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News

John C. Foster, Chief Judge
16th Judicial Circuit Court,
Macomb County Probate Court,
42nd District Courts



For Immediate Release

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Macomb County Circuit Court - Juvenile Division develops community service garden

The Macomb County Circuit Court – Juvenile Division, in partnership with the Michigan State University Extension Master Gardner Program, is developing a community garden to provide opportunities for court involved youth to complete community service and to learn valuable life skills.

The garden is located outside the Juvenile Division building in Mt. Clemens and was constructed by staff volunteers and court involved youth. Michigan State University Extension will provide regular instruction to youth throughout the summer and fall as they plant and harvest vegetables, as well as plant and care for flowers. The bulk of the vegetables grown will be distributed to local food pantries. Michigan State University Extension 4H will provide an entrepreneurial program for the youth and some produce will be sold at a local farmer’s market with proceeds being reinvested in the garden. David Flynn, Chair of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners stated, “I believe this will be a great learning tool for the youth involved, highlighting the importance of ownership in one’s work and environmental stewardship. It is inspiring to see such a commitment to environmental practices and community service right in our own backyard.”

On behalf of the Macomb County Circuit Bench Chief Judge John C. Foster said, “The Juvenile Division Community Service Garden offers a restorative justice opportunity for youth who have offended against their community. Investing time and energy into a project that teaches valuable life skills and provides food to community members in need gives youth a pathway to rehabilitation. The Circuit Court is proud to be a part of this exciting project.”

The garden project has received donations and/or support from Michigan State University Extension, Macomb County Department of Roads, Miracle Gro, Macomb Community Drug Courts Inc., Lowes, Home Depot, Lumberjack, and Meldrum Brothers Nursery. Youth and court staff are having an official planting day on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 4:00pm (weather permitting). Chief Judge John C. Foster, Macomb County Board Chairman David Flynn, and Macomb County Commissioner Kathy Vosburg will be participating in the planting activities.

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