

| AREA NEWS |

Master Gardener Association Presents Gardening for Gold Symposium

Dodge County Master Gardener Association will host four dynamic speakers in a day-long event at the Horicon Marsh Educational Center on Saturday, Nov. 5. Registration is required by October 14 and seating is limited.

In the eighth annual Gardening for Gold Fall Symposium, local and regional speakers will be present to share their knowledge to gardeners of all levels of experience and skill. Liz Herzmann, Natural Resource Educator at the Horicon Marsh, will share ways to attract more wildlife to your landscape using preferred plants and food sources. Learn how to manage runoff and attract pollinators at the same time by building a rain garden with Lisa Johnson, the Dane County Horticulture Educator.

Janell Wehr, Wood and Marathon Horticulture Educator will share how to intentionally design a gar-

den that engages all five senses by selectively choosing plants, hardscapes, and accessories. To round out the day, Meghan Anderson, owner of Little Things Garden Design, will demonstrate how to work edibles into a landscape of any size.

A taco bar lunch will be included in the events of the day as well as a Silent Auction featuring many items of interests to gardeners and non-gardeners alike.

Registration information as well as additional information about the Dodge County Master Gardener Association and upcoming educational opportunities, is available by contacting the Dodge County UW Extension office at 920-386-3790, visiting the website at <http://dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/>, emailing us at dcwim@gmail.com or connecting with us on Facebook.

An Upcoming Calendar of Events for the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center

The Fall season brings cool evenings, spectacular wildlife sightings, and special events the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center. Wisconsin DNR staff lead programs and events for all ages and experience levels. Hiking trails offer outstanding sightings of birds on their fall migration, the visitor center offers guests the chance to catch up on sightings, and the Explorium is open to experience the Horicon Marsh story. Education center and Explorium hours are Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., closed on major holidays. All programs will take place at the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center and are free of charge unless noted in the event description.

The Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center is located between Horicon and Mayville on Hwy 28. For a detailed list of all

Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center special events, please visit the Friends of Horicon Marsh website at www.horiconmarsh.org or the Friends of Horicon Marsh Facebook Page. Additional programs will be added throughout the year.

All programs take place at the Education and Visitor Center and do not require registration unless noted in the program description. For more information regarding Horicon Marsh education programs, contact Liz Herzmann, DNR educator, at 920-387-7893.

Wild Halloween at the Marsh

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 29 and 30, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Reduced Explorium admission all weekend, children 4 and older are free. Complete a family-friendly, spooky scavenger hunt for a chance to win Flyway Gift Shop prizes. Additional details to come, check horicon-marsh.org for more information.

Free Fentanyl Test Strips Available Statewide

Distribution part of efforts to reduce drug overdose deaths

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) last week announced that 120,600 fentanyl test strips have been distributed to organizations across the state to help prevent drug overdose deaths. Drugs mixed with fentanyl are the leading cause of overdose deaths in Wisconsin.

“Wisconsinites who use drugs are more likely to encounter fentanyl than ever before,” said DHS Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake. “Tragically, many people who use drugs have no idea they are ingesting fentanyl until it’s too late. That’s why we need to empower our family members, friends, and neighbors who use drugs to have as much information as possible to protect their safety. Fentanyl test strips are a critical tool in our efforts to save lives.”

Fentanyl test strips are dipped into drug residue dissolved in water. Within minutes, a person can know whether the drug contains fentanyl. A tiny amount – as little as two grains of salt – is enough to kill someone. With information from the test, a person can take steps to reduce their risk of an overdose. In Wisconsin, fentanyl is present in many drugs, including cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine, as well as pills made to resemble prescription medications. Because fentanyl is unable to be detected by sight, taste, smell, or touch, people taking drugs not purchased from a licensed pharmacy should always use fentanyl test strips. Fentanyl test strips do not provide information about the amount or strength of fentanyl in a drug supply.

The first phase of the DHS fentanyl test strip distribution program is a partnership with tribal nation health clinics, county health and human services departments, county and municipal health departments, and organizations that work with people who inject drugs. These agencies are receiving fentanyl test strip

packages directly from the manufacturer. Each package contains one fentanyl test strip and instructions on how to use it. The participating organizations are handing out the packages at no cost. A map of pick-up locations is available on the DHS website.

There is no limit on the number of fentanyl test strips that someone can receive through this program. Participating organizations have access to an unlimited supply of packages. Other types of organizations are expected to be eligible to participate in the program in future phases.

In 2020, there were 812 overdose deaths in Wisconsin where illegally manufactured fentanyl was considered to be probable or suspected in contributing cause of death. Recognizing the value of fentanyl test strips in reducing the harms of drug use, Gov. Tony Evers signed legislation in March to allow the test strips to be used in Wisconsin.

The first phase of the fentanyl test strip distribution program is funded by \$1.25 million from Wisconsin’s share of the American Rescue Plan Act, and is one of many strategies DHS is using to reduce the harms of drug use. Since 2019, 134,280 doses of NARCAN® have been distributed at no cost through community agencies to people who use opioids or drugs that could be mixed with opioids, and their families and friends. NARCAN® is the opioid overdose reversal drug. So far this year, more than 5,000 overdoses have been reversed with NARCAN® distributed through this program. NARCAN® also can be purchased at more than 500 pharmacies without a prescription under a standing order. Locations where NARCAN® is available can be found on the DHS website. DHS also encourages hepatitis C and HIV screening as part of an ongoing drug user health initiative.

Additional fentanyl test kits and doses of NARCAN will be purchased and distributed with funds made available from the National Prescription Opiate Litigation settlement funds.

People struggling with substance use can contact the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline to be connected to treatment options. Call 211 or go to addictionhelpwi.org.

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people may send checks payable to Brownsville Company at Brownsville Fire Company; Attn: my Thomas; P.O. Box 218; Brownsville, WI 53006.

- Sunday, Nov. 13 – St. John’s Lutheran Church Chili Dinner (carryout only) from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the church’s Fellowship Hall. Cost for one quart is \$12, one-half gallon is \$20, and one gallon will cost \$40. Includes cheese and dessert. Tickets available at the church office and at the door. The church is located at the corner of Bridge and Walnut streets in Mayville.

- Thursday, Nov. 17 – Bingo at the Mayville American Legion at 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.), located at 134 S. Main St.