COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Cooperative Extension	Presenter(s):	Kim Jackson / Sandy Edwards
Meeting Date:	Thursday, February 23, 2012	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Kim Jackson and Sandy Edwards, representing the Cooperative Extension Service, will present information about their Master Gardeners program and the various volunteer projects completed over the past year.

Background/History/Details:

The Master Gardener program is an intense training and certification of volunteers in several areas of horticulture. Once participants complete their initial training, they are required to volunteer and participate in educational programs and classes in order to keep their certification. All training and volunteering is under the direction of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service.

The Fayette County Master Gardeners have been volunteering their expertise and knowledge in Fayette County for over twenty years. In 2008, many of the members decided to form an association to help better organize their educational efforts.

The Atlanta Food Bank has recently released its 2011 report of fresh food donated to area food banks, ministries, and shelters. The total produce received from the entire Atlanta area campaign was 106,292 pounds of food- the most successful season since joining the campaign in 1996. Fayette County Master Gardeners donated 76,761.5 pounds (or just over 72%) of the campaign's total. 27,821.5 pounds were harvested from the one-acre Plant a Row for the Hungry garden located at New Hope Baptist Church's north campus, and 48,940 pounds were produced by gleaning peaches, tomatoes, squash, and sweet peas from local growers that were picked and distributed through the County. Hundreds of hours of volunteer labor, expense, and teamwork were involved in this extension of love.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Recognition of the Fayette Master Gardener Extension Volunteers. The Master Gardeners will then present the Board with a large, symbolic check recognizing the monetary value of their contributions to the community The Master Gardeners would like to be photographed with the Commissioners as they present their check.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	No

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes: