SAYING FAREWELL...

"Can you believe 40 years has gone by!? They say that time passes quickly when you’re having fun. I must say, it has been one of the greatest pleasures of my career, working with Kent County’s Ag & 4-H community. The opportunity to do so has been a wonderful experience. Learning new things and new ways of doing things is challenging and exciting to me. You have been a huge part of that. Now, as I move on to my next project, retirement, I am excited and enthusiastic about the opportunities and challenges that await me. The friendships and bonds that have been created between myself, Extension’s faculty and staff, and you, will never be forgotten; we will simply enjoy them from the other side of my desk. So, as I “hang up my typewriter” on December 31, 2015, I thank you for the opportunity to be of service and wish each of you good health and profitable harvests! Oh, if anyone out there sneezed, God bless you!"

~ Verna Clarkston

An Invitation from Aly Valentine and the UME Kent Faculty and Staff...

We invite all community members to join us in wishing Verna well in her future and thank her for 40 years of service. We will host a drop-in Open House on Friday December 18th from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the Extension Office. Please stop by and visit with Verna. She doesn’t want any fuss but would love to visit with all the many farmers, clients, families, 4-H’ers, community members and friends she has made over the years. Thank You Verna!
Joint JLC/Leaders Council Meeting – 4-H’ers and leaders made Christmas cards for military personnel through Operation Christmas Card. The photo is several examples. The group played games and most importantly decided the theme for the 2016 Achievement Banquet and Fair. Thanks to Henry Myers for suggesting the theme. The fair book cover/backdrop design contest information is inserted in this newsletter.

2016 Theme: “4-H” Another Great Classic

4-H Volunteer Trainings – All parents and adults associated with 4-H should become UME Trained Volunteers. There are 2 upcoming opportunities. You must register prior to each event.
1. F2F Training, Monday December 7th, 6:30 pm, Kent Co. Extension Office
2. Online Training, Tuesday December 8th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.; Done online thru MD State 4-H Office.

Reminder - January 1st Deadline for Ownership of 2016 4-H Market Beef and Dairy Steers. Dairy Steers must have been born after December 1, 2014 and Beef Steers after January 1, 2015. The Weighing and Tagging for 2016 Dairy and Beef Steers is Saturday January 9th, 11:00 am at the Kent Ag Center. Please contact the 4-H Office if you plan on having a 2016 Market Steer. (2016 feeder steers will be tagged at the May weigh-in). Questions, contact the 4-H Office.

16th Annual 4-H Toy Drive Update – Thanks to the 25 4-H’ers and parents who made the Toy to the World float happen in the Chestertown Christmas parade. It is believed our float won 1st place. We also collected $521 in monetary donations + a box of toys at the booth in Fountain Park. Anyone wishing to help, 4-H will have a table in Fountain Park on Saturday December 5th, 9:00 am – 12 noon. Donuts will be provided!

The Toy Drive will conclude the weekend of December 11-14th. Here is the schedule:

- **Toy Drive Booth**
  - Saturday, Dec. 5 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, Fountain Park

- **Final Planning Mtg, if needed**
  - TBD-Sat 12/5

- **Toy Drive Officially Ends**
  - Friday December 11

- **Toy Pick-up, Jennifer’s School of Dance Recital**
  - Saturday, Dec. 12 (confirmed)

- **Toy Drive Shopping Trip**
  - Saturday December 12

- **Toys Sorted and Organized**
  - Sunday December 13

- **Comm. Christmas Baskets**
  - Monday December 14

- **Wrap-up Mtg. & Thank You’s**
  - Tuesday, January 19, ‘16 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Extension Office

- **Everything MUST be to Extension Office**
  - 1:00 pm, KCHS, deliver to KC Comm. Ctr.
  - plus toys from Ext. Off.

- **Toy Pick-up, Jennifer’s School of Dance Recital**
  - Saturday December 12

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**Maryland 4-H State Council** (formerly Teen Council applications for 2016 are due to the State Office by December 15th) Kent County 4-H needs to be represented! Call the Office or visit [http://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/maryland-4-h-state-council](http://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/maryland-4-h-state-council) for the application.

