

Green STL Machine
presents **The Annual**
GREEN GALA 2026



Learn everything you need
to know about GSM's
exciting upcoming
event on April 9th

GSM Podcast

**March 29th @
8 PM CST**

 **YouTube**



Green St. Louis Machine GAZETTE

March, 2026
Edition

Sustainability theme of the month:

RESPECT FOR LIMITS

March reminds us that the planet thrives on balance. This month's sustainability theme—Respect for Limits—highlights an important idea: taking what we need while leaving enough for tomorrow.

Respect for Limits in Action

We invite you to the 2026 Green Gala on April 9, where students and community partners celebrate sustainability. In the spirit of this month's Respect for Limits theme, guests will sample greens and herbs grown by students and enjoy their culinary creations prepared by professional chefs—highlighting how thoughtful growing and responsible food choices support healthy people and healthy communities.

Tickets: [**Click Here!**](#)

And be sure to catch our Green Gala podcast on March 29 at 8 PM. See below in the news

Sustaniability Spotlight

Missouri Leaders Supporting Agricultural Education



On March 2, the Missouri House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation encouraging the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to partner with agricultural organizations to spark student interest in agriculture and strengthen learning pathways in schools.

This effort reflects our Respect for Limits theme of the month—helping students understand where food comes from while learning about land stewardship, responsible resource use, and sustainable food systems.

At Green St. Louis Machine, this mission is already in action through hands-on agriculture, food preparation, and STEM learning in urban schools. As Governor Mike Kehoe recently shared, “All kids need to know where their food comes from—both urban and rural kids.”

Through partnerships with organizations including UMSL, Missouri Extension 4-H, BioSTL, Operation Food Search, Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Saint Louis Science Center, GSM continues to grow the next generation of agriculture and sustainability leaders.

Join us in growing the future of food and farming.



Bill to create agriculture education program gets unanimous support from Missouri House

ksdk.com

[Click above to read full article](#)

SPOTLIGHT Green Students of the Month: Students at North Side Community Elementary School



Students Prepare Recipes for the Green Gala

Students across partner schools have started preparing for the April 9th Green Gala. Herbs growing in each

school's Tower Garden are inspiring recipe projects created in Farm to Table clubs.

At North Side Community School, students chose basil, which they grow in their Tower Garden. After a fun group activity to decide on recipes, students selected Caprese hors d'oeuvres and basil pesto.

Led by Chef Rona, students prepared their recipes and presented them for judging by 4-H judges Leanne Hesley and Melissa Scheer. Their recipe projects will also be represented at the State Fair.

Most exciting of all, these student-created recipes will be chef-prepared and served at the April 9th Green Gala!



Photos(including above): Students from North Side Community School's Farm to Table Club preparing basil pesto, making Caprese appetizers, and harvesting basil from their Tower Garden.

Community Partner of the Month:

Urban Sprouts Child Development Center



Green St. Louis Machine partnered with **Urban Sprouts** to bring indoor growing to life this winter through a Tower Garden growing herbs and greens all season long. Their Garden-to-Table programming models this month's sustainability theme: when children learn where food comes from at a young age, they begin building lifelong habits around healthy food choices and stewardship of the environment.

This partnership reflects our mission to empower students and communities in hands-on agriculture literacy through agriculture technology and food preparation—fostering a practical understanding of STEM/STEAM, nutrition, and sustainable food systems in an urban environment. Through planting, harvesting, and cooking fresh foods, students experience the full cycle of food and discover that healthy choices can grow from the Garden to the Table!

Recipe of the Month:

Burrata Burnet Melon Salad



Recipe Project by -
STEAM Academy at
McCluer South-Berkeley High School's
Green St. Louis Machine Team
. . . recipe inspired by and project led by
Chef Rona Leah

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup watermelon cubes
- 1/2 cup honeydew melon rounds
- 1 large burrata ball, or 2 mini burratas
- 1/2 cup quartered tomatoes, red or yellow
- 1 small shallot, finely chopped

The herbs- finely chopped:

- Salad burnet (2 palm fulls)
- French Sorrel (2 palm fulls)
- Spearmint (a little less than a palm)
- Sweet basil (1 1/2 - 2 palm full)
- Parsley (a little-less than a palm)
- Adjust to taste

The dressing - mix it first:

- 3:1 oil to vinegar, make about 1/4 cup
- 3 tbs Olive oil
- 1 tbs White wine vinegar
- Juice from the Watermelon
- Honey (1 tbs)
- Salt (to taste)

- Adjust to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Slice and soak the shallots in cold water for 10-30 minutes before use.
2. Center the burrata and place the tomatoes and melon around the cheese nicely scatter over the shallots, then pour over the vinaigrette, garnish, and serve right away.

Note 1. Feta cheese can be used instead. Cube it and scatter it across the fruit and then dress with the vinaigrette.

This recipe was chosen by McCluer South Berkeley High School's Green St Louis Machine Team and features herbs being grown in their Tower Garden- sorrel, parsley and salad burnet. It was prepared and judged by MU extension 4-H judges and will be entered for recognition at the state fair.

Note: Their recipe will be one of the dishes featured at the April 9th Green Gala!



Chef Rona with the Green St Louis Machine Team at STEAM Academy at McCluer South Berkeley High School. Maggie Ahern is the groups academic advisor. The club meets Thursdays after school. Pictured at far right is Leanne Hesley with St.Louis Community College's (STLCC) Center for Plant and Life Sciences, who was the judge for the 4-H recipe project.

Note: STLCC's Associate in Applied Science in Biotechnology offers students specialized training for employment as biotechnicians engaged in research and development, quality control, biomanufacturing, and bioprocessing.

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: March, 2026



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

Dear friends of Green St Louis Machine,

Sustainability Theme: **Respect for Limits**

At Green St. Louis Machine (GSM), sustainability is more than an idea—it is a disciplined practice rooted in balance, responsibility, and care for our communities and environment. This month’s theme, “**Respect for Limits,**” challenges our students, educators, families, and community partners to make intentional choices that support healthy living and responsible stewardship of our shared resources.

Through GSM’s tower garden classrooms and farm-to-table education programs, students learn firsthand that healthy food systems require patience, care, and respect for nature. Growing

and harvesting their own vegetables strengthens appreciation for nutritious foods, reduces waste, and build lifelong habits that support personal and community health.

GSM remains **firmly** committed to advancing urban agriculture education, improving community health, and strengthening environmental stewardship. Our work continues to focus on four priorities:

- Expanding access to fresh, nutritious food in underserved communities
- Educating students and families on sustainable growing and balanced nutrition
- Empowering youth leadership through hands-on food production and health advocacy
- Strengthening partnerships that advance environmental responsibility and public health

By teaching young people to respect limits today, we are cultivating a generation prepared to lead healthier lives and build a more sustainable future. **So, join us on Thursday, April 9, 2026 for our Green Gala and a chance to meet our young people and community partners. It will be a fun evening!**

Stella Erondu

President, Green St. Louis Machine

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



 **The GSM Podcast** 

Episode 2- MARCH 29TH @ 8PM



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**](mailto:Sherry@GreenSTLMachine.org)

Stella Erundu at 314-590-3247

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

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