



Green St. Louis Machine GAZETTE

February, 2026
Edition

Sustainability theme of the month:

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLACE

Place has always shaped life in the United States—our land, neighborhoods, and institutions influence health and opportunity. As the nation marks 100 years of Black History Month in February 2026, Green St. Louis Machine celebrates a century of Black leadership in agriculture, health, sustainability, and food justice, reflected in the work of innovators and advocates like Tambra Raye Stevenson.

In St. Louis, community anchors such as Christian Hospital, programs like 4-H, and organizations like Green St. Louis Machine work together to address determinants of health through food access, education, and career pathways into the region's agri-business economy—strengthening young people, neighborhoods, and community resilience.

Learn more about the origins of Black History Month **here:**

<https://asalh.org/about-us/about-black-history-month/>

Learn about Tambra Raye Stevenson **here:**

<https://www.eatingwell.com/author/tambra-raye-stevenson/>

Sustaniability Spotlight

MU Extension St. Louis 4-H



Place shapes opportunity. The University of Missouri (MU) Extension is part of the federal land-grant mission, a system created through legislation that funded public universities using land expropriated from Native American nations.

Understanding this history invites reflection on how place, responsibility, and access intersect today.

Green St. Louis Machine is proud to announce a new partnership with MU Extension St. Louis 4-H, bringing more than 200 GSM students into 4-H programs for the first time. 4H's slogan is "learning by doing". This vision perfectly complements the hands-on nature of our programming.

Through a connection with 4-H Field Specialist Melissa Scheer, GSM visited seven partner schools with her in December to introduce students and teachers to urban agriculture opportunities through 4-H. According to Scheer, "with its focus on hands-on learning, leadership, and healthy living, 4-H will blend seamlessly with Green St. Louis Machine's mission".

Spotlight of the Month:

Green Staff: Cheryl Williams

Green Student: Adriana, 4th Grader

and member of Green St. Louis

Machine at Mathews-Dickey



Green Staff of the Month

Cheryl Williams is a standout Youth Development Professional at Mathews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club of Greater St. Louis, where she creates safe, inspiring spaces that support healthy lifestyles, academic success, and character development. A longtime leader and coach, Cheryl is known for building strong relationships with youth and families and for her creative programming.

She launched the innovative Throw and Grow program—blending softball and gardening—and this spring/summer will expand it with indoor Tower Gardens. Youth will grow food for cooking workshops

and to share with their families, alongside field trips to local farms and hands-on workshops with farmers. Through Green St. Louis Machine, Cheryl is passionate about connecting older youth to real pathways—from tower farming and ag-business opportunities to college access, including nearby University of Missouri, a GSM community partner. She's also excited about a new GSM partnership with 4-H, opening even more opportunities for youth to learn, lead, and grow. And somehow, Cheryl still finds time to volunteer and dance! 🐾

Green Student of the Month Adriana, a fourth grader, has been part of Green St. Louis Machine at Mathews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club of Greater St. Louis since pre-K! She loves jumping into activities and often invites her mom, Ashley, to join cooking classes with Chef Rona Leah or gardening sessions with Nick Speed of Ujima. A strong student and budding chef-gardener, Adriana also enjoys skating, reading, and watching singing shows.

Pictured above: Ms. Cheryl and Adriana holding a tray of rock wool cubes containing sprouted seedlings that are ready for planting into one of the GSM program's Tower Gardens.

Community Partner of the Month:

CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL FOUNDATION BJC HEALTHCARE



**Joining Forces
to Enhance Community Health Outcomes**

In November, Green St. Louis Machine (GSM) launched an affiliation with Christian Hospital to grow fresh, nutrient-dense greens for hospital patients—advancing the shared belief that Food is Medicine. Christian Hospital's leadership has seen through its own

patient studies that access to healthy food plays a critical role in disease prevention and recovery.

By December, three Tower Gardens were installed at GSM's Tower Farm and dedicated exclusively to food production for the hospital. By January, the towers were fully producing, and GSM completed its first harvest and delivery of collards and mustard greens for patient use.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to practical, preventative healthcare solutions that address nutrition at its source. As a leader in the St. Louis healthcare community, Christian Hospital is integrating fresh food into patient care alongside state-of-the-art medicine. According to Christian Hospital President Rick Stevens, "Treating patients with healthy food is good medicine."

Pictured: Rick Stevens, President of Christian Hospital, with hospital-designated Tower Gardens, alongside Robin Wrice, GSM Farm Manager, and Stella Erondu, GSM President.



