

April 2021 Newsletter

Spring has sprung! While doing your spring cleaning, remember we have an upcoming Textile & TerraCycle Event, a Prescription Take Back Day, and Household Hazardous Waste Day. Curbside textile collection is also coming to Salem! Remember to follow the 8 R's while thinking how you can live more sustainably.

Textile & TerraCycle Drive - May 1st

Saturday, May 1 from 8am-1pm at Riley Plaza

DROP OFF -- clean & dry clothing, sneakers, shoes, boots, slippers, belts, ties, purses, stuffed animals, comforters, sheets, blankets, table linens, and curtains.

ANY CONDITION -- stained, worn, or torn, as long as they're clean and dry

TerraCycle Collection

We're now collecting FIVE TerraCycle brigades!

- **SWIFFERS**: save all used, dried Swiffer pads.
- **RAZORS**: save all brands of reusable and disposable razors, blades, & cartridges, as well as any flexible or rigid plastic packaging they come in.
- **ORAL CARE**: Toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, mouthwash bottles, and floss containers. Save all brands, plus toothbrush packaging.
- **DEODORANT**: All brands of deodorant containers and caps.
- **BIC STATIONERY**: All brands of empty writing instruments, glue sticks, watercolor dispensers, paint sets, and flexible packaging.









Curbside Textile Recycling in Salem

Starting April 24th, The City of Salem is partnering with <u>HELPSY</u> to offer free curbside pick-up of clothing and household textiles for Salem residents. According to the EPA, the average person throws away 81 lbs. of clothing per year. Of that amount, 95% can be recycled.

Pick-ups will happen weekly on Saturdays and residents must make an appointment online. Simply go to www.helpsy.co/SalemMA and complete the pick-up request form; you'll be offered several dates to choose from. Leave donations at the curb prior to 7 am on your chosen date, and HELPSY will pick up!



HELPSY accept clean, dry, and bagged clothing and fashion accessories including dresses, shirts, pants, suits, coats, gloves, hats, belts, ties, scarves, wallets, purses, backpacks, totes, shoes, towels, bedding, costumes, curtains, placements, pillows, stuffed animals, tablecloths and throw rugs. These items can be accepted in any condition, stained, worn or torn, missing pairs or buttons, holes – HELPSY will take it all!

They will not accept breakable houseware or glass, electronics, furniture, building material, scrap metal, appliances, mattresses, encyclopedia sets, phone books or magazines.

The 8 'Rs' of Recycling

There are more than 3 R's of recycling! Recycling is the last option when the first 7 won't work.

What if we rethink the way we shop and live, then refuse what we don't need, reduce what we already consume, reuse what we already have, and refurbish,



repair or repurpose before replacing.

Think of these as a guide to living a more sustainable life!

Prescription Take Back Day - April 24th

April 24th is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day!

Although many things can be recycled/re-used, prescriptions drugs cannot and finding a safe way to dispose of them is very important. Scheduled from 10 am – 2pm on April 24th, National Prescription Drug Take

Back Day is a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs. Improper disposal of medications (such as flushing old prescriptions down the toilet) can have significant negative impact on the environment, such as drugs



leaching into the water system. According to one study, 40% of the nation's water supply is permeated by pharmaceuticals through aquifers deep underground. Since septic systems and wastewater facilities are not designed to remove medicinal chemicals from water, there is no current treatment to remove traces of pharmaceuticals from treated water.

Check with your local pharmacy to see if they will be participating in this event. Additionally, the Salem Police Community Impact Unit runs a year round Prescription Drug Return and Disposal Program. Items can be dropped off in the lobby of the Salem Police Department at 95 Margin Street. Details on what is and isn't accepted can be found **here**.

Household Hazardous Waste Day



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