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# The Home



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## Welcome Spring!

Brrrrr, as I write this newsletter, it is a balmy 2 degrees outside and feels like -18. The calendar says Spring is just four weeks away. I'm certainly ready for some warmer weather.

As a Health and Human Science Educator, my purpose is to provide educational programs and resources to help residents support their family and community to lead healthy, active and productive lives. We expand and strengthen knowledge and skills in health, family, food and money. Resources are provided in person, by phone, in publications and online. Purdue Extension provides a local face with countless connections in all 92 counties. We have a wide variety of programs planned for March/April. I hope you will find something that interests you.

## Block Parties Build Skills....

Children are born learners. Every day, they learn new skills they will build upon as they grow. Children need experiences to be stimulating, fun and interactive. Adults can guide children's early learning experiences and use blocks as the tools to support their development. Playing with blocks can help children learn math and science concepts, build vocabulary and reading skills and teach social skills while being physically active!

When parents interact with their children while they play, skill learning can be enhanced. Come to a Block Party to learn how you can enhance your child's development. We have four block parties scheduled around the county in March. If you have a child or grandchild aged 2-6 years old, make plans to attend a program in your area. Call the Extension Office at 219-285-8620 ext. 2800 for more information.

March 16 Goodland HeadStart - 9:30 a.m.  
March 18 Kentland Trinity United Methodist Church - 6:00 p.m.  
March 19 Roselawn HeadStart - 1:30 p.m.  
Brook ABC Preschool, Brook United Methodist Church - 6:30 p.m.



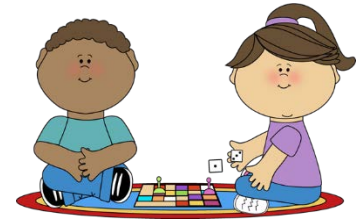
## Mark Your Calendar for Wednesday, April 22



The Melchior Marionettes will be presenting a **Puppet Show** at the Morocco Elementary Gymnasium on Wednesday, April 22. Doors open at 5:40, program begins at 6:00 p.m. Children and parents will be entertained by the lively puppet show, then have the opportunity to make their own puppet. The program is provided by Purdue Extension - Newton County and Newton County Step Ahead with funding from the Newton County Community Foundation. This program promises to be a unique experience for the whole family.

## Kindergarten Family Fun Night Programs

If you have a child or grandchild enrolled in Kindergarten, make sure they attend the Spring round of Kindergarten Family Fun Night Programs. The Spring program features School Pizza and Game Night. KFFN programs are held at each elementary school. Watch for registration forms to be sent home with your Newton County Kindergarten child. This will wrap up our 16<sup>th</sup> year of KFFN programs in Newton County.



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## Matter of Balance

Did you know that more than one-third of adults ages 65 years and older fall each year? Many seniors are afraid to discuss falls with family members as they become afraid that the nursing home will be the next step. Assessing home issues first can be a painless way to look at a home and see what can be accomplished by changing a few things. Socialization can also be gained by interacting with others as well as finding solutions together to avoid falls. The Matter of Balance program addresses these concerns and more. The Matter of Balance 8-part series will be offered at the Roselawn library on Monday afternoons beginning April 13 and running through June 1 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The program will include:



- Group Discussion
- Problem-Solving
- Skill Building
- Assertiveness Training
- Videotapes
- Exercise Training & Healthy Snacks

Northwest Indiana Community Action is partnering with Purdue Extension and the Newton County Health Department to provide this FREE program. Class size is limited, so please reserve your spot by calling the Extension Office at 219-285-8620! Call now, don't miss out!

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## Quilt in a Day

Maria Conrad, from Donovan, IL, has offered to help you make a quilt in one day. She is an excellent quilter and will provide instruction to help you make a 54"x 66" Single Irish Chain quilt. This is a "Beginner" project. If you are interested in quilting, but afraid to start, this is the way to go! If you don't have all the sewing supplies needed, Maria will have the necessary tools available for you to use. The program is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 at the Beaver Township Community Center in Morocco from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Participants will need to come to the program with fabric, batting, thread, a portable sewing machine, and basic sewing utensils. You will receive an information sheet with full details when you register for the program. The cost of the program will be \$20 and includes snacks, beverages and lunch.



