



The St. Louis - Jefferson Solid Waste Management District is a regional agency that was created in 1993 to assist the public, private and nonprofit sectors in establishing and expanding waste reduction and recycling. The District includes the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, Jefferson County and St. Charles County. These programs and services are funded in part by the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. For more information, please visit www.swmd.net or call 314-645-6753.

“VanGo” Raffle: *Winning ticket selects an entity to receive the contents of the van!*

The Teachers' Recycle Center (SLTRC) is excited to announce a new opportunity for Earth Day 2023! This year, the contents of SLTRC's VanGo will be raffled off and donated to the winner's choice of school, day care, summer camp, art program, educational venue, etc. The van will be chockful of creative materials and reusable resources selected for a wide variety of applications well-suited to children, teachers, artists, and special projects.

The fully stocked VanGo will be at the St. Louis Earth Day Festival in Forest Park on Saturday and Sunday, April 22nd and 23rd.

Tickets can be purchased throughout the month of April and the drawing will take place May 1, 2023. Raffle tickets are priced at 1 for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00 and can be purchased online at www.sltrc.com or scan QR code.



VanGo will deliver the items to the winning entity (up to a 3-mile radius). The material will become the property of the entity or project. All items are intended for free use and cannot be resold.

SLTRC is in Chesterfield Mall and is open to the public during operating hours and for scheduled appointments and events. The ReUse Center is loaded with an array of reusable resources that can be affordably purchased at \$1.00 per pound. Materials come

from many places, including factories and manufacturers with overstock, discontinued items, and overruns. Additional donations from the public include ribbons, beads, baskets, fabric, baubles, glass jars, buttons, and much more.

SLTRC is a nonprofit dedicated to keeping creative materials and reusable resources out of landfills and putting them in the hands of children, teachers, artists, and others for creative and intellectual development.

For more information visit www.sltrc.com or call 636-227-7095.



To purchase raffle tickets scan QR code.

Sew So Good: *Stitching Items For Donating To Those In Need*

City Sewing Room of St. Louis (CSR) opened in 2016 as a gathering place for sewing enthusiasts. It became a nonprofit in 2020 when increasing their community outreach to include more clients, volunteers, and increase the volume of donations. CSR remains the only organization in the greater St. Louis area that focuses exclusively on sewing donations for stitchers.

Today, CSR teaches 25 youth and 25 adults (ages 9 - 99) every week in a variety of sewing classes. Participants are taught to make items such as totes, or they can work on their own projects.

Offsite classes have also been held at libraries, the Boys and Girls Club of Florissant, and fairs at local neighborhood parks.

Currently, donations arrive by carload and truckload, usually 400 pounds each week, and frequently 400 pounds in a single drop-off. More than 10 tons are received annually. Donations



often come from estate sales and retired stitchers. Manufacturing companies also donate when cleaning out their yearly stock of samples. To keep up with the growing volume, the Maker's Mart is expanding to a 700 square-foot space on site.

The students in sewing classes and volunteers sewing items for donating to those in need are provided with fabric at no cost. The unusable fabric

is sent to a fabric shredder through the St. Vincent DePaul Society. The remaining materials are sold at the CSR's Maker's Mart for \$2 per pound.

Donated sewing machines are refurbished for use in classes or for sale. If unrepairable, the machines are sent to The Sewing Machine Project in Columbia Missouri. Those machines are repaired or retrofitted as treadle machines for use in areas without electricity, including schools in Africa and Central America.

City Sewing Room is located at 6700 Arsenal St., St. Louis, MO 63139. For more info call 314-225-5857 or visit www.citysewingroom.com.

Perennial Classes: *The Ripple Effect of Reuse and Repair*

Sustainability might seem intimidating, but with a little crafting and community, it can be fun. That's where Perennial, a creative reuse non-profit in South St. Louis City, comes in. Perennial provides classes for adult beginners with the earth in mind. Using reclaimed materials, expert artists help participants build their creative confidence in woodworking, mosaics, bookbinding, natural dyes, sewing, mosaics and more. Each year Perennial serves 6,000 participants through classes, events, clothing swaps and outreach workshops while diverting over 10,000 pounds from the landfill.

The variety of classes isn't the only thing that makes Perennial a unique resource, they're also building a community of folks in St. Louis that care about their impact on the environment.



perennial
transforming
objects | lives | communities
www.perennialstl.org

“We know there's a ripple effect when folks take a class at Perennial,” says Executive Director, Katie Carpenter. “Once people see the possibilities of how different discarded items can be transformed into something beautiful, they start applying their new DIY skills and attitudes towards reducing all kinds of waste at home while also sharing those skills with friends and family along the way.”

With increased demand from participants wanting to live more resourcefully, Perennial

has expanded their workshops beyond transforming discarded items. The organization is developing new classes focused on how to keep “stuff” from being discarded in the first place. Folks can learn how to extend the life of items they already have through classes on home and clothing repair.

This year Perennial will be hosting a series of free repair demonstrations at the St. Louis Earth Day Festival in Forest Park. Stop by their tent April 22nd or 23rd to learn a new skill, ask questions, find repair resources, or try some interactive activities. You can also follow them on Instagram @perennialstl for the most updated information on upcoming classes, events, and volunteer opportunities.

Perennial is located at 3762 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63118. For more information call 314-832-2288 or visit www.perennialstl.org.

St. Louis BWorks: *Improving Literacy, Technology & Bicycling*

The mission of St. Louis BWorks Inc. (a.k.a. Bicycle Works) is to enhance the character and quality of life of youth and their families through programs focused on bicycling, literacy, and technology.

Throughout the year, more than 5,000 bikes are donated but most are not in good condition. The unusable bikes are disassembled for salvage, reuse, and recycling. Overall, roughly 90 tons of material is being diverted from landfills.

Earn-A-Bike offers kids a chance to earn a bike when they learn about bicycle safety and maintenance from volunteers. Over the course of two six-hour sessions, students learn to work



independently and as a group to solve problems. About 350 kids graduate from the program every year, earning their own refurbished bike, along with a helmet, light and lock.

The Earn-A-Computer introduces young people to the inner workings and possibilities of computers and the internet — all while getting set to take home a refurbished computer (desktop/tower), monitor, keyboard, mouse, flash drive and network cable at the end of six class sessions.

St. Louis Book Works promotes verbal, visual and cultural literacy through creative expression. Young people in the program work with volunteer editors to write and illustrate their own books.

These free courses are geared to students ages 8-17. Over the past year, BWorks provided 51 multi-week courses to groups of local children. Combined, more than 600 youth participate in class sessions each year, with an average of 12 students per class session.

At the end of each program, the youth have a real, tangible reward for their commitment — along with skills they can use for a lifetime. Many kids who participate in the program stay involved long after graduation, working side-by-side with adult volunteers to help the young people in their community.

St. Louis BWorks is located at 2414 Menard St., St. Louis, MO 63104. For more information visit www.bworks.org or call 314-664-0828.