



Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Partner Spotlight - Carla, LMPP Community Garden
3. Partner Updates
4. Walking Group
5. 2024 HSMP Advocacy Agenda
6. Food Security
7. Community Clean Up

Introductions

- Please click here to access the attendee [list](#).

Partner Spotlight

- Carla Wilson, Project Manager of St. Mary's County Community Development Corporation presented on the newly opened Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden! View the presentation slides [here](#).



Partner Updates

- **Save the Date** for the [2024 Earth Day Celebration](#) at Summerseat Farm on Saturday, April 20 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- [HSMP](#) held a [Healthy Food Drive](#) at the Easter Egg Festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 23. Shan dropped off a box of non-perishable, healthy food donations to [St. Mark Bread of Life Food Pantry](#) after the event! The [ribbon-cutting ceremony](#) to celebrate the opening of Lexington Manor Passive Park [Community Garden](#) will take place on Saturday, April 6 at the [Cherry Blossom Festival](#).
- [Department of Agriculture](#) - Spotted lantern fly traps and studies may be taking place in St. Mary's County after being identified as an at-risk agricultural area by the state of Maryland. Have you found a spotted lanternfly in Southern Maryland? Report it [here](#)!
- The [Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland](#) is hosting an event for [Bike to Work Day](#) Friday, May 17. The Allens will be attending an event. They will also be getting an intern from St. Mary's College of MD to expand walking and biking access in existing facilities.
- The National Urban Farm Festival will be held in Prince George's County. Learn more [here](#)!
- Bag Hunger - as of September 24, 2024 - the state of MD has decided to make this a state-wide initiative! The state of MD/ Volunteer team may alter the original plan of how the event takes place this year, but more updates to come from Mike!
- [Summerseat Farm Inc.](#) in Mechanicsville will host an Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 20, from 11 AM - 4 PM.

Walking Group

- HSMP Walking Group
 - The walking group will meet twice a month at the Leonardtown Wharf and Lancaster Park! The next walk will be this evening at Lancaster Park, from 6-7 PM. Please share the flier with your network!
 - Brush clearing has taken place on Wathen Trail, behind the visitors side, to make the walkway safer.



WARCYCLE

PEAKTOP WELLNESS

HEALTHY ST. MARY'S PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY WALK

FREE FREE

3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
6PM LANCASTER PARK
1 SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH



2024 HSMP Advocacy Agenda

- Chesapeake Climate Action Network continues to host its weekly RENEW Act Coalition Meetings. This prepares the community for natural disasters.
 - Karly has been attending meetings
 - Virtual Meetings every Monday from 4:00 - 5:00 PM
 - If you would like to join these meetings, please contact HSMP.
- Updates - There is now a draft of the testimony in support of bill numbers SB0958 and HB1438!
- Fossil fuel companies would have to provide funding to bridge these financial gaps. The crossover date for the bill was March 18. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass. The resources are insufficient at this time. The bill has been set-up for potential success in 2025. We will continue to provide updates and advocate!

Food Security

- The group discussed initiatives to focus on reducing food waste and prompting composting. Ideas included:
 - Partnering with organizations to hold nutrition education (SNAP-Ed), promote agricultural partnerships, and gardening.
 - Organizations: CDC, LMPP Community Garden and University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners.
 - The team worked on a Jamboard with community partners to brainstorm ideas for future education topics including composting, partnering with the community garden for classes on canning, food storage, and reducing food waste with composting bins.

Community Clean-Up

- Trash clean-up:
 - The group discussed needing long-term solutions for property management and neighborhoods in Lexington Park. Some communities don't have dumpsters or proper waste disposal. Improper waste disposal is taking place on Pegg Rd. as well
 - Sue will report back to the group in April. She is working on getting an article in the next newsletter discussing composting and other food-waste solutions for businesses and outreach events.
 - St. Mary's CDC Annual Trash Pick-Up Event June 1 (rain-date June 8) on Great Mills Rd. The CDC has previously provided dumpsters to Patuxent Homes and other vulnerable neighborhoods. SOMD Hauling and Summer Breeze donated dumpsters.
 - **Action Item:** Advocating to Department of Waste for another transfer station in Lexington Park that could be maintained by the county.
 - The group discussed proposing service days for community members with waste that don't have transportation to waste facilities in Ridge, Valley Lee, and California, MD.
- St. Mary's County Shred-Day and Medication/Syringe Take - Back events will take place on April 13 in Leonardtown from 9 AM -1 PM.
- Mike proposed a FREE community fun run/walk on Great Mills Rd. with an area designated for clean-up with support and giveaways from vendors. "Trash Run" with LMPPCG - grand prize could be a compost bin!

Communications

The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership Newsletter is distributed every two weeks and highlights information on the four health priority areas for St. Mary's County. Sign up or share information with our members!



Subscribe here!

Share information



Get social with us! Share your favorite healthy recipes, fun ways to be physically active, tips for quitting smoking and more with HSMP!



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Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, April 17, 2024 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
- Interested in being in our Partner Spotlight? [Sign up here!](#)