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Horticulturists teaching 'Composting 101' this Thursday

By CAROLINE EGGERS ceggers@bgdailynews.com Mar 25, 2019

Horticulturists Jolene Stone and Martin Stone, professor of horticulture at Western Kentucky University and director of the Baker Arboretum, will share tips on composting at the Warren County Public Library's Bob Kirby Branch from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday.

The couple, who helped co-found Community Farmers Market in Bowling Green, grow a variety of organic flowers and vegetables in their own garden, called Lovee and Rose Farm.

"We're speaking from a perspective of experience," Martin Stone said. "We're going to talk about how we add organic material to our soil and our farms."

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 30 percent of what Americans throw away is food and yard waste. Composting provides an easy way to divert materials from landfills and consequently reduce methane emissions.

It also helps remediate soil by boosting moisture and nutrient retention.

"That's the secret to building healthier soil, adding organic matter," Martin Stone said, "and one way to do that is through compost."

Rob Hankins, the library's communication coordinator, expressed excitement for the horticulturists, who happen to volunteer with the Friends of the Library, the nonprofit organization tasked with aiding the public library system.

"I think they are perfect, they kind of bridge both worlds," Hankins said. "They're great people, they're literally friends of the library."



Hankins hails from a farming family and believes soil health is a topic "near and dear" to many members of the community.

"Anytime we can raise awareness, whether it's through composting or the seed library, it's certainly a thing we try to do," Hankins said. "We just encourage anyone that's interested to join us."

Registration is requested but not required.

– For more information, visit warrenpl.org.

– Follow reporter Caroline Eggers on Twitter @eggersdailynews or visit bgdailynews.com.

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News reporter.