Hello, I am Marycarmen Kunicki and I am honored to be your new Passaic County 4-H Program Associate. In the past month I have been busy learning about all the Passaic County 4-H has to offer—clubs, events, afterschool programming, etc. I have attend a couple of club meetings, spent a week at Rutgers in New Brunswick with 8 Paterson high school students during a Summer Science Program, attending the Passaic County Fair and implemented summer programs for youth in Paterson.

For those of you I have not yet met, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I have a BA in Psychology from William Paterson University and a MA in Psychology from Claremont Graduate University (California). For the last several years I have been working as the program evaluator for the Center for Health Equity and Social Justice at the Boston Public Health Commission. During that time I worked closely with the community based Boston REACH Coalition, a volunteer based group made up of community residents, faith-based organizations, academic and institutional partners. While in Boston I also worked with youth leaders and youth-based organizations.

My youth development experience includes serving as a supervisor and head teacher of a kindergarten enrichment program, where I planned, organized, implemented, and evaluated afterschool enrichment and educational activities for primary aged children. I also served as a teacher assistant for emotionally troubled and learning disabled students and a resident assistant for John Hopkins’s Center for Talented Youth summer program. I believe that in this position I will be able to utilize many of my skills and knowledge from past experiences.

I am looking forward to improving, growing and building a better Passaic County 4-H program. I respect and admire all the hard work, time and energy you have put into the Passaic County 4-H. I look forward to meeting you and learning about your role/s and participation.

Please feel free to contact me at any time by phone, e-mail or a trip to the office.

Hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer. Looking forward to seeing some of you at upcoming meetings/events.

Marycarmen Kunicki
Passaic County 4-H Program Associate
**Winter Camp**

Winter Camp was a huge success! Passaic County partnered with Bergen, Somerset, and Warren Counties for this years winter camp that took place January 22-24 at the L.G. Cook Camp located in the Stokes State Forest.

Attending from Passaic County was Amir, Tristan, Jenee, John, Fatih, and Sergio. We had a blast hiking, shooting archery, playing games, and hanging out.

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**Passaic County Freeholders Award 4-H**

A BIG THANK YOU to all that attended the Board of Freeholders meeting on January 26, 2010! 4-H made a huge positive impact on the Freeholders. Passaic County 4-H received an award from the Freeholders for outstanding service to the community. It could not have been done without all your support! Thank you to the 4-H Young Engineering Clubs from Paterson St. Luke’s and 2nd Baptists afterschool program that are implemented by Tabatha Pridgen. Thank you to the following for showing your support for the 4-H: the Campbell and Rauschenbach families from the I See For You Club and their Seeing Eye Puppy, Gaston, the West Milford Rocking Horse Rockers, Linda Zuroff form the Passaic Power Paws Club, Jane Sudol and Sister Noreen Holly from the Blessed Sacrament 4-H Young Engineering afterschool program, Carol Adelson, Jo-Ann Pituch and Elaine Barbour from the RCE Ag Department, and last but not least thank you to Maria Young for putting the event together!

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**4-H State Public Presentations**

The 2010 NJ State 4-H Public Presentations Day was held on June 12th at Douglas Campus at Rutgers in New Brunswick. Over 150 4-H members from 18 counties participated, giving oral presentations on a variety of subject areas. To qualify, each participant must be a 4-H member enrolled in 8th—13th grade and have received an excellent rating on their presentation at the county level. The event provides an opportunity for 4-H members to compete with their public presentations on the state level with 4-H members from around New Jersey.

Congratulations to both Chelsea and Julia Semeraro from Passaic County who gave presentations and received state recognition for their accomplishments.

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“There is real magic in enthusiasm. It spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment.” Norman Vincent Peale
Emerging Engineers among Passaic County 4–H Youth

You are likely to find future Engineers among youth participating in 4–H afterschool programs in the City of Paterson. The Young Engineers curriculum includes a variety of Science, Engineering and Technology designs and explorations to encourage the children to use critical and analytical thinking. Students are provided with the tools and guidance provided by 4–H and facilitated by, Tabatha Mealey, Program Assistant.

