

https://www.annistonstar.com/the_daily_home/dh_news/greenhouse-construction-complete-at-sylacauga-grows/article_1d360d91-2b8e-5f10-b9c6-c9333387ofe2.html

Greenhouse construction complete at Sylacauga Grows

Lindsey Holland

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: Bill Roberts, lead gardener for Sylacauga Grows, stands in the recently constructed greenhouse. The greenhouse will help plants and seedlings to be propagated and nurtured for the spring. Bob Crisp

The community garden sponsored by SAFE that is operated as Sylacauga Grows recently completed construction of their greenhouse. Soon plants will begin to be propagated and seedlings nurtured for planting in the spring.

Taylor Logan, SAFE representative, said they cleared off a spot on the community garden property for the greenhouse, which they bought in the summer.

“We noticed a good portion of our money went to purchasing seeds and plants,” Logan said. “We’re trying to save money and be totally garden based so we bought a greenhouse hoping we could save our seeds and grow our own plants.”

Logan said volunteers from around the community came out to help construct the greenhouse. The South Talladega United Way board of directors came out and volunteered their time. Pete Storey, who is on the board, said United Way has a day of caring where they ask the agencies that they serve if they have an outstanding need. SAFE mentioned their greenhouse that needed to be constructed.

“It looks good,” Logan said. “If it withstands the weather, then that will be the true test.”

Storey said he had a great time.

“It was like putting a jigsaw puzzle together,” he said. “Several men were there and we don’t like reading instructions, but we had to read the instructions to put it together.”

He said it was a great experience for him. Storey, who is also the Childersburg Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, said he is now looking at the possibility of starting a community garden in Childersburg.

“We’re trying to find the right piece of land,” he said. “I realized what their community garden does. It was a great experience for me.”

“It took all day,” Logan said. “It was a really neat effort to partner with everyone. There is no way we could have done it by ourselves.”

The community garden was planted early March 2009 and harvest began soon after. The goal of the garden was to provide the local Care House with 40 percent of the garden output. Data from July 2010 showed that 68 percent of the output or 1,304.8 pounds, was actually distributed free of charge to families in need. The remaining output was sold to local individuals for \$5 for a five pound bag of mixed vegetables.

Opportunities are also available for individuals to have their own garden plot. These are available in the form of a raised bed located on 4th Street West for a yearly fee of \$5. More raised beds will be constructed as labor and funds allow.

Now that the community garden has expanded with the addition of their greenhouse, they are also expanding to local schools. Through the Rural Health Grant, five on-site gardens will begin to function in the following elementary school locations throughout Talladega County: Salter, Graham, Sycamore, Munford, and Indian Valley. A curriculum teaching students healthy eating habits will be implemented at these locations.

“What they’re doing is implementing wellness nutrition curriculum at five schools,” Logan said. “The second graders will have hands on experience. They can go out and see their garden and see the vegetables being grown.”

If you would like to volunteer with the garden by phone or in person, you can contact SAFE at 78 Betsy Ross Lane in Sylacauga or by calling 256-245-4343.





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