



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Thursday, June 8, 2023**

**OSU Extension Master Gardeners are a Gem in Fairfield County**

**Lancaster, Ohio** – The Auditor’s Office would like to thank and recognize the OSU Extension Master Gardeners for their work at the Real Estate Assessment Building at 108 North High Street as well as for their work throughout the community.

Four Master Gardner Volunteers, led by Vicki Tauer, have worked tirelessly to bring the landscaping at the County Auditor’s offices to life. They have researched native plant species and volunteered their time to making the landscaping beautiful – just in time for the Fairfield County Heritage District’s Tour of Homes June 24-25. Connie Smith, Bernie Fleming, and Eli Salmons worked alongside Ms. Tauer to design and plant the landscaping at the County Auditor’s Office.

“We are so fortunate to have this awesome group of Master Gardner Volunteers in our community. They are a real asset, and we appreciate their knowledge and expertise,” stated Dr. Carri Brown, County Auditor.

To become a Master Gardener Volunteer, individuals must complete 40 hours of in class training and then volunteer 50 hours on county projects. Once training is complete, volunteers are asked to complete 20 hours of community service and 10 hours of continuing education each year. Projects the Master Gardner Volunteers have completed and maintain include Fairfield Medical Center’s Tranquility Garden, the Sherman House Gardens, Wagnalls Library Educational Garden, and the AHA Children’s Museum.

Brown added, “We also know that Eli Salmons will be attending the Ohio State University to study agricultural sciences, and we wish him all the best as he pursues his goals. We need more youth engaged in the agricultural sector.”

More information on the Auditor’s Office Landscaping project can be found here:

<https://u.osu.edu/fairfieldmg/>. For additional information on Master Gardener Volunteers visit <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/>.

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