

HEALTH

Gardening Workshops to Feed Families

SnowCap Community Charities is again scheduling a series of free gardening workshops to help "green thumbs" harvest fresh produce and help low-income families reduce food costs.

Leading off the series on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to noon will be a session dealing with basic vegetable gardening. A second session on Saturday, May 4 includes crop choices for year-round harvests, methods to stretch the growing season and weed and



pest control techniques.

Other workshops include container gardening on Saturday, May 18, and instructions on nontoxic methods to manage weeds, pests and crop diseases on Saturday, June 15.

All workshops take place at the SnowCap Community Garden, adjacent to the SnowCap complex at 17805 S.E. Stark St.

More information and signups are available by calling SnowCap at 503-674-8785, extension 19, or emailing danni@snowcap.org.

HEALTHWATCH

Take Off Pounds Sensibly -- TOPS meetings are held every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the St. Michael's and All Angels Church, 1704 N.E. 43rd Ave. Anyone interested is invited to learn about this weight loss support program which offers information, encouragement, weekly programs, fun contests, discussion and socialization.

Cholesterol Profiles -- Get the resources to help you keep an eye on your cholesterol and other indicators of heart health. Educational material provided. For more information, call 503-261-6611.

Bereavement Support Groups -- Free, safe confidential group meetings for those who have experienced the death of a loved one offered on various nights and locations. For information and registration, call 503-215-4622.

Maternity Water Workout -- Helping new moms regain muscle tone, strength, and flexibility, all in the support and freedom of the water. Call 503-256-4000 for more information.

Senior Aerobics -- A low-impact workout geared specifically toward seniors. Call 503-449-0783 for current schedule.

Red Cross Certification -- The Oregon Trail Chapter Red Cross now offers credits to help professionals maintain licensing or certification. For a cumulative list, visit pdxinfo.net.

Empowerment through Relaxation -- Free informal meditation classes that address breathing techniques, some gentle ancient African yoga poses and mental balancing techniques. People have left these classes joyful and with a peaceful view of their lives. Call Dr. Marcelitte Failla at 503-228-6140.

Tenderfoot Care -- Treat your feet with a soak, nail trim, buffing and massage from a licensed nurse at one of six clinics or at your home. Call 503-251-6303 for more information.

Cancer Resource Center -- Providence St. Vincent Medical Center and the American Red Cross have joined forces to create

the first in-hospital resource center providing books, printed material, computer access and more for individuals and families dealing with cancer. The center is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lead Poisoning Prevention -- Learn how to protect your family from lead poisoning. Ideal for folks in live in older homes with children or pregnant women. Qualified participants receive a free kit of safety and testing supplies. Call 503-284-6827.

Parenting Classes -- Newborns don't come with instruction manuals but parents and parents-to-be can learn about a variety of topics from pain and childbirth to breastfeeding to infant CPR and much more. For a schedule of events, call 503-574-6595 or visit: providence.org/classes.

Families with Mental Illness -- A free, 12-week course for people whose family members live with mental illness is offered at Emanuel Hospital, Mt. Hood Medical Center and Providence Medical Center. The course

has been described as "life-changing" by former participants. Registration is required by calling 503-203-3326.

Chronic Pain Support Group -- Meets the first Wednesday at 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the third Wednesday of each month, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 503-256-4000.

Cardiac-Rehab Exercises -- A medically supervised exercise program for people dealing with heart conditions. For information, call 503-251-6260.

Stroke Alert Screening -- Check your carotid arteries with a painless ultrasound to assess your risk. Fee \$40. To schedule a screening, call 503-251-6137.

Managing Chronic Hepatitis C -- Third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. The informative session is led by a registered nurse to help you manage side effects of medications and dosage preparations and administration; doctor referral required. To register, call 503-251-6313.

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