

Community Resource Development

NATHAN SANDWICK

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UW-Extension EMPOWERS CITIZENS!

→ Nathan Sandwick assisted the Portage County Alliance for Youth Coalition in **preparing its strategic plan**, providing guidance to an active group of local youth development organizations and leaders.

→ He has guided productive discussion for the Farmland Preservation Plan Ad Hoc Committee throughout the first half of 2016, helping the county **engage private citizens** in the process of planning for the future of Portage County's farms.



UW-Extension ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS!

→ Nathan has served as a member and staff support for the Broadband Task Force for Portage County, a group of local stakeholders interested in **expanding internet access** to Portage County residents and businesses. Nathan is facilitating a county-funded broadband needs assessment in cooperation with UW-River Falls.

UW-Extension SHARES KNOWLEDGE!

→ **Serving as a resource to local organizations** on a number of community issues, Nathan uses his knowledge of planning to benefit the Portage County community. In addition to a busy call schedule, he is a frequent presence at meetings of local organizations, including the Wisconsin Towns Association.



UW
Extension
Center for Community & Economic
Development



WI Nutrition Education Program

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\$225,000 in federal funds (2016 figure) are brought into Portage County annually through WNEP.

UW-Extension PARTNERS TO EDUCATE!

→ In March 2016, Hicks organized a **Fruit and Veggie Network Group**, bringing local agencies and organizations together to promote and educate residents about healthy eating. Monthly meetings have maximized collaborating efforts, and allowed for future goal planning to help all families in our communities to make the "Healthy Choice" the "Easy Choice!"



UW-Extension EMPOWERS NON-PROFITS!

→ Jill Hicks provides leadership as Chair of the **Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership of Portage County** (HPPP). Hicks recently guided the organization through a significant strategic planning process, bringing revitalization and energy back to HPPP's seven workgroups, while coordinating community efforts around hunger, poverty, and food insecurity.

UW-Extension BRINGS LEARNING TO YOU!

→ Nutrition Educators have been busy promoting **Farmers Markets!** Foodshare can be used at the Farmers Market, providing an economic boost to our local farmers while people enjoy healthy foods!

Every \$1 spent on nutrition education saves up to \$10 in health care costs!



UW Extension

Portage County

January 2016 - June 2016

Department Update

The University of Wisconsin is in *your* community...



...responding to *local* needs with university knowledge and research.

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4-H Youth Development

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4-H is GROWING!

→ We enrolled **362 youth** and **122 adult volunteer leaders** for 2016, including **58 brand new members!**

4-H BUILDS LIFE SKILLS!

→ In June, two summer camps were held in collaboration with Taylor, Lincoln, and Waupaca Counties. **84 campers, 18 youth counselors, and 23 adult volunteers** helped make these learning experiences possible.



*When asked about the most important thing they learned at camp, almost half of the campers at our Junior Camp (grades 2-4) reported that they learned **Teamwork, Listening to Others, Friendship, and Being Kind.***

*Campers who attended our Intermediate Camp (grades 5-8) reported learning about **Protecting Nature, Teamwork, Being Respectful, and Having Fun.***

→ Connie Creighton partnered with five community professionals to teach the **Tractor and Machinery Certification Class** to eleven youth in June. *All students reported new knowledge in the **safe handling of tractor and farm machinery** and that they will be more aware of farm safety because of the class.*

→ In spring, our office collaborated to secure a **\$4,999 grant** for the Summer Youth Garden program in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portage County. These funds will expand **STEM education**, along with horticulture and nutrition education, at four different garden sites in Stevens Point, Junction City, and Almond.

Agriculture & Nat. Resources

KEN SCHROEDER

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UW-Extension SECURES INVESTMENTS!

→ In 2016, Ken Schroeder brought **\$22,650 in grants** to Portage County in cooperation with the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council, a coalition of local farmers. These funds will assist the farmers' efforts to **improve water quality** and **soil health** while maintaining or increasing profitability.



UW-Extension PARTNERS TO PROTECT!

→ Two invasive insects have been impacting residents of Portage County this spring and summer. UW-Extension is cooperating with local governments and foresters to **provide the resources to manage these destructive pests.** The Emerald Ash Borer was confirmed in the area this spring and the County placed under quarantine. The Japanese Beetle is also more abundant than in the previous 6-7 years. A local news release from our staff disseminated control information quickly to all areas of the County.



UW-Extension KNOWS LOCAL INDUSTRY!

→ Ken helped organize the annual February conference of the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association in Stevens Point, helping to **share advancements in potato and vegetable farming**, among Portage County's most important industries.



Family Living Education

SHERRY DANIELS

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UW-Extension GROWS FINANCIAL LITERACY!

→ In 2016, Sherry Daniels has partnered with the Portage County Juvenile Detention Center **teaching and strengthening the financial skills of youth** in residence. To date, thirteen youth have participated in the program.



→ Current statistics show the impact of student debt on our economy will only continue to grow.

- Sherry partners with the UWSP Financial Literacy Association holding Financial Coaching Workshops to train students on peer-to-peer coaching.
- Sherry is working with Mid-State Technical College to develop similar peer-to-peer coaching at MSTC.

UW-Extension CHAMPIONS FOOD SAFETY!

→ Sherry is a Certified Master Food Preserver and, under her leadership, Portage County UW-Extension **serves as a local resource on research-based food preservation** education.



This summer, Sherry is hosting six free "Lunch & Learn" education seminars on preserving jams, jellies, pickles, relishes, tomatoes, salsas, and more, with an emphasis on food safety.

