



Spring 2015 Newsletter

<http://www.greenossining.org>

Green Ossining to Hold Fifth Annual Earth Day Festival April 18

Green Ossining will be hosting its fifth annual Earth Day Festival at Louis B. Engel Waterfront Park on April 18 from 11am-4pm, and this year we expect more than last year's 1,800. Bring your family and friends to learn how to live a more sustainable life, visit artisan vendors, and enjoy food and live music on the Hudson River.

This year, as we celebrate the 45th anniversary of Earth Day, the festival will center around the theme of solar energy. [Click here](#) to read more.

Earth Day Festival Features

- Artisan Vendors
- Zero-Waste Festival: Learn How and More!
- Athletic Equipment Swap
- Delicious Local Food (Vegetarian/Vegan Too!)
- Solar-Powered Stage
- Craft Beer by Captain Lawrence Brewing Co.
- E-Waste Collection
- Working MP3/iPod Collection for Bethel Homes' Music & Memory Program
- Solarize Ossining/Briarcliff Information
- Live Music: Matt Young, KJ Denhert, Solar Punch, Mike Risko Band & the Raging Grannies
- Textile Recycling
- Learn How to Make Your Own Reusable Bag from an Old T-Shirt
- Local Green Services and Product Vendors
- Learn How to Use Eco-Friendly Products
- Do-It-Yourself Crafts
- Kid-Focused Activities
- Community Organizations and More!



Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff Update

Dozens of Ossining and Briarcliff residents and business owners have already had their properties evaluated through the **Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff** program. There are still more opportunities to meet the selected installers and go solar. The group-rate pricing will be available for property owners who sign up for solar installations through this program by June 1.



The goal of the Solarize program is to make it easier for properties owners to go solar. It encourages increased adoption of small-scale solar electricity systems by offering lower installation costs due to economies of scale. Group discounts offered by a competitively selected, qualified solar contractor are coupled with extensive community outreach and education to create awareness and build interest.

Municipalities competed to be selected by Solarize Westchester. In addition to bringing lower pricing to local property owners, Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff promotes the adoption of solar-friendly permitting through the New York State Unified Solar Permit and zoning. This eliminates unnecessary costs for solar installers through adoption of municipal best practices, and benefits communities by streamlining processes and reducing municipal costs while ensuring a focus on safety.

"Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff is a remarkable collaboration of local governments, non-profits, community organizations, and industry leaders," says Ossining Village Mayor Victoria Gearity. "We all need to find ways to spend less on our utility bills and use energy more wisely. Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff makes it easier for our residents and small businesses to get solar on their properties."

"The Town of Ossining is so proud to be part of this coalition that will take the guesswork out of solarizing for our residents—working together, we can ensure not only great pricing but professional and high-quality workmanship," adds Ossining Town Supervisor Sue Donnelly.

Folks who attend the Earth Day Festival will celebrate solar as this year's theme for the event. They will also have a chance to meet Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff's selected residential installer Ross Solar. Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff workshops continue throughout April (see Upcoming Events to the right). For more info and to see when the next community meetings are scheduled, [click here](#).



Upcoming Events

Every Saturday

Down to Earth Farmer's Market
Market Square, 9am-1pm

April 11, 2015

Solarize Westchester Residential Meet
Caputo Community Center, 1pm-2:30pm

April 16, 2015

Ossining Documentary & Discussion
Series presents [Solutions](#)
Ossining Public Library, 6:30pm

April 18, 2015

Ossining Earth Day Festival
Louis Engel Park, 11am-4pm

April 29, 2015

Solarize Westchester Residential Meet
Briarcliff Manor Library, 7pm-8:30pm

May 2, 2015

Ossining Town-Wide Tag Sale
Ossining & Briarcliff Manor, 10am-4pm
(Rain Date: May 3)

May 9, 2015

[2015 Riverkeeper Sweep](#)

May 14, 2015

Ossining Documentary & Discussion
Series presents [Food Chain](#)
Ossining Public Library, 6:30pm

June 11, 2015

Ossining Documentary & Discussion
Series presents [Project Wild Thing](#)
Ossining Public Library, 6:30pm

October 3, 2015

Ossining Town-Wide Tag Sale
Ossining & Briarcliff Manor, 10am-4pm
(Rain Date: October 4)

Meet the 2015 Ossining Waterfront Art Mural and Green Ossining Earth Day Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations to Ossining High School student Jasmine Mason, who won the 2015 Ossining Waterfront Art Mural Contest. Working off the theme "Our Ossining," her design was selected by a panel of judges. In recognition of this achievement, she was awarded an official Town Proclamation and will have her mural design painted in Louis Engel Park on the bathhouse.

Jasmine's work will be recreated, facing the waterfront, by students and faculty from Ossining High School, with completion of the painting scheduled for late spring. There were many outstanding entries, and in recognition of their efforts, all of their entries will be on display as well.

