

Community invited to Earth Day Celebration

By CORBIN PARMER | THE DEMOCRAT
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The Brown County Food, Farm, and Garden Council invites community members to attend the 2023 Brown County Earth Day Celebration this weekend.

The celebration will take place on Saturday, April 22 — Earth Day — at the Brown County Community YMCA.

According to a press release about

the event, the council will be giving away more than 100 trees and youth will be able to plant and take home a flower for Mothers Day.

Additional activities to be offered at the celebration include live cooking demonstrations with tasty samples and informational booths regarding land management, invasive species, pollinators, insect protein, energy conservation, and more, the release said.

Vendors will also be featured at

the celebration, including South Central Indiana REMC, Keep Brown County Beautiful, Brown County Native Woodland Project, St. David's Creation Care, Brown County Food Alliance, Indiana Raptor Center, Brown County Public Library, Nashville Farmers Market, Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District and Girl Scouts of Brown County.

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Pictured: From left, Donna Niednagel, Juniper McCabe and Cori McCabe advertise the celebration last year. The event returns this weekend on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Shoppers peruse plant offerings at the Friends of the Library annual Plant Sale last year. The event returns Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29.

Plant sale returns later this month; funds raised support library offerings

By ABIGAIL YOUMANS | THE DEMOCRAT
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As the temperature rises and sun breaks through the clouds, people may find themselves planning their gardens and landscapes.

Those searching to add native plants and selections can head to the Brown County Public Library's annual Plant Sale next weekend.

The sale is put on by the Friends of the Library, a fundraising group that plans events to support library programming.

The support the Friends of the Brown County Public Library provides is imperative to the library's program offerings, BCPL Director Stori Snyder said last week.

"They support all our library programs, from preschool programs at the library to outreach programs for seniors at Brown County Health & Living to our StoryWalk along the Salt Creek Trail and everything in between," she said.

In addition to providing support for library programs, they also assist the library with technology needs, including non-internet educational game computers for 6- to 12-year-olds that recently stopped working.

"These computers are very popular and also very expensive to replace," Snyder said.

"Thanks to the Friends of the Library, we'll be receiving a new computer later this month."

The plant sale is the largest fundraising

event the group holds throughout the year.

A successful plant sale ensures continued support for future library programs, Snyder said.

"They've been doing it for so long, it has a following and people look forward to coming," she said.

"They know the money benefits the library and people in this community love their library."

She said that attendance for library programs just recently passed 1,000.

"The members of the (Friends) are phenomenal," Snyder said.

"They are dedicated to their mission to support the library. As a result of their great efforts the entire community benefits."

Michael Fulton has been a member of the group for a number of years, and served as its president last year. Before he was even in the group, he helped with the plant sale.

The event was created about 20 years ago when the current library building on Locust Lane was constructed, as a means for raising money to remove the invasive plants on the east side of the building.

It's been running ever since.

From children's events, guest speakers, adult programming — all of the library's offerings are funded by the Friends funding efforts, Fulton said.

The plant sale is a big fundraiser that allows those events to happen, he said.

(SEE PLANT PAGE B3)

LAKE MONROE WATER FUND

'Natural fit'

Group partners with CYO for tree planting initiative

By CORBIN PARMER | THE DEMOCRAT
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Those seeking to make a difference this Earth Day can sign up to support a volunteer-led project orchestrated by the Lake Monroe Water Fund.

The project kicked off earlier this month in the form a stake-planting event, where 11 members of the local community planted 600 willow stakes along erosion-prone areas of Clay Lick Creek.

This weekend, the second phase of the project will take place with around 900 native trees and shrubs set to be planted in an area beside the creek, once again by the hands of volunteers.

The end-goal for the effort is reflected in its name — the Healthy Woodlands for Clean Drinking Water project.

Lake Monroe Water Fund Executive Director Michelle Cohen said via email last week that the project will remediate soil erosion along Clay Lick Creek and lessen storm water runoff entering the creek.

"The ultimate objective is to reduce the amount of sediment flowing into the north fork of Salt Creek that eventually empties into Lake Monroe," she said.

"We are seeking approximately 80 volunteers to help plant the trees and shrubs over the course of two days." No experience is needed,

and volunteers must be at least 8 years old.

Holes for the plants will be pre-dug by a machine, and volunteers will work to plant a 1- to 3-gallon container tree or shrub in each hole and fill in the loose soil. Deer browse guard will also be placed around each plant, and each guard will be attached to a stake.

Parking is available on-site at the event, which is at CYO Camp Rancho Framasa, and carpooling is encouraged.

Volunteers are also encouraged to bring their own gloves and shovels if they have them, and wear clothes and shoes appropriate for the weather and the work.

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Pictured: From left, Randy Jones, Jane Martin and Pat Martin pose with Duke Energy gear during the stake planting April 2. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**



OUTDOOR BRIEFS

Volunteer at police landscape day

Join the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 for its second annual Landscape Day.

Beautify the department at 25 Artist Drive at the family friendly event. All are welcome and donations of equipment (for

use that day), flowers, gravel, mulch and more are welcome.

Local goat farm open for tours

BELMONT — Visit the Goat Conspiracy farm, 6022 Kent Road, and meet goats, including recent baby goats, and chickens, and see where milk and cheese are made.

Goat Yoga will be Sunday, April 30 at 11 a.m. The cost is \$25 per participant.

Make your own soap at soap workshops on Sunday, April 30, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$90.

Goat Conspiracy offers weekly farm visits and tours every Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 1 and 2 p.m.

Farm tours and visits are \$15 per person and preregistration is required. To register for a farm visit/tour, sign up at thegoatconspiracy.com/visit-the-farm.

If you would like to schedule a visit outside of these available days or times and have a group of at least five people please contact us at goatconspiracy@gmail.com.

Run coming soon at Hard Truth

Hard Truth Distilling Co., 418 Old State Road 46, will host its annual Whiskey Chaser Trail Run in a 5K, 10K, 20K relay and "shot mile" on Saturday, April 29.

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