Recipe of the Month: Chef Rona Leah's Greens



February's Black History Month Theme demands a . . . Recipe Repeat! Chef Rona Leah's Greens

- 2 1/2 bunches of collard greens or mixed greens including mustard greens, kale and Swiss Chard
- 1 large, sweet onion
- 1 medium green bell pepper
- 1 medium red bell pepper
- 4 medium cloves of garlic
- 1 palm full of cumin
- 1 palm full of oregano
- 3/4 a palm full of thyme
- 1 palm full of fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 sprinkle of red pepper flakes
- 1 large bay leaf
- 3 good dashes of soy sauce
- 3 good dashes of Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup sugar - more if needed, to taste
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar - more if needed, to taste
- Salt and Pepper to taste

- 1 medium size smoked turkey leg or wing -optional
- 2 strips bacon --optional
- 32oz box of low sodium & fat free chicken broth - or substitute veggie broth for vegetarian
- Extra virgin olive oil, as needed

Follow Chef Rona Leah through Facebook or Instagram
Follow The REAL Green St. Louis Machine on
Facebook, Instagram and X



Chef Rona working with Farm-to-Table kids at Mathews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club.

**GET YOUR TICKETS
NOW!!!**

**GREEN
ST. LOUIS
MACHINE**

Presents



2026
Green Gala

Thursday April 9th 4:30 - 6:30 PM

LOCATION:

**Mathews-Dickey Club
4245 Kingshighway
Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63115**



SCAN ME

Celebrate and enjoy dishes imagined by students and brought to life by chefs using greens and herbs grown by students. Take home fresh herbs and special gifts made by students!

April 9 – Green Gala! Join us from 4:30 - 6:30 PM as a volunteer or guest to enjoy the feast and the green energy behind our work. Also, reach out to learn how you can sponsor this amazing, student-centered agriculture education event. Your logo could be on aprons every student will receive, or student's t-shirts and more! Get tickets early!

President's Corner in the observance of Black History Month



**Governor Mike Kehoe with Stella Erundu and Sherry Amen of GSM
at St. Louis AgriBusiness Club Meeting at Bayer Crop Science**

Dear friends of Green St Louis Green Machine,

The Theme of the Month is “The Importance of Place”

February invites us to reflect on *place*—not just where we are, but how place shapes identity, culture, and community. For African American communities, place has always been deeply meaningful.

Throughout history, African Americans transformed spaces not designed for us into centers of resilience, creativity, and connection—from kitchens and classrooms to churches, neighborhoods, and gardens. These places became foundations of belonging and hope.

Food is one of the strongest expressions of place. African American cuisine carries stories of ancestry, adaptation, and care, rooted in West African agricultural traditions and shaped by lived experience. Growing and sharing food has always been a way to heal, connect, and pass knowledge forward.

Art and culture also ground us—through music, storytelling, and visual expression that reflect our environments and preserve our collective memory.

That is why, at Green St. Louis Machine, we intentionally reclaim place inside our schools. Through our year-round aeroponic Tower Garden classrooms, students grow fresh, healthy food right where they learn. These living laboratories transform ordinary school spaces into hubs of nourishment, STEM discovery, cultural connection, and workforce readiness. When children grow food in their own school, place becomes power.

This February, let us continue investing in places that nourish people and strengthen communities.

Stella Erundu

President, Green St. Louis Machine

If you would like to support us,
you can donate by scanning our
QR Code!



**In case you still missed it.....
We were featured 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!](#)



The GSM Podcast - Episode 1 Now Live!!

*The episode offers a clear look at what GSM is doing
and why the mission matters.*

See our first podcast by clicking the link below!



**GROWING A SUSTAINABLE
TOMORROW THROUGH
URBAN AGRICULTURE:
WATCH GREEN ST. LOUIS
MACHINE LIVE!**

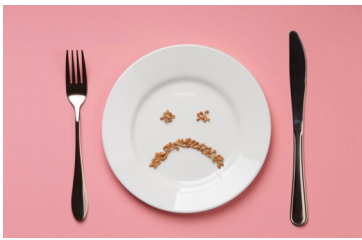
GSM Podcast
Wednesday November 19th @ 8 PM CST
Featuring:
Sherry Amen
Stella Erundu
Ciara Fisher
Emilia Belciak

Our Partners: christian hospital, HAMILTON hospitality, UMSL, thrivent, HERU URBAN FARMING, Mathews-Dickey, Midwest BankCentre, KANSAS SCIENCE CENTER, Girls & Boys Club, Ujima, MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN, ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, city greens MARKET



[**CLICK HERE TO VIEW**](#)

Why do we do The Green St. Louis Machine?



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



Many of these children have 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.



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 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.

GSM PARTNERS & DONORS



GSM IS INVITING ALL OUR FRIENDS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED!

The Green St. Louis Machine relies heavily on donations and support from volunteers and community partners.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GSM!

www.GreenSTLMachine.org



We LOVE our volunteers at Green St. Louis Machine (GSM)

Come volunteer with 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](#)



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

Sherry@GreenSTLMachine.org

Stella Erondu at 314-590-3247

Stella@GreenSTLMachine.org

Visit our Social Media Accounts (below)

and our exciting **Green STL TV**

YouTube Channel:

Green St. Louis Machine

FOLLOW US ON ALL OUR SOCIALS



Green St. Louis Machine | 2101 Chouteau Ave | St. Louis, MO 63103 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!