



*Your*  
**Genesee County  
Extension**

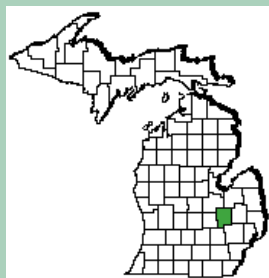
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## Bringing Knowledge to Life in Genesee County

Winter 2002

### MSUE implementing community strategies to serve Genesee County even better

Your MSU Extension in Genesee County is looking forward to putting into practice the strategies developed by the Genesee County Extension Council. The Council, which serves as our 30-member community advisory group, developed the recommendations during a yearlong “2001 Issues Identification Process.”

In keeping with our mission of improving lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities, we felt it was crucial to ask our community advisors to help us identify how we can be of greatest service to you. In this newsletter – the first in a new series of quarterly reports – we share a summary of their recommendations and our commitment to work toward them. In future issues, we will report on the impact we are having.

Our Council’s recommendations form the basis of our Work Plan for 2002. This plan is intended to help us serve Genesee County even better by sharpening our program focus around these broad themes: **1) Healthy Communities, 2) Land Use and Natural Resources, 3) Healthy Families, 4) Youth, and 5) Agriculture and the Green Industry.** But first, a word of thanks to *the Genesee County Board of Commissioners*, the *Michigan Legislature*, and the *U.S. Congress* – especially members of the Genesee County legislative delegations – who make our work as your educational arm of county, state and federal government possible.

#### Healthy Communities

- Develop a program to teach citizens about Genesee County government.
- Help those affected by new state Home Forfeiture and Foreclosure Law.
- Provide more housing and financial literacy research and education.
- Expand partnerships to enhance opportunities to provide research-based knowledge, programs, and technical assistance in the areas of leadership development, and community and economic development.
- Continue to work with Master Gardeners, County Road Commission and MDOT to beautify Flint-area freeway rest areas.

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*Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities. Extension offices in counties throughout the state link the research of the state’s land grant university, MSU, with the issues of concern in local communities. Extension provides information and offers educational programs in agriculture and natural resources, youth and families, community and economic development. Local citizens serving on the county Extension council regularly help select current focus areas for programming.*



*Gratefully acknowledges  
the generous support of*

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- |                   |                    |
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- Continue to use the Extension Council to strengthen MSU Extension's partnership with other organizations in greater Flint.
- Expand partnerships with the Flint Urban Garden and Land Use Committee, Master Gardeners, and the FIA to provide urban gardening for at-risk youth and others.
- Hire program associate to expand community development programs.

**Land Use and  
Natural Resources**

- Implement MSUE's Citizen Planner Program to address land use.
- Link our county to MSU's Victor Institute for Responsible Land Development and Use.
- Hire a program associate to expand environmental programming.
- Develop a student-based water quality educational program.
- Work with local governments and others on land use planning, brown field redevelopment, green field preservation, and urban gardening.

**Healthy Families**

- Develop partnerships to hire an additional Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educator to help meet nutritional and family resource management educational needs of the community - including youth obesity.
- Develop "Parent Clubs" to provide parents and other guardians with fun, educational, supportive experiences.
- Develop media opportunities to

address nutritional and/or family resource management issues.

- Expand partnerships to enhance opportunities to provide research-based knowledge, programs, and technical assistance in the areas of parenting and family development.

**Youth**

- Expand 4-H After-School Extension Educator Program to other school districts to address youth development needs – including leadership and character education, school drop-out prevention, violence prevention, etc. These educators can serve as a liaison to other MSU Extension resources such as nutrition and environmental education.
- Develop local partnerships to hire an additional 4-H Agent to work with at-risk youth.
- Continue to expand 4-H Clubs to reach more of Genesee County's rural, urban and suburban youth.
- Expand partnerships to enhance opportunities to provide research-based knowledge, programs, and technical assistance in the area of youth development.

**Agriculture/Green Industry**

- Teach Agricultural Literacy.
- Provide additional innovative ways to meet the information demands of home gardeners and Genesee County's \$128 million "green industry".
- Help farmers better market products.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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