

May 21-27 Thriving Thursday

You can sign up right now for online classes with Master Gardener Program Director Ashley Bachtel-Bodkins on her website: <https://www.facebook.com/GarrettCountyMasterGardeners/> Check out our local University of Maryland Extension Service website below. We can even learn from them how to preserve the foods we grow!

Tips for starting now, from Ashley Bachtel - Bodkins:

“The mission of the Grow It Eat It program, a signature program of the Master Gardener program is get more folks growing their own foods in their own back yard. <https://extension.umd.edu/mg/about-program/grow-it-eat-it> --- This website has great tutorials for getting started on vegetable gardening with lots of great information.

We also have the wonderful Home and Garden Information Center website with lots of good information- <https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics> -- on this site you can search for fruits or vegetables--- and they just published a special newsletter about Food Gardening during this pandemic--- it can be found here: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Food-Gardening-in-the-time-of-COVID-19.html?soid=1127069117597&aid=SlqQT-4TFLk>

Check out this link for the newly created University of Maryland Extension Western Maryland Cluster youtube video channel--- Sherry Frick is doing some good videos on vegetable gardening.

Lisa McCoy, the Family Consumer Sciences educator for Garrett County, can offer canning/food preservation classes (note from Wellness Committee: depending on local policies for teaching in-person classes and for gathering at St. Mark's; might have to wait for next summer). Lisa is already planning some of these classes through Garrett College CEWD for the fall.

If you have a group of folks with a desire to learn about any particular topic related to food gardening, I would be more than happy to set up an online class or multiple classes that would meet their needs. We have been instructed to cancel all in person programming through July 1st, with some flexibility, but I think we should move forward with any online teaching that we can do now as we are getting into the prime time for starting a garden in Garrett County.”

St. Mark's Family, if you are interested in Zoom classes with Ms. Bachtel-Bodkins please check out the aforementioned websites first. If the topic you are seeking is not among these resources, please email Eilda to indicate the topic you would like to have her teach.

If you need to order started plants for your Victory Garden, check out last week's Thriving Thursday entry about resources from local farmers. Check out the <https://www.food4all.com> website for local farms providing starter plants. ALL Produce delivers, and Three Sisters Farm will have them ready for you at this week's Oakland Farmer's Market. Thank you! Have fun!