



Green Living News March 2013



Richland's Green Living office has books and videos available for loan. Subjects include energy conservation, recycling, preventing pollution, and even what creatures live in a worm bin. Visit www.ci.richland.wa.us/greenliving and link to [Outreach](#), call 942-7730, or send an email to greenliving@ci.richland.wa.us.

Beginning March 4, **residential curbside yard waste collection resumes.** Containers must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regularly scheduled garbage day. For information, including yard waste tips and the collection schedule, visit www.ci.richland.wa.us/solidwaste and link to [Residential Yard Waste](#).

2013 Community garden plot applications are now being accepted. Both McMurray Park Community Garden in North Richland and Venus Community Garden in South Richland have plots available for as little as \$15 for a 5'x10' plot or up to \$45 for a 10'x20' plot. Hurry and apply, plots go quickly! For more information, visit the community center or go to www.richlandparksandrec.com.

The Benefits of Buying an Electric Vehicle will be presented on Tuesday, March 12, at 7 p.m. in the Mid-Columbia Library, located at 1620 S. Union Street in Kennewick. Dr. Michael Kintner-Meyer, a scientist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, will present a general overview of electric vehicles (EVs) and plug-in hybrid EVs, as well as discuss the key differences in the production, cost and environmental impacts of EVs compared to gasoline vehicles. Dr. Kintner-Meyer, PNNL's lead for energy storage grid analysis and electrification of transportation, will also bring a test vehicle to demonstrate smart charging strategies for a smarter power grid. For more information on this program or other community science and technology seminars, call 375-6871 or visit <http://regionalloutreach@pnnl.gov/seminars>.

National Earth Hour 2013 is on Saturday, March 23, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mid-Columbia residents are encouraged to celebrate by turning off their lights and engaging in planned events or by creating their own. Join Tapteal Greenway members for a guided hike at [Chamna Natural Preserve](#) in Richland, off of Aaron Drive. Meet at the west parking lot at 8 p.m. and depart on the hike at 8:15 p.m. Bring a small flashlight or headlamp and wear bug repellent. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the early spring weather. The hike will return by 10 p.m. RSVP to Scott, 627-3621 or woodfish24@charter.net. Live acoustic music and candlelight are planned in the Crow's Nest on the fourth floor of Clover Island Inn in Kennewick. Gather to watch the cable lights turn off and engage in conversation. For more information on local earth hour, see www.earthmonthmc.org or the national webpage is www.earthhour.org.

Only about a month left to enter the [Mid-Columbia Earth Month Kids Essay and Video contest](#). Students in kindergarten through 12th grade are encouraged to share in writing or through video what they are doing to help the environment. This year's theme is "Focusing our Energy on the Future." Entries are due April 8. The video entries will compete for an online "fan favorite" award. All winners will be announced on National Earth Day, April 22. For contest details, visit www.earthmonthmc.org and link to [Kids Contest](#), or visit local libraries for handouts. Last year, over \$1,000 in cash prizes were awarded.

A Goodwill Industries collection trailer is now open at the Horn Rapids Landfill, 3102 Twin Bridges Road in Richland. The trailer, staffed by Goodwill, is located on the outside of the gate so non-residents, or those not needing access to the landfill, can use it. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Acceptable items include small appliances, clothing, computers, TVs, shoes, boots, books, games, toys, home décor, kitchen ware, CDs, DVDs, etc.

Residents who generate "medical sharps" must dispose of them in a safe manner. Those who self-administer medication using syringes with needles or who use lancets to test their blood must collect the sharps in a container with a lid. Containers can be empty one or two-liter pop bottles or a similar puncture-proof container. When the container is full, replace the lid and secure it with duct tape. Richland residents can then place it in the trash prior to collection day. For more information, visit the [Benton Franklin Health District's Website](#). Go to www.bfhd.wa.gov, link to Publications, then Brochures and finally [Syringe Safety](#).

Drop box containers for spring neighborhood cleanup are scheduled for April. From April 1 through April 7, containers will be at Leslie Groves Park. April 8 through April 14 they will be placed in the parking lot of George Prout Pool. Finally, from April 15 through the 21, they will be at Badger Mountain Park.

The 3rd annual Badger Mountain Challenge for runners and hikers is March 29-30. Outdoor enthusiasts of all ages are invited to enjoy the Badger Mountain Challenge, the Tri-Cities premier running event offering a 15k trail hike or run, 50k ultra-marathon or the 100-mile endurance run. Each event will begin and end in Badger Mountain's Trailhead Park and traverse nearby ridges. Net proceeds will benefit Friends of Badger Mountain with its three main goals of preservation of our area's ridges and other special open habitat; stewardship through building and maintaining trails; and mounting efforts to increase the public's enjoyment of the ridges. For more information, go to www.friendsofbadger.org.

The WSU Master Gardener's Spring Garden Day is Saturday, March 9 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Bethel Church. For more information or to register, call 509-735-3551.

A volunteer clean up event is Saturday, March 9 in South Kennewick at the end of Olympia Street. For more information call 509-727-2797, send an email to mrrobinson945@aol.com or see his Facebook page, michael m. robinson.

Sign up to receive the Green Living monthly newsletter by calling 942-7730 or log onto www.ci.richland.wa.us/notifyme and add your email and/or phone.