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## Cocoa & Canvas



Twenty-three budding artists joined us on February 13 in Morocco for our Cocoa and Canvas program. We had a great time painting two love birds in a tree. There was so much interest we had to generate a "waiting list." Plans are being made to host another Cocoa/Coffee & Canvas in March or April. Details are not yet finalized, so please check our webpage at [www.extension.purdue.edu/newton](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/newton) or follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/newtoncountyextension](https://www.facebook.com/newtoncountyextension) for information on our next program.

# Money Smart Week® is April 18-25, 2015

Money Smart Week is a public awareness campaign designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. Go to [www.moneysmartweek.org/resources](http://www.moneysmartweek.org/resources) to find information on credit & debt, spending & saving and issues based on life stages.

With two teens in my house, financing a college education has been a frequent conversation. Check out this infographic for information on financing a college education, <https://www.stlouisfed.org/education/college-101-infographic>

This website has links to help you forecast your financial aid with the FAFSA4caster calculator. Find out what percentage of students received federal financial aid in 2012 and see the results of an April 2013 salary survey. Use a calculator to estimate the size of your monthly loan payment and the annual salary required to manage that payment. Learn about the top 75 college destinations with a link to the College Destination Index. Identify some of the reasons students select particular colleges...and more.

*Make a Difference  
Look into your child's eyes. Stop what you are doing, sit down, and just look into them. Do that every day and you will change the world. ~Noel Cocca*

## Contact Us:

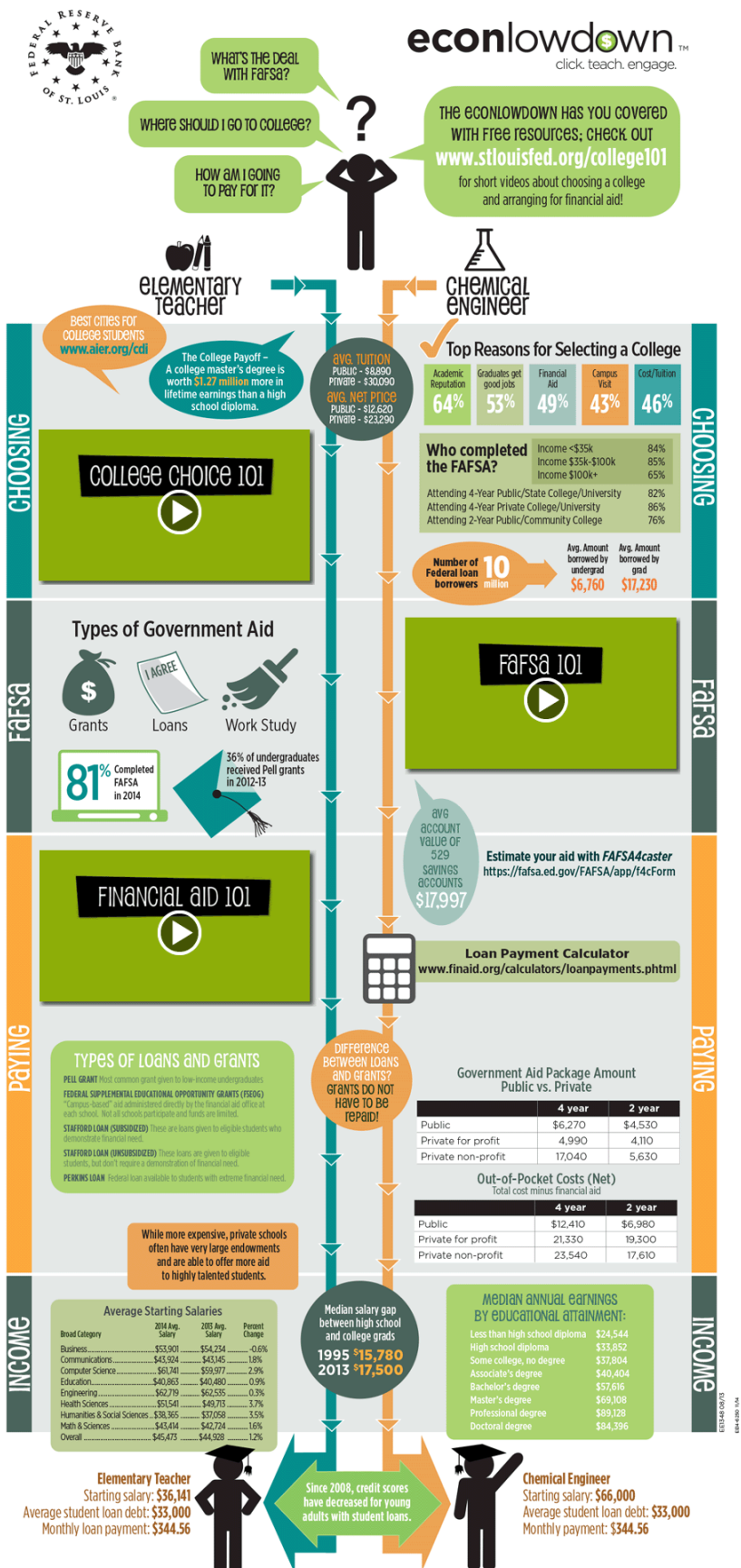
(219)-285-8620 ext. 2800  
Interested in learning more about what we do?