This past year the 4–H Afterschool Programs were held at various sites including: St. Luke’s Church, St. Paul’s Church, Salvation Army and the Blessed Sacrament School. “Students take such pride in their work and ability to use their minds and hands to make things. They are challenged to think, build and/or find solutions, which will be useful to them in day to day living. I believe that we have some great Scientists, Researchers and Engineers in our program.”

Students had the opportunity to “show off” some of their designs to family and friends at the end of the school year. Projects included a Super Roller Coaster, Rubber Band Powered Car, Siphon Systems, Cake Chemistry and the Electrical Wiring of a House.

4–H will continue to partner with schools and other organizations in Paterson to offer the Young Engineers Science programming throughout the summer and again during the new school year.

“Better Citizens Today, Better Leaders Tomorrow”

Twenty four teens representing 10 New Jersey counties took part in the 2010 Citizenship Washington Focus National 4–H Conference on July 11 – 17. The conference has been training teens from across the nation, to be active, responsible citizens and leaders for over 50 years. The program is designed around the motto, “Better Citizens Today, Better Leaders Tomorrow.”

Chelsea Semeraro was the delegate from Passaic County. She spent the week with over 180 other youth from 7 states experiencing our government first hand at work. Participants learned how to write a bill, debate and finalize the bill.

One day was spent visiting congressmen and senators on Capitol Hill, relaying to them the focus of the 4–H program and discussing concerns that face our teens today. They also had an opportunity to enrich their knowledge of our capitol’s history while touring many of Washington’s monuments and memorials.

Delegates were chosen based on their interest in citizenship along with their leadership and public speaking abilities. Upon returning from Washington, participants are encouraged to take an active role in their community and to share with younger 4–H members and their community, the knowledge they gained from their experience.
In July, the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University, New Brunswick was the host of the 2nd Annual 4-H Summer Science Program. Almost 50 urban high school students from Camden, Englewood, Newark, New Brunswick, Paterson and Trenton were able to learn more about science and the opportunities available to them, while experiencing what it’s like to live on a University campus. “It was an amazing experience, we learned a lot more about science, engineering and technology.” - Vanessa Vargas

These urban youths, most of whom were enjoying their first 4-H experience, participated in several hands-on activities while exploring biochemistry, biotechnology, marine and environmental sciences, and engineering alongside a number of Rutgers faculty. Activities included: Geo-caching with handheld GPS, Isolating DNA from a Strawberry, Building a Temperature Sensor and Beach Profiling.

Eight youth from Paterson Schools were selected to participate in this week-long program based on teacher recommendations and participation in an extensive application process. Interested teens had to submit an essay and participate in interviews by their local 4-H staff. Each of the selected youth participants has agreed to provide a minimum of 50 hours of service to their local 4-H program, committing to work with 4-H staff in their community to provide science-focused after-school and summer programming to younger youth and children.

The program concluded with a poster session in which youth shared what they learned from this experience with faculty, parents and other guests, at a closing luncheon on campus.

The 2010—2011 Passaic County Science, Engineering & Technology Ambassadors

Oliver Barrera
Jonathan Blackwood
Bryan Castro
Mahogany Godfrey
Michael Munoz
Khalid Onaola
Jhoangel Polanco
Vanessa Vargas

Special Thanks to Mr. Reid for being a great Chaperone during this week.

Additional Note: The 4-H Summer Science Program was funded by a gift from Tyco International and a Community Enhancement Award, which is a Rutgers Cooperative Extension grant.

“Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science.” Edwin Powell Hubble
**Club Updates**

**Passaic Power Paws**

Is the newest of our clubs and have been meeting since January. There are 10 club members with their dogs and parents. The members are very excited to work with their dogs to learn obedience and agility.

The club has been meeting two times a month on Fridays at Kamp Kanine in Little Falls. The club will be meeting again in September.

