

Orland Park Celebrates Earth Day's Fortieth Green & Healthy Events Fill April 24th Calendar

ORLAND PARK, IL – Earth Day turns 40 this year and Orland Park will host a number of programs on April 24th to give residents, businesses and visitors the information they need to help preserve the world around them.

“With the fortieth anniversary of Earth Day on April 22nd, Orland Park has chosen to offer events and programs that will help everyone in the region,” said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin.

Events include the village's Spring Clean Up, Green Fair 2010, the Electronics Recycling Drive, the Sportsplex Family Health Fair and programs held at the Orland Park Public Library. There is no charge for admission to any of the events.

Green Fair Passports will be available at each event, enabling attendees to have them stamped to verify attendance. The stamped passports must then be returned to the Civic Center by 1:00 p.m. to be entered into a drawing for prizes donated by participating Green Fair vendors.

“Orland Park has held its Spring Clean Up Weekend around Earth Day for more than twenty years,” McLaughlin said, “This year, we've added more to the line up, offering events throughout the village.”

Orland Park's annual Spring Clean Up is sponsored in cooperation with Waste Management, the village's contracted waste hauler. Residents are invited to dispose of normal household garbage in dumpsters placed at Public Works, 15655 South Ravinia Avenue. Hazardous materials and construction debris are not accepted. All items must be placed inside of the dumpsters.

Access to the dumpsters will be available on Thursday, April 22 and Friday, April 23 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, April 24 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Orland Park's Green Fair 2010 will be held at the Orland Park Civic Center, 14750 South Ravinia Avenue, on Saturday, April 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The fair, which is free and open to the public, will feature vendors offering the latest in green ideas and technology.

“The Green Fair will be a centralized source of information on how to save money with energy efficient and sustainable tools and practices for the home and business,” said Trustee Pat Gira, chair of the village's Parks, Recreation and Environmental Initiatives Committee.

“We'll have speakers presenting throughout the day, offering information on different aspects of incorporating energy conservation into every day life,” Gira added,

noting that fair participants will also include vendors that specialize in water conservation.

Participating Green Fair vendors include Bright Idea Energy Solutions LLC, The Children's Farm at The Center, Collin Carpentry, ComEd, Cutie Poops and Bottoms, D.O.G. Biscuit Company, Earth-Changing Diaper Service, Eeigenburg Exteriors, Emerald Site Services, LLC, ENCAP, Inc., Global Green Pals, Green Food & Produce, Green Grips, Helsel-Jepperson Electrical, I Give A Dip, Jim Melka Landscaping & Garden Center, Kaspar Custom Builders Inc., KC Solutions, Krengel & Associates, Krieger Kiddie Corp., Melaleuca "The Wellness Company," Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Neptune Society, NIKKEN, Orland Park Public Library, Ozinga Pluss Appliance, PACE, Protective Coatings & Water, Shaklee, Standard Bank, TOTO & Hansgrohe, V-3, Village of Orland Park, Vollara, Waste Management and Wikiup.

At the same time, the village will hold its Electronics Recycling Drive at its Public Works Facility, 15655 South Ravinia Avenue, also from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Residents are invited to dispose of old computers, printers, fax machines, scanners, cameras, cell phones, televisions and radios in a safe and environmentally friendly manner for no cost. Vintage Tech Recyclers will provide the supplies, transport the collected materials, remove the recyclable parts and properly dispose of all materials. A complete list of accepted items can be found at www.smartlivingop.com.

Keeping everyone healthy is the theme of the village Sportsplex Family Health Fair, also on the 24th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Health fair activities include blood pressure screenings, cholesterol testing, nutrition counseling, free aerobics classes, injury screenings, flexibility testing and more. Children will enjoy face painting, healthy snacks, balloons and the village's inflated jumper. There is no charge to attend the health fair; however, there are charges for some screenings while reservations and fasting are required for others. Call 645-7529 for details.

The Orland Park Public Library is celebrating the planet and the beauty that surrounds us each day with books of nature and an earth friendly art project. The library event, also held on April 24th, is offered from 11:00 a.m. until noon for those ages four and older. Pre-registration is not necessary; however, space is limited.

"April 24th will be a busy day in Orland Park as the community comes together to mark the fortieth anniversary of Earth Day and to learn what we can do to take care of the environment now for future generations," McLaughlin said.

"When we talk about the village's many green programs, I think of my two grandsons and what we're doing for their generation and those after them," Gira said.

She added, "The response to the village's Smart Living Orland Park Program has been wonderful with people asking what they can do, where they can find information and how they can help. We invite everyone to the April 24th events to learn more about what we can all do within our own communities," she added.

Further information about the April 24th events is available by calling 708/403-6140 or by visiting the village's website at www.orland-park.il.us or the library's website at www.orlandparklibrary.org.