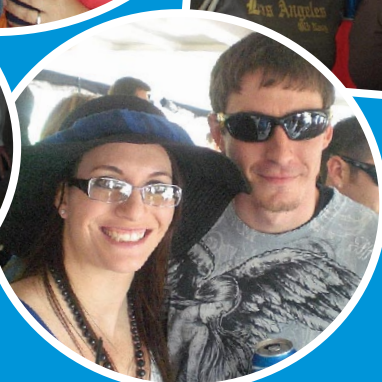


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Spotted photos by Chrissy, Ashley and Kromer

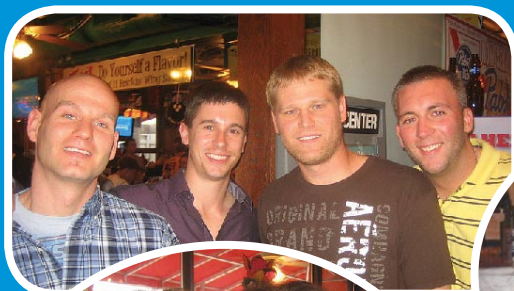
Tony Nardecchia Benefit

Derby Day on The Goodtime



Derby Day at The Thirsty Pony

The Earthquakers at Mr. Ed's



The Funcoast.com team was at:

- Tony Nardecchia Benefit
 - The Earthquakers at Mr. Eds
 - Derby Day at the Thirsty Pony
 - Derby Day on The Goodtime
- Get online to check them all out

The Funcoast.com team will be at:

- Funcoast.com's Cinco De Mayo Pub Crawl
- Grease and Glamour — a Ladies Night Out
- 10 Year Reunion of the Gathering

Anyone can grow a garden



Funcoast photo/CHRISTY SEYLER

Christy grew all these yummy veggies in her garden, which meant she didn't have to buy any produce over the summer. You can do the same if you follow her easy advice.

BY CHRISTY SEYLER

Vegetable or fruit gardening can be easy, fun and tasty. Don't worry if you don't have to have a huge yard (or any yard at all). As the Beatles said, all you need is love.

First lets talk about why you should want to grow your own produce. It's pretty easy: you can save money by growing your own fruits and vegetables. You can also lose weight and have some great family time. Not to mention it tastes better homegrown than from the commercial grocery store.

I could also talk about how the stuff from the grocery store comes from all over the world, and by transporting it we are helping to kill our environment. Or how, because we don't use the local farms the way we used to, we are killing small farms. But lets stay more positive and talk about how yummy everything will taste and the money you will save.

How do you plan your garden?

We all live in different places and they all have different amounts of usable space, right? Each of these different places can have a garden — it just might not be as big as someone else's. It might be a container

garden, a flower box garden or what you think of as a more traditional garden. So let me break it down for the different kinds of places we have in this area.

Apartments with no or little yard

If you don't have a yard but do have a porch or deck you can still have a garden. First thing you need to be thinking about is the amount of space you have. Lots of vegetables can be grown in pots, as can some fruits. Tomatoes, peppers, carrots, lettuce, lots of different herbs, onions, broccoli, eggplants, strawberries and more can be grown in a container garden.

One very important thing to remember about a container garden is that you have to water it every day, maybe even twice a day when it's super hot out. The best time for watering is in the morning and just before dark because the water won't evaporate as fast.

Why do you have to water the container garden every day? Well, the roots only have so far to grow in a container garden before the container stops them. When you plant things in the ground, the roots can grow and grow until they reach soil that has more water in it

that they can use.

Yards in all sizes and shapes

Putting a vegetable or fruit garden in the yard is easy and it doesn't have to be rows and rows like on a farm. You can design the garden however you want, so make it fun. Because you can create so many different gardens, it may help to let you know what I do at my home and how much space we have and use. I live close to downtown Sandusky and our plot is a tenth of an acre. We wanted to have our own fruits and vegetables and still have a yard for our son, so we needed to find a balance.

The first thing we did was find a few fruit trees to plant on our land. We chose a peach tree in the front yard, a pear tree on the side of our house and an apple tree in the backyard. When you are looking for fruit trees to plant, make sure to check out how big they get and if they are self-pollinating. Some need a partner or you won't get any fruit. Fruit trees flower in the spring and look great.

Next we planted raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, concord grapes and rhubarb. These all come back every year and they are very easy to maintain. I planted the raspberries, blackberries, strawberries and rhubarb in a small garden along the sidewalk in my backyard. The space is only 2 feet wide but runs the length of the back yard.

We got fruit from the raspberries, blackberries, strawberries and rhubarb all summer long (blackberries and grapes come in the fall). I planted the grapes next to our deck and gave them some lattice to grab onto. We used the grapes to make jelly, juice and our own wine. Yummy, right?

Now I'll get to the vegetable garden. We set up a garden that's not too big. I planted the garden as a step-stone garden because I had limited space. In it I put four different kinds of tomatoes, eggplants, zucchinis, broccoli, collard greens, carrots, cucumbers, squash and five different kinds of peppers.

Once the garden started producing, I didn't have to buy any produce all summer long and I gave a ton away to family and friends. Oh, and I froze tons, too, and I'm just now running low on veggies. I only watered this garden every two days and I didn't have anything die on me.

Get more garden tips and tricks at Funcoast.com



Provided photo

Celebrate and be safe — jump on board the Funcoast.com Cinco de Mayo party bus!

All aboard the Funcoast.com Cinco de Mayo party bus!

With the weather starting to get nice, it's no wonder that people in the area are searching for opportunities to grab a drink and get outside. Funcoast is here to help you out, and we've come up with a great excuse: Cinco De Mayo!

This Wednesday (that's today!), we'll be running a special party bus to a few area bars who are making the most of the holiday. The shuttles will be running to and from Cheap Seats, The Pump and Cheers, so make sure you jump on and have a great time (you can also get spotted by the Funcoast crew).

A little background on Cinco de Mayo (with some help from Wikipedia):

- Cinco de Mayo is a holiday celebrated in the United States and primarily limited to the state of Puebla in Mexico. The holiday commemorates the Mexican army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862 — it is NOT a celebration of Mexican independence (that's September 16). What's so important about the Battle of Puebla (aside from the fact that the Mexican forces defeated a much larger French army)? Well, no country in the Americas has been invaded by an army from another continent since that date.

- In the US and around the world, the holiday is seen as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride.

- Cinco de Mayo is not "an obligatory federal holiday" in Mexico, but rather a holiday that can be observed voluntarily.