

WVPubcast &gt; News

 login



SPONSOR

**Blogs****Mountain Stage Blog**

Mountain Stage in Buckhannon with Bela Fleck & more, selling fast

Radio Preview: Punch Brothers, Joan Osborne & More

**Classically Speaking**

Met in HD: Maria Stuarda

LISTEN TODAY: Free MET HD Tickets!

**Eclectopia Blog**

Grammys 2013



## Community Gardens continue to succeed in Huntington

By Clark Davis

[Download MP3](#)

March 8, 2012 · The idea of a garden doesn't often make you think of a community coming together, but in Huntington that's what's happening.

It was started in 2009 through the collaboration of ideas at Create Huntington's Chat'n Chew meetings. The idea of Community Gardens was started throughout the city. The first garden is at the Weed and Seed offices at the site of the old Barnett Child Care Center in Huntington.

Eve Marcum-Atkinson is the project coordinator for Huntington Community Gardens. The community gardens are a collection of volunteers working together with area resident, organizations, businesses and local government to put gardens in vacant lots in the community.

The project included many goals for the community; one was to help improve the image of rundown areas of Huntington. It also is meant to create safe spaces in the community, engage the youth in learning, and keep them safe and to eventually play a part in a local sustainable food economy. Marcum-Atkinson says it's been interesting, how well the program has worked.

"It's been very surprising; there has been a lot of support from students at Marshall, people in the community, kids just love it. We would not be as successful as we are today if it hadn't been for all the wonderful people that have come to help maintain and water," Marcum-Atkinson said.

Marcum-Atkinson says the program is in charge of 5 gardens now. She says the kids come out of the woodwork to be involved.

"Like the peace garden on Minton Street, you go to the peace garden and within 15-20 minutes there is a bunch of kids out, so what are you doing today, can I dig, is there anything to plant. They want to get in the dirt and have fun and the adults in the neighborhood are thrilled," Marcum-Atkinson said.

Recently the Community Gardens program received a \$660,000 grant that will allow them to create what they're calling a SCRATCH program which stands for Sustainable Community Revitalization in Appalachia Through Children's Hands. Alexandria Goswami is the Project Director for the SCRATCH program.

"We got a five year grant from the federal government to have an after school program at the Fairfield East Community Center and the A.D. Lewis Community Center and it focuses on gardening, technology and entrepreneurship and because we've been successful and haven't gone by the traditional model of community gardens where there is a plot of land and everyone pays to garden, we've had more flexibility in

**Latest News :**

[College Goal Sunday helped thousands](#)

By Suzanne Higgins

Approximately 2,000 people including students and their families attended College Goal Sunday, Feb. 10 which offered free workshops staffed by financial aid professionals at 23 locations across the state.

[Raleigh community using social media to monitor suspicious activity](#)

By Jessica Y. Lilly

One of the founders of a traditional neighborhood watch in Raleigh County is using social media to help track down suspicious activity in his hometown.

[New policy to broaden state oversight on career tech programs](#)

By Ashton Marra

Representatives of the state Department of Education presented a new policy to legislators that they hope will create clearer pathways for students from career and technical training into West Virginia's workforce.

[Bishop Bransfield says Pope picks perfect time for announcement](#)

By Ben Adducchio

The bishop of West Virginia's Catholic diocese says the leader of his church is showing great love and devotion to the church by stepping down from the papacy at this time.

[Shepherdstown writer publishes train history book](#)

By Cecelia Mason

A new book by a Shepherdstown writer chronicles the history of passenger service on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

what we can do," Goswami said.

Goswami says it's about making things possible for the kids.

"The kids have interests, they're active, they have energy more energy than we have probably and so I just see myself as someone, as the Director of the SCRATCH project, who takes time to get the supplies and the materials together for the kids to do what they want to do, to grow things, to paint things to what they want to do in the community," Goswami said.

Stephanie Conley is Program Coordinator for Weed and Seed and Site Coordinator for SCRATCH and says the kids in the community just like being a part of it.

"Like that guerilla gardening is basically what we did, we went out into the neighborhood and claimed a space, it gave them ownership and they were still show up over there to see if anyone is out to play today, waiting for one of us to come out and plant something or whatever and they go right to what they know they can do, they grab the flowers and pop them in the ground with very little instruction at this point," Conley said.

The Community Gardens program hopes to continue to work with the Huntington Community to build a local sustainable food supply.

2013 West Virginia Public Broadcasting. All rights reserved | The WV logo is a trademark of West Virginia Public Broadcasting

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Support](#) | [Private Policy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Site Map](#)

West Virginia Public Broadcasting is a member station of:

