

April Is Earth Month

The 49th anniversary of Earth Day is Monday, April 22, and Rockville will mark it with a monthlong celebration – and bonus events in early May, including the following activities – most of them free – aimed at environmental sustainability:

APRIL 3: 6th Annual Montgomery County Energy Summit, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. in Silver Spring. Learn more at www.mcenergy.summit.org.

APRIL 6: Arbor Day Ceremony and Tree Giveaway, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Ceremony and tree planting at 10 a.m.

APRIL 11: Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series: Rockville's Legacy of Environmental Protection, 7 p.m. at Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Drive. Free. Learn more at www.bit.ly/PeerlessEarthMonth2019.

APRIL 13: 31st Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Stream cleanup sites include:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, 9 a.m.-noon.
- Twinbrook Community

Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway, 9:30-11 a.m.

- Maryvale Park, 812 First St., 10 a.m.-noon.

City staff will greet volunteers. Gloves and bags will be provided. Student Service Learning hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. For more information, or to register, email environment@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8877.

APRIL 13: Stream Cleanup Meetup, noon-2 p.m. at Saints Row Brewing, 1211 Taft St. Join Croydon Creek Nature Center and the Environment Commission for a family-friendly meetup after the morning stream cleanups. Open to all. Food onsite. Beer specials for volunteers over 21.

APRIL 27: Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Rockville City Police Station, 2 W. Montgomery Ave. Drive up and drop off unused or expired medications so that

they are safely disposed of and kept out of our environment. For more information, call Cpl. Ken Matney at 240-314-8922. *See article on this page.*

APRIL 27: Spring Festival with Native Plant Sale, 10 a.m.-noon at Croydon Creek Nature Center. *See article on this page.*

APRIL 28: Science Day, noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College, Rockville campus, 51 Mannakee St. Visit the Croydon Creek Nature Center table. Learn more at www.rockville.sciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day and in the article below.

MAY 4: Rockville Brewshed, 2-3 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Join head brewer Kenny Allen on a streamside hike in the Hayes Forest Preserve to gather inspiration for True Respite Brewing Company's next beer. After the hike, head to True Respite Brewing Company to enjoy 15 percent off beers for hike participants 21 and older. Cost

is \$4 R/\$5 NR. Register for course #9027 at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

MAY 5: Green Your Backyard Information Session, 1:30-3 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Learn about RainScapes Rebates and other city programs designed to help you green your backyard and reduce pollution, in this free information session. To register, call 240-314-8870 or email rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov with your name, phone number and address.

MAY 5: Invasive Plant Pull, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center.

Learn how to get involved and live greener and healthier at www.rockvillemd.gov/environment.

For environmental news and events, and tips for helping the environment year-round, sign up to receive the city's Environment and Sustainability quarterly newsletter in your inbox. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability." ❖



Annual Native Plant Sale and Spring Festival Returns to Nature Center

Celebrate spring and Croydon Creek Nature Center's 17th anniversary at its annual Spring Festival and Native Plant Sale. The free, family-friendly festival will be held 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 27.

Enjoy a live animal show from Reptile Wonders, face painting by Kids Party Face, games, crafts and other activities, including exhibits on local sustainability issues. Native plants will be available for purchase.

The nature center is located at 852 Avery Road. The center is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, and closed Mondays.

For more information on Croydon Creek Nature Center, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek, where you can sign up for the center's newsletter, or follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/croydoncreek.

Coming Soon: The Return of the Solar Co-op

Homeowners looking to save on energy costs by using green energy should save the date for Tuesday, May 7, when the city will host an informational meeting, at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., about an upcoming solar co-op opportunity.

The co-op presents an opportunity for homeowners interested in installing solar panels on their home to receive technical assistance and guidance throughout the process so that they can feel confident about their investment. While each participant signs an independent contract with the installer for their own system, they band together to negotiate a volume discount and reduce the total cost of installation.

To learn more, look for additional information in the May/June edition of "Rockville Reports" and visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solarhomes.

Got Drugs? Take-Back Day Offers a Way to Get Rid of Unwanted Medication

Rockville Police Offer Drive-Up and Drop-Off Collection

The Rockville City Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office offer a safe, free and anonymous way to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs during National Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 27.

In cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration, city police and county sheriffs will accept leftover — including expired — prescription drugs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Rockville City Police Station parking lot at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. To make it quick and convenient, officers will be outside with easy drive-up and drop-off access, so there is no need to get out of your vehicle.

Illicit drugs, liquids, needles, sharps or syringes cannot be accepted, only pills or patches. All returned medications will be destroyed by the DEA.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a convenient and responsible means of disposal, keeping prescription drugs from potentially polluting our drinking water, while educating the public about the potential for abuse or theft of these medications.

Learn more about National Drug Take-Back Day at www.dea.gov or call Cpl. Ken Matney at 240-314-8922.

30 Years of Rockets, Robots, Chemistry and Coding Rockville Science Day is Three Decades of Tradition

The 30th annual Rockville Science Day offers a chance to experience science hands-on, with science and technology-related exhibits, activities, games and demos from over 90 local organizations and businesses.

This Rockville tradition is free and will be held from noon-5 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, at Montgomery College-Rockville, 51 Mannakee St.

Activities and exhibits include building and launching rockets, telescopes, robots and backyard wildlife, ship

models, microscopes, snakes, stream science, a pigeon release, Civil War medical practice, coding challenges, math puzzles, chemistry in action (including flames, explosions and other reactions), electric vehicle demos, quadcopters, archaeology mini-digs, 3-D printing and brain games.

Student Service Learning hours are available for students 16 and older who volunteer before or during the event. Learn more and register to exhibit at <http://rockville.sciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day/>.

Can't Wait for Science Day?

The Rockville Science Center sponsors a free Science Tuesday on the second Tuesday of the month, a Science Café on the third Tuesday of the month and summer camps at the Bullis School and at City of Rockville community centers.

For something a bit more hands-on, the center hosts activities at the Makerspace in the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., in Rockville Town Square. Activities include programming, electronics, amateur radio license training and

other high-tech projects. Find the Makerspace schedule at www.meetup.com/Rockville-RSC-Makerspace.

Learn more about these and other upcoming events at <http://rockville.sciencecenter.org/events/list>.

RSC is a nonprofit supported by the generous donations of its members and sponsors, including the City of Rockville. Visit <http://rockvillesciencecenter.org/support> to learn more. ❖