Visit us on the web at

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# Extension Homemaker Notes



Dear Homemakers,

Have you all had enough of winter with its frigid temperatures, ice, and snow? Be careful as you step outside. I took a tumble on the ice a few weeks ago and am thinking that Deb's class, "A Matter of Balance", might be a good idea in the spring!

Many thanks to Martha White for conducting the Council Meeting on January 22nd. I could not get out of a training at work that day. These are some of the highlights of the meeting:

- ♣ State dues were increased to \$5 per year but our county dues will remain \$4 per year.
- ♣ There were no decorated tissue boxes from any of our clubs to be judged.
- ♣ IEHA Career Advancement Scholarship applications are due to Joanna Sell by March 15th.
- ♣ We are seeking someone to fill the position of County Extension Homemaker President for 2015-2017. Watch for a survey to be sent to members for their input.
- ♣ Clubs were encouraged to sell the remaining nuts.
- ♣ Fair ads will go out in February and Extension Homemakers will continue their ad in the Fair Book.

In the January edition of Marcia Dodge's Presidential Pointers Newsletter, it was mentioned that Newton County Homemakers had donated \$400.00 to the IEHA Cancer Fund. Our donation was greatly appreciated.

The Lafayette District Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. RSVP's and payment were due to Carol Light by February 25th. The theme is A Lucky Stroll Down Mainstreet. Registration is at 9:00 EST with the program beginning at 9:30 EST. Please contact me if you plan to attend in order to carpool.

There is still time to register for the Home and Family Conference June 9-11 in Indianapolis. We had one entry from our county for the district's "I Want to Go to Conference" Award. We were told recently that there will be a talent show Wednesday evening. Share your talent and join us for an exciting conference!

More \$1 books were ordered from Scholastic recently for our Head Start classrooms: Click, Clack, Moo-Cows That Type and Curious George Says Thank You. We will be needing readers again this spring for a visit to Goodland and Roselawn classrooms.

Extension Homemaker Club Secretaries will be meeting on Monday, March 30 at 1:00 pm at the Extension Office to discuss plans for the 2015-2016 Program Book.

Our next Council Meeting will be April 23, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. It will be a carry-in snacks/finger food event. Remember that we will be voting on our Cultural Arts entry for conference as well as a handmade Christmas ornament. We are allowed to take 2 ornaments to conference in June. It must be an original design, not a kit, and must be accompanied with a 4 X 6" photo for ease of judging at the Home and Family Conference.

Welcome spring and enjoy watching your flowers grow! (Remember to order some 4-H geraniums for your flower gardens).

Always, Wanda Monjon