



Green St. Louis Machine GAZETTE

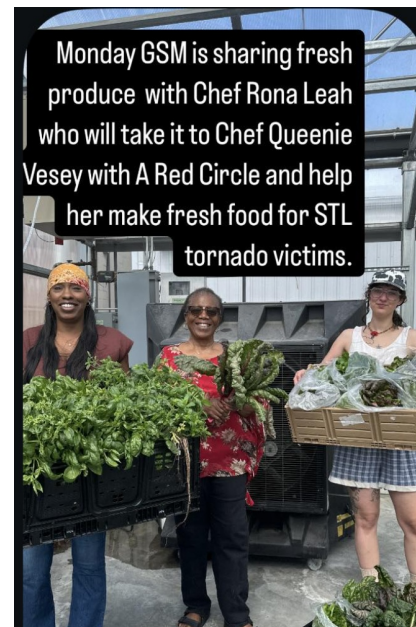
May, 2025
Edition

Sustainability
theme of the month:
Community

April showers brought May flowers—and, unfortunately for our area, a tornado. This May, we're reminded of the power of community and the importance of growing sustainability through connection. While the recent tornado tore through St. Louis, our community relief efforts are working to bring it back together.

Thanks to our generous donors—including partners like Hamilton's Urban Steakhouse and 1111 Mississippi—our Urban Agricultural Learning Center Tower Farm is thriving. We've been growing an abundant supply of greens, not just for the restaurants, but also to donate to community members in need.

In response to recent events, the GSM team is stepping up. Our mission to grow and provide fresh, healthy food to the community continues—and now, it's expanding. Much of our current harvest is being donated to A Red Circle, a trusted nonprofit partner. There, Chef Rona Leah from GSM is working alongside their team to prepare nourishing meals for those affected.



From our Tower Farm, we've also begun supplying starter plugs to community gardens. This helps them quickly replant and regrow after harvesting—keeping fresh, local produce flowing where it's needed most.

And our work doesn't stop there. We're continuing our Farm-to-Table Club program with summer school students—teaching the next generation how to grow, cook, and share food within their communities. It's a beautiful, full-circle effort: growing, harvesting, cooking, feeding neighbors, and educating young people to carry on this cycle of care. We're proud to be part of it.

We're also supporting our partner schools, several of which sustained damage. Some Tower Gardens have been left without power, and our team is tending to these systems as part of our ongoing crisis response.

At GSM, we believe sustainable living thrives when it's rooted in connection. When we share resources, we reduce waste, save money, and build stronger relationships. How will you foster community within your own sphere of influence this month? Right now, tornado relief efforts offer powerful opportunities to serve. Let's remember: sustainability isn't just a practice—it's a shared way of life.



SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT:

North Side Community Elementary School's Farm to Table After-School Program

Each week, students roll up their sleeves and transformed the fresh produce they grew in their Tower Gardens and then harvested them, into delicious, healthy dishes.



Here are a few dishes cooked by students in the Farm to Table program's chef-led cooking workshops:

- Fresh pesto with fresh basil
- Flavorful spring rolls
- Savory collard greens
- Veggie stir fry with Bok Choy
- Tortillas from scratch



Our Growing COMMUNITY Partnerships!

Green St. Louis Machine understands the value of

community partnerships and it's truly at the backbone of everything we do. We know that meaningful change doesn't happen in isolation—it takes collaboration, trust, and a shared commitment to the future we want to see.

We are thankful to all the local schools and organizations that have chosen or currently in discussion with us to collaborate together in aim to achieve a healthier and more sustainable community for us all. Here's a shout out to some of our community partners!



Saint Louis Science Center Community Partners

Chef Rona Leah prepared a delicious lunch for the May meeting of the Saint Louis Science Center Community Partners featuring GreenSTL_Machine greens! Chef leads Farm-to-Table workshops with Green St. Louis Machine students. She also teaches classes to adults and youth on medicinal herbs and urban gardening!

If interested in becoming a community partner of the Saint Louis Science Center, contact Kerry Stevison, Manager, STEAM Content and Community Science Programs and Partnership, at Kathleen.Stevison@slsc.org.



Saint Louis Science Center Community Partners

GSM + City Green Market



We are proud to announce that starting this May 2025 Green St. Louis Machine will be offering fresh produce at City Greens Market! Produce that will be sold, is grown and harvested at Green St. Louis Machine's Urban Agricultural Learning Center!

This partnership directly supports Green St. Louis Machine's mission to educate and empower the next generation of urban farmers. By purchasing these locally grown greens and herbs, customers are not only getting affordable, high-quality produce — they're also investing in hands-on learning opportunities for young people to explore entrepreneurship, sustainability, and community leadership.

Every purchase helps fund GSM's youth-led agricultural projects, making healthy food more accessible while strengthening community ties.

Visit the City's Green Market at:
4260 Manchester Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110

Ask an employee where to find our GSM produce!

