

# Local group organizes community garden project

**BY GRACE BOATRIGHT JACHIM**  
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The recently formed Marshall County Human Rights Advocacy group has set their sights on establishing a chain of community gardens as their next project.

Group cofounders Katelyn Stevenson and Laura McHugh took notice that food insecurity and self-sufficiency were among the issues facing the community, and began to look for ways to combat those issues. This quickly led to conversations about community gardens.

“We’re just now in the learning process and volunteering process, and we’re trying to encourage others to volunteer and learn as well,” said McHugh. “We want to have more learning experiences for people in the community to learn how to be more self-sustaining. So, gardening, I know years ago they had things such as victory gardens, so we want to touch and teach on that and these community gardens.”

Currently McHugh, Stevenson, and other members of the group are volunteering as a community garden in the Calvert City area to learn about the process before attempting to expand and establish other gardens.

The group has already established several short term goals alongside several long term goals. In the near future, the group hopes to encourage more volunteers to learn about and begin working with established community gardens, as well as to donate any excess to local organizations like Marshall County Caring Needline. Needline has recently dealt with a total lack of pantry items for the first time in at least five years.

As for the long term goals, the group hopes to encourage other organizations to establish gardens, to find greenspace for new gardens, and to connect

Laura McHugh (left front) and Katelyn Stevenson (right rear) along with other volunteers, have begun working on a community garden initiative.

Photo Courtesy of Laura McHugh

volunteers with existing gardens that are in need of rehabilitation.

“We just hope that we can get the community more involved as these cuts and things are happening to provide food for people’s families in the community,” said McHugh. “I think it’s important, you know, to support everyone in this area who’s already struggling, and those who are going to struggle more, sadly, in the future. It’s just an important thing to learn, and to know how to do, and it’s something we can easily do as a community to help each other.”

McHugh also noted that, in addition to Needle and the community garden project, the group has had several organizations contact them about needing volunteers. Because of this, McHugh encourages anyone looking for ways to be more involved in the community to reach out to the organization, and they will connect those volunteers to various organizations.

The organization holds a monthly coffee and donuts meeting at the Benton branch of the Marshall County Public Library. The July meeting is set for July 26 at 9 a.m. However, the next community garden meeting is set for Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park Sustainability Garden. This site previously served as the park’s horse stables.

More information about the community garden project, upcoming events, and ways to connect with the group can be found on the group’s Facebook page, MC Human Rights Advocacy.

