



Lewis County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Services

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Earth Month Events Connect Neighbors, Teach Skills Volunteers engage community partners to help environment

If you want to become more of a Do-It-Yourselfer, meet resourceful people in your community, and help the environment at the same time, the WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composter (MRC) Volunteers have organized “Connecting Neighbors,” a series of workshops, events, and open houses in honor of Earth Month in conjunction with the MRC Tool Bucket Library (TBL) and local partners.

The workshops take place every Friday starting on April 3 and running through May 1 with a special event on Saturday, May 2, to round out the Earth Month celebration. Some workshop locations are in the neighboring Centralia Christian School to keep volunteers and students out of the weather, while later ones will be at Floral Park, 104 E. Floral St., Centralia.

Following each workshop, the community is invited to the Floral Park Sustainability Project from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to learn more about the park and the MRC Tool Bucket Library. Anyone, aged 18 and older, who attends an open house is eligible to sign up for a 3-month trial membership to the tool library. A special wood debris chipping day will take place at Floral Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 2.

Here’s the schedule of workshops and events:

- **April 3: Food Preservation & Safety**
12:30 p.m. at the Centralia Christian School Library
Lewis Co. Master Food Preservers dispel canning myths and review food safety measures. Bring pressure canning lids to be checked! Limited to 25 participants. Please call 360-740-1216 to register.

Driving growth and accountability in providing quality public services.

*Road Maintenance &
Fleet Services*
476 West Main St.
Chehalis, WA 98532
o 360.740.3380
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*Administration, Engineering, Utilities,
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57 West Main St.
Chehalis, WA 98532
o 360.740.1123
F 360.740.1479

Solid Waste Services
Post Office Box 180
Centralia, WA 98531
o 360.740.1451
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Afterward, visit the TBL to learn about kitchen/cooking equipment available for loan.

- **April 10: Sewing Machine Maintenance**
12:30 p.m. Centralia Christian School Library
Bring your sewing machine and Lewis Co. Clothing & Textile Advisors will show you how to do annual maintenance. Limited to 25 participants. Please call 360-740-1216 to register. Afterward, visit the TBL to learn about sewing machines and accessories available for loan.
- **April 17: Older Vehicle Maintenance**
12:30 p.m. Floral Park Sustainability Project
WSU Lewis Co. Master Recycler Composter (MRC) Volunteers teach how to maintain your older vehicle to prevent costly repairs down the road in this hands-on class. Afterward, stick around the TBL to learn about automotive tools available for loan.
- **April 24: Bike Maintenance**
10 am.-2 p.m. Floral Park Sustainability Project
Hub City Bike Shop volunteers will be on site to show how to maintain your bikes during this drop-in period. Bring your own bikes to learn how to maintain them. TBL features bike repair equipment for loan. **Can't make it on a Friday?** Hub City Bike Shop, 539 N. Pearl St., Centralia, is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tues. & Sat.
- **May 1: Sustainability & Composting Sustainability Round-Up**
Noon-3 p.m. Floral Park Sustainability Project
Stop by before or after the Composting Basics Class! Environmentally focused community partners will share their tools, services, and programs available to residents. Information booths will include Lewis Co. Noxious Weed, Lewis Co. Conservation District, Chehalis Timberland Library Gadget Library and more!
Composting Basics
12:30 p.m. Floral Park Sustainability Project
WSU Lewis Co. MRC Volunteers teach a class on backyard home composting. The class will showcase home-made and store-bought compost bins. TBL features yard and garden tools available for loan.
- **May 2: Chipping Event**
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Floral Park Sustainability Project
WSU Lewis Co. MRC Volunteers host a chipping event. Residents are invited to bring branches smaller than 8-inches in diameter for chipping. A contractor will chip the branches and volunteers will spread chips on Floral Park trails.

The monthlong campaign is partially funded by a Project Connect Grant from the Community Foundation of Puget Sound, a Local Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology, Windemere Real Estate in Centralia, and the Lewis County Solid Waste Utility.

For more information on these events, the MRC Volunteer Program, the MRC Tool Bucket Library and other upcoming events, please call 360-740-1216 or email questions to jason.adams@lewiscountywa.gov.

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For more information, please contact:

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MRC Tool Bucket Library Volunteer
360-269-8837