Urban Sprouts Child Development Center



We had a lovely meeting and brainstorming session at the Greenhouse to discuss aeroponic gardening with visitors Michelle Powell and Jill Hilton from the Urban Sprouts Child Development Center.



OPERATION FOOD SEARCH

We were thrilled to welcome volunteers from the Operation Food Search Gleaning Team—Jacob Beck, Cathy Dawson, and Ken Rekowski—who joined us for a meaningful day of harvesting and learning at Green St. Louis Machine. With their harvesting help, we donated over 60 pounds of vibrant, mature greens—including bok choy and crisp green lettuce—to Operation Food Search. Thanks to their efforts, this fresh produce was swiftly distributed

to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity across our region.

In addition to harvesting, the team rolled up their sleeves in our greenhouse, assisting with our Tower Gardens and diving into the aeroponic gardening process. It was a hands-on exchange of energy, knowledge, and purpose. To learn more about the incredible work of the Gleaning Team, visit [OperationFoodSearch.org](https://www.operationfoodsearch.org).

Interested in earning community service hours while supporting urban farming and food justice? Reach out to us at 314-757-6607 to get involved with GSM's greenhouse volunteer opportunities!





BETTER FAMILY LIFE

Marquette King-Connor and Shameka King from Better Family Life visited GSM at the greenhouse to learn about our Farm-to-Table programming opportunities for summer camp and after-school.

Green Staff of the Month:

Local 20 Top Chef and Urban Farmer

Joia Walker



We are deeply honored and grateful to have had Chef Joia as an integral part of our Farm-to-Table After-School Program. With her unwavering commitment to the next generation of children, healthful and sustainable eating, and her advocacy for food justice, Chef Joia brought a wealth of knowledge, passion, and purpose to our initiative.

Her dedication went far beyond teaching recipes—she empowered our students with the skills and understanding necessary to build a healthier relationship with food. Through hands-on guidance and thoughtful instruction, she helped instill lasting values around nutrition, sustainability, and self-sufficiency. Her influence has been transformative, leaving a meaningful impact on how our students view their food, their health, and their role in shaping a more just and equitable food system in this country.



Green Student of the Month:



Way to go art student Lola Monserrate and GSM partner school, STEAM Academy at McCluer South-Berkeley High School! Lola chose a huge, beautiful bok choy leaf from the school's Tower Garden. She rolled a piece of clay on a slab roller, pressed the leaf into the clay to get the texture of leaf veins and then cut out the shape to resemble the bok choy leaf's shape. She then added feet to the dish and it was fired in a kiln. Glaze was added and it was fired again. Monserrate is a student of art teacher and GSM champion educator, Maggie Ahern!

Donate to the Growing of Green St. Louis Machine!!

□ We are hopeful for donations to fund the upkeep of the greenhouse urban agricultural learning center, support our partner schools and pay for the Green Gala. Please consider a donation for our worthy cause! Thank you to those who have donated already this year! This incredible support will help us continue our mission to foster sustainability and innovation in our community. We are truly grateful for this kindness and commitment to our cause. Thank you so much! □□



Stella Erundu and Sherry Amen pose in front of Swiss chard, with the check!

#GreenStLouisMachine
#GreenSTL_Machine #Gratitude

If you would like to support us, you can donate by



**In case you still missed it,
we were featured on Giving Tuesday
on Channel 4!!**

*See the video clip of Green St. Louis Machine's North Side
Community Elementary School Kids by clicking the link
below!*

Watch us on Channel 4!



**We need to raise
\$15,000 in 2025!!**

**We still have a LOT of need!
We are so thankful for \$12,500 we
have received so far this year,
which is greatly appreciated! We
are hoping to raise an additional
\$12,500 to reach our goal of
\$25,000 in 2025!**

**Thanks for giving to us!
You can donate to The Green St. Louis
Machine here!**

Or visit our website::
Green St Louis Machine Website

Why do we do The Green St. Louis Machine?



Food apartheid in St. Louis contributes to high rates of food insecurity, childhood obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Thousands of children live in areas with little to no access to quality grocery stores, leaving families with limited options for fresh, nutritious food. As a



Many of these children have



YOU have the power to make a difference in their lives today — paving the way for healthier futures! Through our program, students grow, harvest, prepare, and enjoy fresh, nutritious foods, fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment

result, processed and unhealthy foods have become a regular part of their lifestyle.

never tasted or even learned the names of common fruits and vegetables. This lack of exposure to fresh, nutritious food affects their school performance, mental outlook, and overall well-being. Over time, poor nutrition increases their risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, and other serious health issues later in life.

over their own food choices. Together, we can transform communities and break the cycle of poor nutrition. Join us in our mission! Donate or volunteer today to help us create a healthier, brighter future for our children.

