

Block Party showcased Five Points businesses, Barrow Elementary garden

By Caitlin O'Donnell / Correspondent

Posted Jul 29, 2019 at 4:00 PM

The inaugural Five Points Block Party took place on El Barrio's lawn on Sunday.

Over a dozen Five Points businesses banded together to raise money for Barrow Elementary School's new trial and spiral gardens.

"We have a lot of restaurants that have opened up in Five Points. We really wanted to do something to feature the flavors that we have in Five Points and also to do something for our community school," said Tina Eckerd, the president of the Five Points Business Association.

Businesses set up tables all around El Barrio's lawn and patio to serve samples to guests. The event served as Fully Loaded Pizza's grand opening celebration, as well. Other businesses who served samples included Five Points Bottle Shop, The Royal Peasant, Condor Chocolates, Marker Seven Coastal Grille and more.

Children who would someday learn in the new gardens played on El Barrio's putting green while their parents mingled.

"[I hope we grow] cabbage because I like salad. I really like Caesar salad," said 6-year-old Quinn Gillis, a student at Barrow Elementary School. "Maybe plant some tomatoes. I haven't planted tomatoes in a really, really long time, since when I was like 2."

The garden will help teachers to make lessons more hands-on. Sara Clarke, the kindergarten teacher who had the idea for the gardens, said students will help plant the food from seed, measure the crops' growth, use math to help build garden beds and more.

They want to have a scent garden and a tasting garden which, in Clarke's experience, encourages children to try healthy foods.

"Kids, if they grow it, they're interested in trying it. Even if they don't love it, they at least want to taste it," said Clarke.

Keep Athens Clarke County Beautiful and UGarden is helping by donating plants. The children will also be working with some of the University of Georgia's service learning students in the new gardens.

Those who would like to help, but could not attend the Block Party can volunteer for the garden's workdays by visiting [Givepulse.com](https://www.givepulse.com) or contacting Barrow Elementary School.

"It turned out really wonderful," said Svetlana Rostova, a wine buyer for Five Points Bottle Shop, of the event. "A lot of people showed up and people [had] a great time."

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