missouri, and clients of Green Hills Community Action Agency, we also offer programs like Fire Your Clothes Dryer and Community Gardens designed to help you save money and eat a healthier diet. The "Green Team" will also be visiting local schools to help teach kids easy ways to "go green"!

As our website grows this year, we will begin to feature more local artisans and crafters, farmers and ranchers offering items that are natural and good for the environment. We will also showcase the people who have received green jobs through our projects, show you how to reclaim architectural salvage to help you remodel on a tight budget, teach you how to make your home more energy efficient, and make available many educational resources centering on making inadequate housing safe, green, and affordable.

We hope you enjoy the material we share! If you have any questions about this or other GHCAA programs, please feel free to contact the agency anytime by calling 877-611-7600!

If you know of someone who might enjoy our monthly newsletter, please feel free to forward this edition on to them. To sign up for our electronic mailing list, please send a request to hendersont@ghcaa.org

Fire Your Clothes Dryer!

Do you get tired of your high electric bills? Did you know that the common household dryer is one of the BIGGEST consumers of electricity in your house?

By not using an electric clothes dryer, we have calculated that a one person household will save \$96.00/year (100 kilowatts @ \$.08/KW per month times 12 months per year). A family of 4 is estimated to save \$576/year (600 kilowatts @ \$.08/KW per month times 12 months).

Fire Your Clothes Dryer is a project that hopes to help ease those monthly electric bills! Drying your clothes outdoors is great for the environment and each household decreasing their dependence on the electrical grid will potentially reduce costs for electricity by lessening peak demands.

Call us at 877-611-7600 to see if you qualify for a FREE clothes line!

Garden Gets a Boost From Grant

Green Hills Community Action Agency is the recipient of funds to sponsor gardens for county senior citizens. The Grundy County Senior Citizen Tax Fund Board recently gave a grant to GHCAA. Members of the board are: Russell Joiner, President; Brooks Sethman, Vice President; Diana Hoppe, Secretary; Sharon Ferris, Treasurer, Max Dickerson, Jim Moore, and Tara Blackburn. Proceeds from this grant will provide seeds, plots, planting and harvesting with produce going to area senior citizens. Additional funding will be provided by Green Hills Community Action Agency, as well as donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses.

Interest is running high by gardeners of all ages for the Grundy County Community Garden Project. Land, which has been leased to Green Hills Community Action Agency for \$1 annually, is being provided by the First Christian Church. This garden is for low income persons, as well as members of the general public. Low income persons will receive seeds free of charge. A family of one can make \$13,613; family of two can make \$18,388; a family of 3 can make \$23,163; while a family of four can make \$27,938 to qualify for free seeds. Those not interested in qualifying based on income can pay a small fee for seeds to cover garden costs. Last year, gardeners from all income level participated as one common community. According to project manager, Terri Henderson, it was "great to see everyone come together regardless of income growing healthy, local food."

Green Hills Community Action Agency will seek members of the general public to sponsor needy families for \$150/year to plant individual, small gardens. GHCAA will teach gardening skills to interested persons. Each gardener will be required to pay \$1 membership fee, sign by-laws, a media release form, and a liability waiver form. Garden seeds will be provided for participants.

Two of the jobs from last year for this project will be retained. Craig Latham will again be working the project. The second position has been filled internally by Kim Brashear who will serve as garden manager.

Persons who wish to sign up or obtain more information may call Kim Brashear at 660-359-3907, ext. 1020



Pictured Left to Right: Brooks Sethman, Vice President, Grundy County Senior Citizens Services Tax Fund, Russell Joiner, President, Grundy County Senior Citizen Services Tax Fund; Kim Brashear, GHCAA Garden Manager; Diana Hoppe, Secretary Grundy County Senior Citizen Services Tax Fund; Terri Henderson, Project Manager for GHCAA; and Craig Latham, Garden Site Worker. Not pictured is Sharon Ferris, Treasurer for Grundy County Senior Citizens Services Tax Fund.

This community garden project is funded in whole/or part with funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division. The funds received from the Family Support Division are all federally funded.

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This newsletter is a monthly publication of www.putalittlegreeninyourlife.com