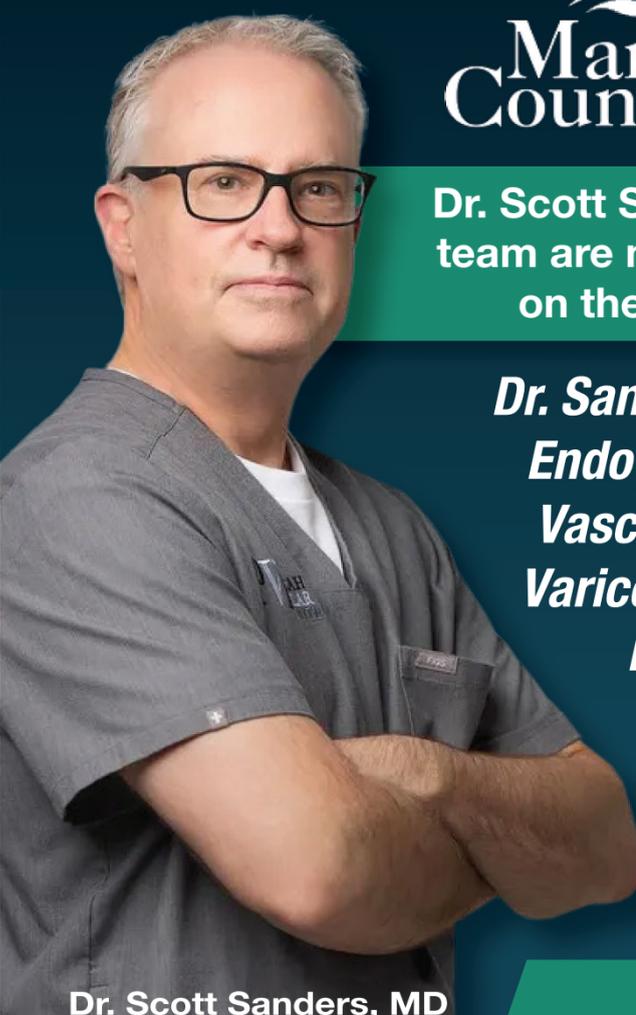




**Dr. Scott Sanders, MD and his team are now seeing patients on the MCH Campus!**

*Dr. Sanders specializes in Endovascular Surgery, Vascular Surgery and Varicose Vein Treatment.*

**Location: MOB 2, one day a week (\*Thursdays) starting July 10th.**



**Dr. Scott Sanders, MD**

(\*SEEING PATIENTS THURSDAYS ONLY)

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## COURT

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The court approved the request.

The court also heard from Emergency Management Director Curt Curtner, who shared that Kentucky Emergency Management had developed a statewide mutual aid agreement between every county emergency management agency. Curtner said the program had been in discussion for approximately eight years. The agreement is approved by the Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky Association of Counties, and Kentucky Emergency Management.

The agreement was approved.

The court also approved the advertisement for bids for

sheriff’s office trucks, a road department tractor and mower, and for judicial building janitorial services.

The court then approved the surplus of a road department culvert via sealed bids and parks department polaris and cub cadet vehicles via GovDeals.

The court also approved the renewal of an agreement between Mike Miller Park and Dynamo soccer. The agreement saw no changes from the previous year.

The court also approved a bid from Jim Smith Contracting for the New Hope Road bridge project, however that is pending approval from Kyle Poat with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

The next fiscal court meeting is set for Aug. 5 at 9 a.m.

# MARSHALL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Back to School/Open House Events 2025/2026

### Benton Elementary

Thu. Aug. 7 - New Families: 5:30 pm (doors open at 5:15)

Thu. Aug. 7 - Returning Families 6:30-7:30 pm

### Calvert City Elementary

Thu. Aug. 7 - New Families - 1st-5th: 4-5 pm  
Thu. Aug. 7 - Returning Families: 5-7 pm

### Central Elementary

Tue. Aug. 5 - Kindergarten Open House: 5-7 pm (plan to stay the entire time)  
Thu. Aug. 7 - 1st-5th Grade Open House: 5-7 pm (come and go)

### Jonathan Elementary

Thu. Aug. 7 - Kindergarten & New Student Orientation: 5 pm  
Thu. Aug. 7 - Returning Students 1st-5th: 5:30-7 pm

### Sharpe Elementary

Fri. Aug. 8 - New Students 1st-5th: 4-5 pm  
Fri. Aug. 8 - Kindergarten & All Returning Students 5:30-7 pm



### South Marshall Elementary

Thu. Aug. 7 - Kindergarten & New Student Open House: 5 pm  
Thu. Aug. 7 - 1st-5th Grade: 5:30-6:30 pm (come and go)

### North Marshall Middle

Wed. & Thu. Aug. 6-7 - 7th & 8th Grade Locker Days: 9am-2 pm  
Mon. Aug. 11 - 6th Grade/New Student Open House: 5:30-7 pm

### South Marshall Middle

Wed. & Thu. Aug. 6-7 - All Student Locker Days: 9am-2 pm  
Thu. Aug. 7 - 6th Grade & New Student Open House: 4:30-7 pm

### Marshall County High School

Thu. Aug. 7 - 10th-12th Grade: 1-3 pm  
Thu. Aug. 7 - 9th Grade: 4-6 pm  
Both come and go.

*Dedicated to preparing our students with future ready skills.*

**Marshall County Board of Education**  
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