

EARTH DAY

APRIL 22



Falling Creek Ironworks annual tour and event

Join the Falling Creek Ironworks Foundation for an exciting exploration of America's first iron furnace, the 1619-22 ironworks on Falling Creek during their annual tour and event festival on Saturday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours through the archaeological ruins of the 1619 ironworks are provided. Other activities include exhibits, costumed interpretation, living history, period demonstrations, Native American dancing, and numerous children's activities. Enjoy period music and watch musket militia demonstrations. See the new site improvements added to the park. Falling Creek Ironworks Park is located at 6407 Jeff Davis Hwy. It is a free event with food and drink available for purchase. For more information contact Bryan Truzzie, 751-4946, or visit www.visitchesterfieldva.com.

Every year on April 22, trees are planted, litter is cleaned up, and awareness for the issues plaguing the planet is raised. In honor of the holiday, now in its 48th year, here are 10 fascinating facts about Earth Day.

1. Earth Day was created through the tireless efforts of Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson.
2. John F. Kennedy played a role in early efforts to promote environmental conservation.
3. The first Earth Day saw 20 million Americans take to the streets.
4. The date of Earth Day was specifically selected to mobilize college students.
5. Earth Day faced criticism from the very beginning.
6. Earth Day sparked an unprecedented slate of environmental legislation.
7. Although it began as an American movement, Earth Day is now an international phenomenon...
8. ...And internationally, it's known as International Mother Earth Day.
9. In 2009, NASA planted a historic moon tree to celebrate Earth Day.
10. In preparation for Earth Day's 50th Anniversary in 2020, a new environmental theme has been announced every year since 2015. The theme for Earth Day 2017 is Environmental and Climate Literacy.

Earth Day celebration at Beulah Pool

Join Beulah Pool as they do their part to keep our Earth healthy. On Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., there will be an on-site yard sale until 11:30 a.m.. Spaces are still available for rent for \$20.

Along with the yard sale, the members are collecting used shoes and electronics including cell phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, iPods, and MP3 players to be recycled.

For kids up to age 12 an Earth Day poster contest will be held. Molly's Bicycle Shop will be making free minor bike repairs and collecting used bikes for their rehabilitation program serving those in need. There will also be hot food for sale.

Beulah is located at 6724 Hopkins Rd. For more information call (804) 818-3376.

Fool for Art: a day of art, learning and fun

Get creative, experiment, analyze, discover, and dance. You can do all this and more at John Tyler Community College's 12th Annual Fool for Art Festival on Saturday, April 22. Fool for Art is a family friendly event where people of all ages can explore their inner scientist; use their imagination; experience learning in fun ways; and enjoy arts, crafts, music, food and games. Plus, this year, attendees are invited to join in the celebration as John Tyler Community College marks its 50th anniversary with a variety of activities throughout the festival.

Fool for Art will be held at the college's Midlothian Campus, located at 800 Charter Colony Parkway, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For directions to the Midlothian Campus, go to www.jtcc.edu/locations.

Springfest at Beulah UMC

Beulah United Methodist Church located at 6930 Hopkins Rd. invites the community to their Springfest, April 22 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Enjoy vendors, crafters, a yard sale and concessions.

Help Chesterfield County win \$20K during "Meet Me at the Park"

Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation is asking residents to help the department win \$20,000 to improve one of its county parks by nominating them in a nationwide contest.

During April, in recognition of Earth Month and Earth Day the National Recreation and Park Association, NRPA, is collaborating with The Walt Disney Company, including Disney Citizenship, Disney/ABC Television Groups and ESPN, to revitalize parks across the U.S. for a third year. The parks and recreation department that receives the most nominations will receive a \$20,000 grant to improve a local park.

From April 1-30, Chesterfield County residents will have the opportunity to nominate the county for the \$20,000 grant, which could fund substantial improvements to one of our county parks. Park supporters can nominate the county

by visiting www.meetmeatthepark.org. In addition, everyone who submits a nomination will be entered in a drawing for a tablet completely outfitted for the outdoors.

Parks make the county a better place to live and contribute to the quality of life. They are essential to the county's health and well-being. They provide safe places to be active and enjoy nature, help preserve the environment, and bring people together. Dr. James Worsley, Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation director, is excited about the prospect of competing for the grant.

"Chesterfield County is fortunate to have a diverse and engaging park system," Worsley said. "We hope residents will show their support for additional funding for our parks by nominating Chesterfield County. I know everyone would like to bring that funding home and make a big

difference in one of our parks."

During April, a public service announcement supporting the Meet Me at the Park campaign will be shared with audiences across Disney, including the ABC television network its affiliate stations, Freeform, Disney Channel, Disney XD, Disney Junior, and the ABC app and other digital platforms. The PSA also will be available to view on the voting site at www.nrpa.org/beinspired. Radio Disney also will support the campaign with an on-air radio spot.

"Supporting local parks is essential to the health and vitality of communities everywhere," said Lori Robertson, NRPA Director of Conservation. "That's why we are proud to collaborate with The Walt Disney Company to help fund critical park improvement projects. We encourage everyone to join us in giving back to the places that shape so much of our lives by

voting in this year's Meet Me at the Park campaign."

Show what parks mean to the community by nominating Chesterfield County's great park system. Encourage your friends to nominate the county by taking a selfie in your favorite park and using the hashtags #MeetMeAtThePark, #Parkies, and #BeInspired.

About Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation

In 2016, Chesterfield County parks had nearly 6,000,000 visitors. Department recreation staff offered more than 1,000 programs to 203,000 individuals in the county. The parks maintenance staff maintained 55 parks, 69 schools, and nine libraries. Department employees are dedicated to making Chesterfield County an amazing place to live, work, and play.