



Reminder: Please Vote FOR Ordinance 5781 on Sept 8th:

Where to vote: <https://forfayetteville.com/vote/>

Tri Cycle Farms: A Community Farm Providing Food For All



"Something was happening a lot bigger than me and I just had to be open to it", says Don Bennett, Tri Cycle founder and Director. If you get Don started on a story about the beginnings of Tricycle, you are going to get a bucket full of inspiration, a pound of miracles and an earful of the best ways to bring food security to our neighbors.

Inspiration: Inspired by a friend experiencing food insecurity, Don and his friend set about trying to find a way to provide low cost food consistently. Don's series of synchronistic events includes just happening to live next to a few acres of undeveloped, grassy land in downtown Fayetteville, which by the way ended up having none of the Rockansas rocks in it and rich fertile soil to boot. The owner, originally trying to sell a stone house on the lot and the lot together, suddenly changed his mind about that pairing at the exact moment that Don came up with the funds to buy the lot. Don purchased the lot and an endeavor that started with two food insecure individuals has grown to over 1,000 engaged community members.

Clearing The Land: Next Don needed to clear the land which had a considerable amount of wood on it. At one of the many gatherings he had on the land, a young man approached him who was a member of a fraternity. As luck would have it, this large fraternity needed to perform several hours of community service. Add on this young man's father driving up from Texas to help, the then major of Fayetteville telling Don, "If you can clear this field, I will drive my tractor across town and turn the soil", and you have not only a Farm-Raising, but a community reminiscent of a previous era where we really needed, and genuinely showed up for, one another.

Tri Cycle's Activities: Tricycle farm grows and distributes food on a regular basis, has established a second community garden at North Creekside Apartments, and partnered with Trinity United Methodist Community Church, where they established a farmers market and provide cooking classes for obesity prevention. All farming activities are undertaken with the goal of improving the soil over time for future generations, educating food insecure folks about how to grow food, and keeping carbon footprints as low as possible.

The Trinity Effect:

From learning to grow vegetables in a triangular pattern allowing more shade cover for the plants and space efficiency, to partnering with Trinity Methodist Church, all things being "Tri" has been a strong theme in the development of Tri Cycle. The Trinity Effect seems to have energized Don's efforts. Although Don will plainly say: " I am not a religious man, however The Trinity is present in Tricycle." Now Tricycle is a thriving community garden that gives one-"tri" of it's food to volunteers, one-"tri" is given to free meal preparers and pantries, and one-"tri" of its food is sold at the market to sustain the farm. Please attend and support The Crossroads Farmers Market on Fridays from 3 to 7pm: <http://www.tricyclefarms.org/crossroads-farmers-market/>

How Omni Helped:

Tri Cycle eventually became a fiscal sponsorship of OMNI. When asked how OMNI helped Tri Cycle, Don says: "People looked at you differently. You are an entity as opposed to a dude with an idea. It opened doors. We could have never achieved what we have achieved in four years without this fiscal partnership." Don's group then went on to receive generous grants from the Arkansas Coalition For Obesity Prevention and the Endeavor Foundation. In addition, the original stone house on the property was purchased through investors organized by OMNI and now serves as an office and educational facility for the group.

**Pesto Fest:
Have Fun
and
Reduce
Food
Insecurity
For Your
Neighbors**



At The Same Time

TRI CYCLE FARMS HOSTS 4th ANNUAL PESTO FEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

This year's Pesto Fest is guaranteed to be a "Farm Raiser", with an exciting variety of activities, including the very popular Pesto Contest, and entertainment for every age.

Pesto Fest proceeds will directly fund two Arkansas GardenCorps service members and a part-time Farm Manager position, as well as supporting the Tri Cycle Farms Community House food hub and educational programs.

Event admission for adults is \$15; children under 12 are FREE!

Support of Tri Cycle Farms' programs and events helps to increase Fayetteville area food security and community resilience initiatives.

Tri Cycle Farms is located at 1705 N. Garland Ave in Fayetteville at the intersection of W. Sycamore St. and N. Garland Avenue. Volunteers will be assisting with free parking at Trinity United Methodist Church on Sycamore.

Facebook Link For Pesto Fest:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/529260230559861/>

[Dick Bennett's Blog](#)

OMNI founder, Dick Bennett, presents thought provoking information on peace, justice and ecology.



Support Our Work Become a Member & Donate [Click Here To Get Started](#)

Every new member or donor that we have increases our voice and visibility by one. The broader the support we have the more impact we have on decision makers such as businesses, legislators, and community organizations. Most importantly, grantmakers and funders evaluate the number of our supporters when deciding whether we qualify for their financial resources.

OMNI Calendar

[How to add an event to the OMNI Calendar;](#)

1. No PDFs please - text only.
2. Please include in the following order: a. What, b. Where, c. When, d. Accurate links to further information, e. Short description.
3. Email to Omni@omnicenter.org.

Anytime: OMNI 's Climate Change Fiesta Party went well. Listen KUAF coverage here:

<http://kuaf.com/post/arkansas-citizens-climate-lobby-gaining-steam>

Sept 6th - OMNI 350 Climate Change, 1:30 pm, OMNI Center. Two short movies and UN Earth Charter. Special one time only at OMNI

Sept 6th - OMNI Open Mic, OMNI , 7pm. OMNI Center. YOU are the featured performer. Kelly and Donna Mulhollan will MC.

Sept 7th - Civil Rights Roundtable, 6:30 pm OMNI Center.

Sept 8th - SPECIAL ELECTION - Civil Rights Ordinance, see above.

Sept 9th - Veggie Potluck, 6pm. OMNI Center

Sept 9th - Citizens Climate Change Lobby, 7pm, OMNI Center

Sept 12th - All Teen Open Mic is set for Sept 12, 7-9 p.m., at Common Grounds.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/730232310456055/>

Sept 12th - Bulldozer Health Workshop, 4 - 6pm, OMNI Center. Wendy Love Edge explains how she went from being "bulldozed" on 16 pharmaceutical pills and injections, to embarking on a journey of taking back her health and allowing her body to heal itself.

Sept 12th - Pesto Fest, Tricycle Farms, 5-9pm, See above.

Sept 13th - Fermented Foods, Workshop, 2-4pm, OMNI Center, Cat Swenson presenting, Free.

**Sept 13th - Women's Support Group. Email for location:
omni@omnicenter.org.**

**Sept 15, Goddess Festival Planning, 6:30pm - 7:30pm,
OMNI Center**

**The Goddess Festival Planning Circle will be meeting on
the third Tuesday of every month to plan next year's
Festival. This is an open meeting and everyone, of all
genders, is welcome. For more information, contact
Gladys Tiffany at the OMNI Center, 479-935-4422.**

**Sept 19th - Spanish Conversation Club, 10-12 noon,
Yvonne Richardson Center, children and adults. Twice a
month.**

**Sept 20th - Collective Liberation Book Forum, 1:30 pm,
OMNI Center.**

**Sept 27th - Eco-Feministh Book Forum, 1:30pm, OMNI
Center.**

**Oct 23rd - Celebrate the Buffalo River, gala fundraiser,
<http://www.celebratethebuffalo.com>.**

**Oct 24th - Roy Zimmerman, Comedian and Musician,
OMNI fundraiser,**

Rooted Vision Healing Drums - First Sundays 1-5 pm.

**Weekly @ OMNI
Quaker Meetings 9:30 am Sundays. Everyone welcome
Feature Headline**

Omni Center
3274 N Lee Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72703
479-935-4422 | omni@omnicenter.org | www.omnicenter.org

STAY CONNECTED:



