

4-H'ers Take Pride in Their Community Through Beautification Efforts

The Situation

April is designated *Lewiston City Wide Spring Cleanup and Beautification Month*. In recent years, owners of downtown businesses have been unable to obtain the human resources needed to plant flowers. Although the plant materials and other items needed for success were available, the missing element for success was laborers. Volunteer laborers were needed which were interested in beautifying and taking pride in their community.



Our Response

The Lewiston Downtown Business Association asked if the Nez Perce County 4-H Clubs would volunteer during the first week of April to weed flowerbeds, plant flowers, and pick-up trash. 4-H'ers stepped up to the line and helped in force.

The Downtown Business Association, under the leadership of President Larry Tannahill, organized the 4-H'ers once they arrived downtown ready to work hard. The new downtown Lewiston restaurant, *Who's on 1st?*, served a cheeseburger and a coke to all participating 4-H members and *Yo Espresso*

provided a complimentary beverage. Students of Tammany Alternative School grew the flowers that were then purchased by the City of Lewiston, who provided them to the 4-H'ers to plant.

Achievements

Eighty-five Nez Perce County 4-H members, eleven 4-H parents and eleven 4-H leaders participated in the four day event. A survey was administered to downtown business associates

asking what they knew of 4-H, did they enjoy the experience of working with 4-H'ers, was the program a benefit to the community, and if they would like to see more youth involvement of this type.

Respondents of the survey considered 4-H a "great organization for kids to learn from experience and participation with concerned adults." As far as the benefits to the community, opinions didn't range very far from Larry Tannahill of Tannahill Jewels & Gallery's expression that "It was great working with doers and the youth of our future in a positive visually rewarding growth experience." Other comments included, "anytime you get people together

doing projects it benefits the community.” “It teaches the children responsibility.” “It teaches [youth] to be involved in community and also that a little can do a lot.” “The beautiful flowers downtown are lovely – Thank you.” Thirteen individuals responded and all comments were positive. One respondent commented that this type of program may develop a “good volunteer pool.” Another said that it provided “education opportunities, improves community, [and] builds future leadership.”



The Future

The Downtown Business Association is excited about making this an annual event and is considering the possibility of developing a Fall *Get Ready For Winter* cleanup as well.

For More Information

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