**4-H’er 2016 Re-enrollment:** Reminder that 4-H’ers will not be able to re-enroll through 4H Online until AFTER January 6th and reenrollment must be completed by Monday February 1, 2016. Several work days are scheduled if you would like to come to the office to do your re-enrollments (see schedule) or call the office to make sure someone is here to help. Otherwise, all families will be able to re-enroll themselves.
Attention Kent 4-H Shooting Sports Members!

4-H Shooting Sports Clubs Consolidation Meeting – Sunday December 13th, 1:00 pm, Extension Office – all 3 clubs – Clay Crushers, Shore Shots and Junior Rifle have voted to dissolve their clubs and consolidate to 1 Kent County Shooting Sports Club. This meeting will be held for all members, families and volunteers to answer questions and to name the new club. Following this meeting, all clubs will close their treasuries, and reorganize with the new name. The club will begin in January/February 2016 (to be determined at this meeting). Club structure, business meetings and officers will be selected. All Shore Shots, Clay Crushers and Jr. Rifle members should attend.

December 4-H Record Book Workshops: *A letter to all 4-H’ers required to complete a RB, was mailed 11/17/15*

Senior RB (Portfolio) Workshop – Tuesday Dec. 8th, 7:00 pm, Ext. Office – This workshop is for seniors doing a Senior RB/Portfolio for the 1st time or who want to make their RB better! Learn how to do a 4-H Resume and Essay and more. Must register by 12/8 at 12:00 noon. *Seniors who want to try for a 4-H Out-of-State trip must complete a Senior Portfolio.

Senior Portfolio Reminders:

*K* Portfolio packets are due for Out of State Trips: National 4-H Congress, Miniwanca, West Virginia and Virginia 4-H Congress, are due to State 4-H Office on January 15, 2016. **Portfolios are due to the Kent 4-H Office by Jan 6th,** where they will be reviewed and returned for corrections. 4-H teens are encouraged to submit a packet for a once in a lifetime trip opportunity. A 4-H senior portfolio consists of an application, resume, and essay. The 2016 essay topic is: **Write an essay describing the impact that being in 4-H has had on your life.**

For more information on portfolio guidelines, please visit: [https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/youth-families/awards-recognition](https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/youth-families/awards-recognition). You can also email Ms. Beth at emshill@umd.edu or call the office for help.

**4-H Holiday Workshop – Saturday December 19th, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, Ext. Office.**

Participants will make several holiday crafts, a small wreath, and cookies in a jar. All of which can be used or given as gifts. The crafts will be able to be entered in the 2016 Kent County Fair. Youth of all ages are welcome.

**Registration Deadline:** All participants must register by **Friday December 11th.**

**No late entries** will be accepted.

**Minimum:** There must be a minimum of **10** participants for the workshop to be held.

**Cost:** A minimal cost of $5 **per person** is required to register.

Thanks to Beth Steffy and Grace Taylor for volunteering to lead workshop stations. Want to help? Contact the office.

Kent County Public Works Complex, 709 Morgnec Rd., Ste. 202, Chestertown, MD 21620

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**Next Issue of the 4-H Mini-Times News Bulletin: December 11th!**
Kent County Fair Premium Guide Cover Design Contest
Due to the Extension Office by Monday March 7, 2016!

To be considered, entries must:

- Be hand drawn by the 4-H’er
- Be done on this form or on white 8 ½” x 11” paper
- For best reproduction of design, should be in black ink! Can use colored pencil.
- Reflect the theme, “4-H: Another Great Classic” and have theme included in drawing
- Include the fair name and fair dates – Kent County Fair July 21-23, 2016
- Be submitted to the Extension Office by the March 7th deadline

Entries will be judged by the Junior Leadership Council (JLC) on March 8th. The winner will be notified and the cover will appear on the Fair Catalog and as the main stage backdrop. Good Luck!

Designed By: ___________________________________________ Age: __________