Thanks to Gala Volunteers

Dianne and Scott Schmidt, Paul and Anne McGhghy, Robin Wrice, Mark Amen, Uche Erundu, Tonja Riley

Photos and Video: Leon Algee, Nancy Joy

Chefs: Rona Leah, Joia Walker

GSM Advisory Team

Emi Belciak, Alisa Bennett-Hart, Mary Bueckendorf, Cassandra Lentz, Tyrean Lewis, Robin Wrice, Sara Paracha, Ciara Fisher, Rona Leah

GSM Thanks the Following Donors

Midwest BankCentre

Harold and Marilyn Hughes

Paul and Anne McGhghy

Sherry and Mark Amen

Donna Larson

Carol Bazan

Dorothy Uhlig

Tawnya Martin

Brenda Bakota

Terri-Ann Ruffin

Barbara Poelker

Mary Bueckendorf

Deborah and Ron Kniepkamp

Alisa Bennett-Hart

St. Louis Community Foundation

John and Ruth Grote

Sara Paracha

* Anonymous – Largest Donor

Thrivent Financial

Edith and James Leible

Dianne and Scott Schmidt

Gregory Grohman

Ashley Palmer

Christine Nickelson

Jodi Hart

Nancy Joy

Mark Dana

Katie Meyer

Collin Bueckendorf

Shineeka Smith

Emi and Sinclair Bowman

Maggie McCoy

Stella Erundu

In-Kind Donors:

Mathews-Dickey Club

Hamilton Hospitality

GSM IS INVITING ALL OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES TO GET INVOLVED! The Green St. Louis Machine relies heavily on donations and support from volunteers and community partners.

For more information contact:

Sherry Amen, 314-757-6607,

Sherry@GreenSTLMachine.org

Stella Erundu, 314-590-3247,

Stella@GreenSTLMachine.org

VISIT OUR

WEBSITE! www.GreenSTLMachine.org

**Give STL Day is coming in May!
Please consider us!**



Video Clip!

You can learn more about our mission by clicking here to watch our video:

[**Green St. Louis Machine Promo Video**](#)

and feel free to pass this video on to your friends and family. Thank you for your support!

Download our Mission Statement Flyer!

[Click here to download](#)



Agriscience (STEAM) Summer Camp at Mathews-Dickey:

Students can participate in Green St. Louis Machine activities and experiments during Summer Sports Academy Summer Camp at Mathews-Dickey Club, which runs from June 9 through August 1, M-F, 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Leaders of Agriscience will be the Saint Louis Science Center's YES teens and their manager, Doug Schilling. Children will receive and participate in, engaging STEAM learning activities that the YES teens have developed! To sign up please contact Ms. Joyce at (314) 302-5710 or stop in at Mathew's -Dickey between 10 am and 5 pm.

Note: YES stands for Youth Exploring Science.



AMERICORPS VISTA!

Please join us in warmly welcoming our newest employee, AmeriCorps VISTA member, Emile Eller, who will be helping us

deepen our impact as we expand our reach.

TWO POSITIONS ARE STILL OPEN!!

We want to let you know that Green St. Louis Machine has 2 AmeriCorps VISTA positions OPEN! Could you suggest contacts/people we could forward this to such as colleagues in the organizations, schools and universities you work with?

M:STL- Green STL Machine Farmer in Chief VISTA

M:STL- Green STL Machine Outreach, Capacity & Market VISTA

These positions could be good for high school graduates or college students taking a gap year to explore career path opportunities or to gain resume-building experiences and knowledge to prepare them for applying for good jobs.....or even early retirees or people in-between jobs or careers! Full health coverage and child care is certainly appealing, as is a monthly stipend of over \$1,800!

So please help us with these great opportunities and call/text with any questions

Sherry Amen 314-757-6607, Sherry@GreenSTLMachine.org

Stella Erondy 314-590-3247, Stella@GreenSTLMachine.org



*Thank YOU for
partnering with us!*

Wish to donate? Click here:

**Donate to The Green St. Louis
Machine!**

Here's what your donation can do if you
click on
DONATE ANY AMOUNT ABOVE:

**\$200 or more per month: Pledge towards
seeds and supplies purchases!!**

**\$1,500 will buy a Tower Garden for a school
desperate for the opportunity to grow food in
a classroom!**

**Donate T-SHIRTS for 500 GSM students
\$5,000 (Can have your company logo too!)**

**Donate 500 APRONS for Green St Louis
Machine students – \$6,500 (Can have your
company logo too!)**

**Support the GSM portion of salary for a GSM
AmeriCorps Vista (Like the Peace Corps only
working on American soil) for a year \$5,000**

**Support GSM Summer Camp, In-School or
After-School Farm-to-Table Project-Based
Learning for your favorite school or**

organization: from \$3,500



Have questions?

Sherry Amen at 314-757-6607

Email: Sherry@GreenSTLMachine.org

Stella Erondy at 314-590-3247

Email: Stella@GreenSTLMachine.org

Visit our Facebook Page:

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