

IT'S FALL Y'ALL THE EXTRA

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Clinton celebrates another year of harvest, healthy food and relationships

By Judith Brown
Staff Writer

The Clinton Community Garden Project celebrated its third harvest Wednesday night with more than 160 visitors who were able to sample plenty of healthy fresh vegetables, experience community over healthy food and listen to music by a local group of musicians.

While volunteers from the Simpsonville Home Depot helped children work on crafts in the garden, board members served a wide variety of foods which featured fresh vegetables, fresh herbs grown in the garden and sandwiches donated by Chick-Fil-A of Laurens County.

Serving small roasted tomatoes was project board member Becky Shanton, who first got involved in the garden project at its outset.

"I think it's important for us to strengthen our community, and food is one way to build relationships," Shanton said. "We had a good representation of people from the community, members of the business community, and I think having the music brought in a lot more people from the neighborhood."

Located on South Bell Street, the Clinton Community Garden Project is across the street from Friendship A.M.E. church, which joined with others from Clinton in the initial partnership.

In addition to help from the City of Clinton, churches and numerous businesses within Laurens County. The non-profit's partners now extend well outside the county. Greenville Heath System came on in its second year, as well as Home Depot, which has made numerous donations as the local volunteers have sought to establish a large organic garden using volunteer help from across the Clinton region.



Photo by Judith Brown

GARDENS FOR COMMUNITY — Assistant Manager Jacob Anderson of the Simpsonville Home Depot takes a few minutes to grab some of the fresh herb-filled tomatoes, one of many healthy options Wednesday night at Friendship A.M. E. Church.

Jacob Anderson, an assistant manager with the Simpsonville Home Depot, came with six other store employees to volunteer their time at the event. Anderson said though he is new to the area, his company considers it crucial to partner with this and other community-based programs.

"This is part of our core values as a company," Anderson said. The Home Depot staff came on their own time as volunteers, helping children with

craft kits at a long table situated by the garden. The business has donated other needed items throughout the years since the community garden was established.

"Supporting the community is part of our DNA," Anderson said of his employer. "It's not all about money. We have to reach back and make sure we're doing what we can to give back and support the community which supports us."

Second West Nile case discovered in county

By John Clayton
Editor

A second case of West Nile virus has been confirmed in Laurens County about a week after the first was discovered.

According to Laurens County Emergency Services Director Joey Avery, the second case involves a dead bird found in the northern section of the county. Avery would not specify the exact area where the bird was located.

The first case of West Nile in the county was reported this past week and involved a human being with the virus in the "southeastern quadrant" of the county.


The bird was taken to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) where it was diagnosed.

Avery reiterated that West Nile is not communicable through human contact, and is generally not very dangerous to humans unless an individual's immune system is already somehow compromised.

"We just want the public to know that we're taking precautions," Avery said.

The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, which can pass it along to humans, dogs and other animals, according to DHEC. Mosquitoes become infected with

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