

SEED & SOUL



Seed & Soul Society founding member Heather Fagan and St. Clair County Farm Museum board member Bob Sullivan talk before planting onions on a farm plot in Goodells County Park on May 14. PHOTOS BY BRYCE AIRGOOD/TIMES HERALD

Nonprofit aims to increase access to fresh food

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When Port Huron resident Heather Fagan and others were creating their nonprofit's name, an organization to encourage urban agriculture and education in St. Clair County, two words stood out.

Seed and soul.

And so Seed & Soul Society was created, which Fagan and the other founders want to put as much love, heart and soul into as they can.

"Cause if you don't, what're you doing it for?" she said.

Fagan, along with Shannon Raynard, Lisa Green and Tyler Moldovan, recently formed the nonprofit, which focuses on sustainable agriculture and mutual growth.

"It's a grassroots organization that's



Sullivan plants onions on a farm plot in Goodells County Park.

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dedicated to helping with food insecurity in the area," Fagan said.

The nonprofit's official board meeting is scheduled for June 23 where they will discuss bylaws and choose board members. But right now, the biggest concern is getting stuff in the ground, Fagan said.

Which is why she was at Goodells County Park May 14, planting onions with St. Clair County Farm Museum board member Bob Sullivan.

Along with forming partnerships with organizations like the Blue Water Indigenous Alliance and Blue Water Mutual Aid, the nonprofit also formed a partnership with the museum, which has offered it a few fertilized and tilled acres for planting.

Sullivan said the museum property was once a poor farm, a place where people could work, be supported and have housing.

"Helping the community's a good idea," he said.

Seed & Soul Society is hosting a corn and potatoes planting event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the museum at 8310 County Park Drive, catered by Moe's Corner Deli, and is looking for around seven volunteers.

There is also a foraging workshop June 6 in Jeddo, where a certified forger will show people what's edible and medicinal in nature, Fagan said.

The ultimate goal is to see more gardens and the number of food insecure people decrease. When there are food giveaways, people hardly ever see fresh fruits and vegetables and the nonprofit wants to help change that, she said.

Seed & Soul Society's founding members were also involved with creating the Port Huron Urban Farming Initiative, spearheaded by Julian Ruck's business First Church of Music LLC.

Seed & Soul Society formed after a split, Fagan citing different ideas about community service and Ruck citing personality conflicts.

Both organizations aim to give fresh food to the community, and Fagan said they're excited for any group that wants to do that.

"... anyone working toward ending hunger in this community is on the same team...we're just playing different positions on the field," Ruck said in a written message.

Moldovan said food insecurity is an issue in the area and people became hyper aware of it during the COVID-19 lockdown, when they went to the store and discovered a lack of produce or other items.

"I think we all collectively felt food insecurity together," he said.

Seed & Soul Society is offering people the ability to access fresh, non-processed food here in the area, he said.

Green said moving forward the nonprofit will try to bring more education to the community, have more volunteer events and donation drives.

This movement is about uniting under the common goal of addressing food insecurity and the more people they have involved, the more they can do.

"You have to be the change you want to see in the



Seed & Soul Society founding member Heather Fagan makes holes to plant onions on a farm plot in Goodells County Park on May 14. BRYCE AIRGOOD/TIMES HERALD

world," she said.

People interested in learning more about the nonprofit can go to its Facebook page and website and people interested in learning more about the museum can

visit its website or call (810) 325-1737.

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