

SUMMER
2026



EXTENSION WAUKESHA COUNTY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER



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JERRY BRAATZ RETIRES AS EXTENSION AREA DIRECTOR

Jerry Braatz, who has spent the last 16 years leading the Extension office in Waukesha County, is retiring on July 24 after 30 years with Extension.

Jerry began his career in Waukesha County as a Community Development Educator teaching and facilitating small business retention, strategic planning, entrepreneurship, neighborhood planning, needs assessment processes, comprehensive planning, and so much more.

In 2010, Jerry took on the role of Director for Extension in Waukesha County, and in 2017, he became the Area Extension Director. In those roles, Jerry has been a champion of Extension, sharing the mission and value of Extension and engaging the Extension team in securing additional funding sources to leverage county tax levy and expand program outreach to growing diverse audiences.

Join us in wishing Jerry all the best on his next adventure!



EXTENSION WELCOMES DAN TERRIO AS THE NEW AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR

Extension Waukesha County welcomed Dan Terrio as the new Extension Area Director on July 1. Dan comes to Extension with more than 28 years of experience in leadership development, educational outreach, youth development, program management, and training. Dan's professional journey began at age 13 when he started sharing his story of perseverance and strength as a motivational speaker. Over the years, he has become an award winning TED certified, nationally recognized speaker and trainer, and previously served two terms as the National Co-President of United National Indian Tribal Youth Inc., the largest American Indian youth organization in the United States.



BRING REAL COLORS® TO YOUR WORKPLACE

Organizations looking to strengthen communication, teamwork, and workplace relationships are encouraged to explore the Real Colors® program. This interactive workshop helps participants better understand personality styles and how they influence communication and collaboration on the job.



Real Colors®

At a recent Real Colors® workshop, 100% of participants rated the overall experience as good or excellent and identified the most valuable aspect as the opportunity to better understand colleagues, strengthen communication, and learn how to effectively interact with different personality styles in the workplace.

Extension is currently scheduling workshops for fall and winter, with sessions tailored to your team's needs. To learn more about program benefits, visit <https://waukesha.extension.wisc.edu/community-development/organizational-development/>. To schedule a workshop for your organization, contact Steve at steven.chmielewski@wisc.edu.

UW-Madison Division of Extension works with residents, businesses, local government and community-based organizations in Waukesha County and beyond to identify and address immediate and long-term educational needs.

EXTENSION AT THE WAUKESHA COUNTY FAIR - JULY 15-19

Extension Waukesha County is collaborating with local organizations to offer interactive, hands-on activities for youth at the 4-H Kids Zone during the Waukesha County Fair on July 15-19, 2026.

Youth and families are invited to explore interactive, hands-on activities to spark curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning. Best of all, there is no cost to participate. Activities will be offered daily from noon to 4 p.m. 4-H Bingo will be at 6 p.m. each evening (except Sunday). Last year, over 3,000 youth and adults participated in the indoor and outdoor Kids Zone activities.

For information about Waukesha County 4-H opportunities, contact James Boling, Extension 4-H Positive Youth Development Educator at james.boling@wisc.edu.

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EATING SMART & BEING ACTIVE PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS

During Eating Smart & Being Active programs, parents learn ways to plan and shop for healthy, budget-friendly meals and stay active as a family. At each session, participants prepare a healthy recipe and practice physical activities that are simple to do at home. At the end of the series, participants take home a recipe book and cooking tools. Parents sample the healthy recipes each time and often comment that they are now making the recipes at home!

This series is available in English or Spanish and is offered in group settings at eligible community sites.

To learn more about bringing this nutrition education program to your organization, reach out to Jill Herz at jill.herz@wisc.edu.



WAUKESHA URBAN FORESTRY WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 22

Extension is once again teaming up with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to plan and host a series of urban forestry workshops around the state for green industry professionals in September. The Waukesha location date is September 22.

To be notified of the details and when registration opens, email lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov.

2026 EXTENSION 4-H KIDS ZONE FAIR SCHEDULE

Wednesday, July 15th

- 12-4 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H: Make & Take - Wind Socks
- 12-4 pm - UW-Madison Biotech Center: DNA, the Code of Life
- 12-4 pm - Waukesha County Parks & Land Use: Clean Water / Recycling Sort
- 12-4 pm - UW-Madison Wisconsin Energy Institute: Design a Windfarm - Wake Effect Challenge
- 12-4 pm - Retzer Nature Center: Know Your Parks
- 12-4 pm - Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium: Tin Foil Moon
- 2-4 pm - Waukesha Public Library: Summer Reading
- 6-9 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H Volunteer Barb: Bingo

Thursday, July 16th

- 12-2 pm - Extension Waukesha County FoodWise: Prep an Easy, Fun Recipe!
- 12-2 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H Volunteer Elias: Stomp Rockets
- 12-4 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H: Make & Take - Sensory Bottles
- 12-4 pm - Mike Crivello's Cameras: Photography
- 12-4 pm - Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium: Tin Foil Moon
- 12-4 pm - Extension Milwaukee County 4-H: Lego Building / Chess
- 12-4 pm - West Vernon 4-H Club: Dog Toys / STEM Activity / Face Painting
- 2-4 pm - Lake County Family Fun: Mermaid Craft
- 2-4 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H: Fitness Challenge
- 6-8 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H Volunteer Barb: Bingo

Friday, July 17th

- 12-2 pm - 4-H Emerging Leaders & 4-Leaf 4-H Clubs: Bubble Painting
- 12-4 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H: Make & Take - Glow in the Dark Fireflies
- 12-4 pm - Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium: Tin Foil Moon
- 12-4 pm - Three Pillars Senior Living Communities: Intergenerational Trivia
- 1-4 pm - Otto's Art Academy: Arts & Crafts
- 2-4 pm - Donna Lexa Art Center: 3D Butterfly Craft
- 2-4 pm - West Vernon 4-H Club: Dog Toys / STEM Activity / Face Painting
- 2-4 pm - Waukesha County Green Team: Solar Energy / Make & Take - UV Bracelet
- 2-4 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H: Farm Animal Puppets
- 6-9 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H Volunteer Barb: Bingo

Saturday, July 18th

- 12-4 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H: Make & Take - Art Button Bracelets
- 12-4 pm - UW-Madison Sleep Health Ambassadors: Sleep Central - Healthy Sleep
- 12-4 pm - Waukesha County Green Team: Solar Energy / Make & Take - UV Bracelet
- 12-4 pm - Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium: Tin Foil Moon
- 1-3 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H Volunteer Elias: Stomp Rockets
- 2-4 pm - Emerging Leaders & 4-Leaf 4-H Clubs: Bubble Painting
- 6-9 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H Volunteer Barb: Bingo

Sunday, July 19th

- 12-4 pm - Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium: Tin Foil Moon
- 12-4 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H: Make & Take - Pointillism (Dot) Art
- 12-4 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H: Nutrition Activity
- 12-4 pm - Extension Waukesha County 4-H: Building with Legos & K'Nex

*ALL INTERACTIVE HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES ARE OPEN TO ALL FAIRGOERS AT NO COST



<https://www.facebook.com/ExtensionWaukeshaCo>

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<https://waukesha.extension.wisc.edu/>