**Preakness Aggies**

Will begin meeting again in September

**Hoofers Equestrian Club**

Continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month at the North Jersey Equestrian Center in Pompton Plains.

**I See For You Puppy Club**

Our club would like to start off by sending a great big THANK YOU to Jennae for all she has done for us. She has worked hard to make our 4-H program a success.

We certainly will miss her. To Jennae and her family good luck and much happiness from the I See For You Puppy Club.

For the past several years, our club has been doing a meet & greet at the Borders in Riverdale. This is a great opportunity for our dogs to greet people and learn how to behave in a public place. Our first visit went so well we were invited back for a second. All our members enjoyed greeting the customers and wrapping their gifts.

Upcoming events include: Visit to Camp Wishes, Concert Under the Stars in West Milford, Family Day at The Seeing Eye Dog.

**Rocking Horse Rockers**

Have been busy all summer, working on riding and horsemanship. Club members will be visiting with other clubs to see what they are doing and participating in the Sussex County Fair. Club meetings continue to take place on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month in West Milford. Members of the Horsemanship program meet six days a week.

“The ultimate expression of generosity is not in giving of what you have, but in giving of who you are.” Johnnetta B. Cole
All Passaic County teens are invited to join the Passaic County Teen Action Group and find out what we’re all about! The Teen Action Group (TAG) is a group of teens who are concerned about the community around them and want to make a difference.

In TAG, you will:

- Make new friends.
- Develop and participate in community service programs.
- Make a difference in your community and your world.
- Attend Teen Winter Camp.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Travel to National 4-H Programs and Events across the United States.
- Improve your public speaking skills.
- And most important have FUN!

TAG is open to all Passaic County teens in grades 8-13, regardless of sex, color, national origin or disability. For information about joining TAG please contact the Passaic County 4-H Office at 973-684-4786 or e-mail Marycarmen Kunicki at Kunicki@njaes.rutgers.edu.

Consider joining the TAG for a fun and rewarding 4-H experience!

Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe
Upcoming Events

August 2010

August 6th—15th — Sussex County Farm & Horse Show/NJ State Fair, Sussex County Fairgrounds
August 14th—15th — Bergen County Fair, Van Saun Park, Paramus
August 20th-22nd — NJ 4-H Teen Leadership Camp, Freehold Twp

September 2010

September 6th — Labor Day (4-H Office Closed)
September 7th — Passaic County 4-H Leaders Meeting

October 2010

October 3rd—9th — National 4-H Week
October 4th—10th — World Space Week (NASA)
October 6th — National 4-H Youth Science Day
October 9th — 2010 Autumn Lights Festival, Passaic County 4-H Fair, West Milford
October 11th — Columbus Day (4-H Office Closed)

Look for the Fall issue of 4-H Happenings in November

2010 National Science Experiment: 4-H20!

Join us on October 6th for the third annual 4-H National Youth Science Day, where youth across the nation examine one of the most important issues facing our nation today — water quality. These young scientists will discover and explore the powerful effects of carbon dioxide on our natural water sources in 4-H20, the 2010 National Science Experiment.

You can find everything you need to participate in 4-H National Youth Science Day online at www.4-H.org/NYSD. The site provides all the tools you will need to begin a comprehensive scientific exploration and plan an exciting science event in your community.
Other Ways to Connect With 4-H

National 4-H Website: http://4-h.org
New Jersey 4-H: http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu
On Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/4-h
On Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/4H

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the 4-H office.
Even if you are no longer an active member, we hope you still want to hear from us.

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

4-H Passaic County Newsletter

Marycarmen Kunicki
Passaic County Program Associate

Tabatha Mealy
Youth Educator

Dawn Wilkes
AmeriCorps Volunteer

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County
4-H Youth Development Program
317 Pennsylvania Ave., Room 204
Paterson, NJ 07503
Phone: 973-684-4786
Fax: 973-754-9812
E-mail: Passaic4H@RCE.Rutgers.edu