

The Greenbush Gazette

THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF GREENBUSH -
THE SOUTHEAST KANSAS EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER



Since its inception in 1976, Greenbush has grown from one administrative building to a 540-acre campus with a Camp and Retreat Center, in addition to operations in Lawrence, Topeka, and other cities across Kansas.

What's next?

**Observatory Night:
Geminid Meteor Shower**
7 p.m. to approx. 10 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 14
FREE

**Observatory Night:
Venus**
7 p.m. to approx. 10 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 18
FREE

**Greenbush Getaway:
FlexPlex Grand Opening**
4:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2
FREE

See the next page for a full list
of upcoming community events.

Keep in touch!

Facebook and Twitter:
@GreenbushESC

Visit us at www.greenbush.org



How Greenbush is governed

Greenbush - The Southeast Kansas Education Service Center was formed in 1976 when four school districts—Erie, Girard, Riverton, and Woodson County—joined with Ft. Scott Community College to sign a legal agreement creating Kansas Inter-local No. 609. Greenbush provides a way for districts to collaborate and take advantage of resources that would otherwise be impossible or impractical for most districts to provide on their own, with an overarching goal of ensuring equal educational opportunities for all.

Greenbush has no base membership fee and cannot levy taxes. On the strength of its programs, Greenbush has grown to encompass dozens of programs and employ hundreds of people statewide.

Critical to the organization's ongoing success is guidance from two boards. A member from each of the five charter schools' local Boards of Education is selected to serve on the Greenbush Board of Directors, while the superintendent or president of each school serves on an Administrative Advisory Board.

The Administrative Advisory Board provides valuable insight into current educational needs, ensuring services are timely, targeted, and relevant. Meanwhile, the Board of Directors provides oversight on matters such as policy and personnel.

To maintain a level playing field, Greenbush doesn't provide discounts or sweetheart deals to its charter schools.

"We walk in the other districts' shoes that

way," said Judy Lair, who served on the Greenbush board from 2001 to 2015. "If it was any different there would be a different level of representation. That just doesn't work at Greenbush."

Lair, who also served as president of the Kansas Association of School Boards and was active in the National Association of School Boards, said it's important for the Greenbush board to consider the bigger picture.

"My experience on the board wasn't just about kids; it wasn't just about southeast Kansas, it was about education opportunities for a lot of people," Lair said. "That's what made the Greenbush culture what it is—that bigger picture and not being self-serving. Most of the people on the board were parents who recognized that their kids had phenomenal learning opportunities that they wouldn't have had otherwise, and we wanted to make sure those things continued to grow and be there for another generation."

Tony Stonerock, who served on the board in the late 2000s, agreed that board members represent more than just their home districts. But he said there is still value to those schools in participating.

"I think one of the biggest benefits to the five charter schools is that they get access to listen firsthand to new programming, to reports from the directors, to hear about some of the hot-button topics at superintendents forums," Stonerock said. "You're just getting some different information, and you have that to bring back to your board."

SPRING 2019 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Free and fun for all ages!

OBSERVATORY NIGHTS

Venus

Visit the PSU-Greenbush Astrophysical Observatory for a look at this fascinating world, which has much in common with Earth but yet is so hostile to life.

Jan
18
7 pm

Winter Constellations

The middle of winter is a great time to view the heavens and identify many well-known bright constellations in the southern sky.

Feb
8
7 pm

Search for Exoplanets

Learn about how new telescope technologies are expanding our understanding of planets beyond our own solar system.

March
15
7 pm

Solar System Leftovers

There's more to our solar system than the sun and the planets. Hear about how the "leftovers" of the cosmos could be hiding a wealth of information.

April
12
7:30 pm

Messier Catalog

18th century astronomer Charles Messier identified a series of mysterious objects. Learn about how his list transformed our understanding of the cosmos.

May
10
8 pm

Jupiter

The massive planet Jupiter is almost a self-contained solar system. Learn about how the planet functions, and discuss some mysteries surrounding its moons.

June
21
9 pm

GREENBUSH GETAWAYS

March
16
4:30 pm

FlexPlex Grand Opening

We're transforming our warehouse into an all-season indoor challenge course with a climbing wall and several high and low ropes elements. Don't miss your chance to be among the first to experience it!

April
6
4:30 pm

Nature Explorations

Get hands-on with nature as you explore the five ecosystems visible throughout the Greenbush campus. Along the way, collect plant and animal samples for study back in the lab!

July
20
4:30 pm

ApolloPaloosa!

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of man landing on the moon! Join us for activities focused on rocketry, spaceflight, and engineering, including a virtual reality recreation of the landmark Apollo 11 mission.

Oct.
13
4:30 pm

Outdoor Adventures

Bring the whole family for an afternoon outdoors, enjoying a hot dog roast followed by archery, canoing, fishing, sand volleyball, Ga Ga Ball, and other outdoor games at our Camp and Retreat Center.

All events are free, but advance registration is required. Follow us on Facebook for more information!

www.facebook.com/GreenbushESC

