Oak Lawn 12th Annual

EARTH DAY 2018

Oak Lawn park district

THE VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN

Oak Lawn Green Team

Sponsored by: ComEd An Exelon Company

Earth Day/Arbor Day: Celebrate Citizen Science!

Saturday, April 28, 2018 10:00A-2:00P

Oak View Center (4625 W. 110th St.)

This will be an indoor and outdoor event.

Become a citizen scientist, transform your world with science not compliance!

Ditch your car! Ride your bike to the faire!

FREE admission, raffles and giveaways!

Family-fun activities include: Jim Nesci's Cold Blooded Creatures, tree climbing, kids crafts, scavenger hunt, education on green living, gardening and composting, Pick a Citizen Science project, a milkweed plant sale and more.

For more information, call 708-857-2201

www.olparks.com

Happy Arbor Day!!

Arbor Day is not a national holiday but is observed all around the nation and world. Arbor Day observations vary on different dates based on best tree planting times in that area. In Illinois, where the state tree is the White Oak, Arbor Day is on the last Friday in April. Whenever and wherever you celebrate Arbor Day, here are 10 fun facts about trees.

- Arbor Day didn't start small. On the first Arbor Day in 1872, an estimated **1 million trees** were planted in Nebraska!!

- Trees are the largest living organism on Earth, with some coastal redwoods reaching over 360 feet tall and giant sequoias that can weigh 4 million pounds.

- Almost 98% of the weight of a tree is made up of six elements: carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur.

- Laboratory research shows that trees are really good for humans. Visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension. In Japan, physical exposure to forests is referred to as "Forest Bathing" and is proven to have beneficial physiological effects.

- They are also some of the oldest living organisms on Earth. Some bristlecone pines are estimated to be over 5000 years old.

- Trees produce much more oxygen than most people realize. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), a single acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen, which could meet the annual needs of 18 people.

- In addition to improved air quality, trees benefit water quality, too. Their roots in the ground mean less runoff and erosion, which in turn allows more recharging of the ground water supply. In addition, wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams, rivers and other natural waterways.

- There are over 50,000 tree species in the world.

- Trees are Mother Nature's air conditioners. The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. In fact, the USDA says that you can save 20 to 40 percent in energy used for heating and cooling with properly placed trees.

- Contrary to popular belief, tree roots do not grow very deep. Most tree roots are in the top 12-18 inches of soil, but they are wide. Tree roots often extend two to three times the width of the canopy.

Heather Stevenson
Village Forester
Village of Oak Lawn
4/25/18