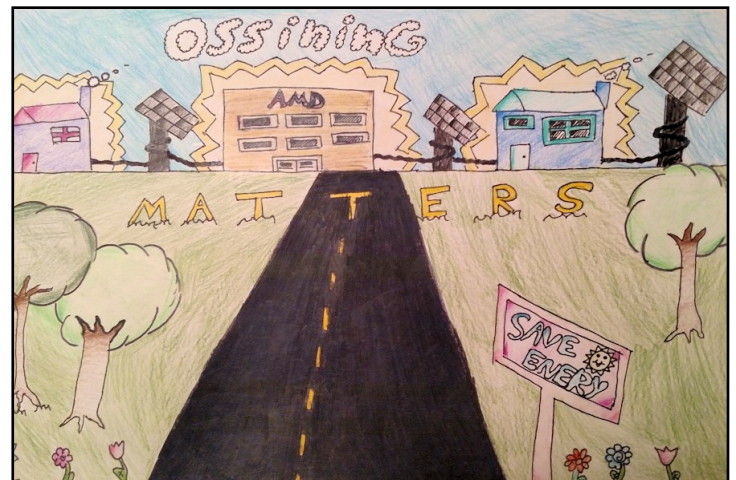
The Ossining Waterfront Art Mural Contest is part of a beautification effort by the Ossining Waterfront Vision Committee and was sponsored in conjunction with the Town of Ossining Town Board, the Village of Ossining Board of Trustees, the Ossining Union Free School District, Green Ossining, and the Ossining Arts Council.

We would also like to thank Wallauer's Design Center and Melrose Lumber for their support of this project.



Jasmine Mason's winning waterfront mural

Additionally, Anne M. Dorner Middle School students Xia Xia Saavedra and Leah Barcelo were chosen as winners of the first annual Green Ossining Earth Day poster contest. Working off the theme "Solar Power/Solarize Ossining," their works were selected to be recreated as posters that will be placed on display at Engel Park beginning April 18. Congratulations to all!



Xia Xia Saavedra and Leah Barcelo's winning Earth Day poster submissions



Did you know: Solar energy is a completely free source of energy, and it is found in abundance. Though the sun is 90 million miles from the earth, it takes less than 10 minutes for light to travel from that much distance. [\[Source\]](#)



Ossining Documentary & Discussion Series to Screen Episodes of Eco-Practices Series *Solutions* April 16



Our panelists: Elisa Zazzera, James Dean Conklin, Kathy Puffer, Alan Bigelow, and Niki Gallo Hammond

On April 16, Ossining Documentary & Discussion Series will be screening seven episodes from the *Solutions* documentary web series, which explores and shares creative solutions to climate challenges and environmental remediation around the world.

Following the screening, we've gathered a group of local pioneers who have some how-tos to share, including solar cooking with Alan Bigelow, making bio-gas and vertical farming with Kathy Puffer, creating earthen/cob ovens with Niki Gallo Hammond, and composting with Elisa Zazzera. We'll also be joined by Greenhead Media creative director and Solar Punch co-founder

James Dean Conklin. Andrea Kimmich-Keyser is ODDS's event curator.

The screening will be held at 6:30pm (seating: 6:15pm) in the Ossining Public Library's Budarz Theater at 53 Croton Ave. As always, ODDS events are free, but please consider becoming a [Friend of the Series](#).

Solar Punch can be seen again performing at the 5th Annual Earth Day Festival, as well as powering our main stage through 100% fossil-free solar energy!

Town-Wide Tag Sale May 2

On Saturday, May 2, Ossining and Briarcliff Manor will hold its first town-wide tag sale (rain date: May 3). For \$20, your address and the list of items you're selling will be advertised on a handy Google map, and each participant who signs up will get a lawn sign (below) to display for three days leading up to the sale. Registration begins April 10 at <http://www.greenossining.org/tagsale>.

Websites You Should Know

The Internet is a wealth of information when it comes to living more sustainably. Here are some websites to visit; we'll feature even more of our favorites in G.O.'s next newsletter.

- [Green Ossining's Website](#)
- [Green Ossining's Facebook Page](#): "Like" and share!
- [Solarize Westchester](#): All the information you need on the Solarize Ossining-Briarcliff Program.
- [Groundwork Hudson Valley](#): Groundwork makes neglected neighborhoods more livable and sustainable through environmental projects that directly involve local residents
- [Freecycle](#): Join a local group to give away things you don't need and ask for things you're looking for—all while keeping items out of the landfill.
- [Buy Nothing Ossining/Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown](#): This new Facebook group focuses on giving away items you don't need and asking for or borrowing items you want for free. To join, contact local volunteer Chris King via Facebook message to verify that you live within the boundaries.



THIS SATURDAY!

OSSINING/BRIARCLIFF TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE

10AM - 4PM (RAIN DATE: SUNDAY)

FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY & OCTOBER

WWW.GREENOSSINING.ORG/TAGSALE

New York State Bans Even More Invasive Plant Species



New statewide regulations went into effect on March 10 that ban the sale, purchase, and transportation of many invasive plants that grow in the Hudson Valley and elsewhere in the state. Plants on the list include yellow iris, certain kinds of bamboo and honeysuckle, privet, Japanese barberry, and other landscaping favorites. [Click here](#) to view the full list.

According to the Department of Environmental Conservation, invasive species can harm natural communities and systems (plants and animals found in particular physical environments) by out-competing native species, reducing biological diversity, altering community structure and, in some cases, changing ecosystems. These regulations help control invasive species by reducing their introduction and spread.

Monthly Eco-Challenge

Spring cleaning? Don't reach for chemical-laden cleansers. There are plenty of eco-friendly alternatives you can make yourself using vinegar! Here are some ideas from [Good Girl Gone Green](#):

- **All-Purpose Cleaner:** 3 parts filtered water, 1 part vinegar, 1-2 tsp lemon juice, 5-7 drops of lemon essential oil.
- **Glass & Mirror Cleaner:** 1/2 cup vinegar, 1/2 cup filtered water.
- **Non-Abrasive Scrubber:** 1/2 cup castile soap, 1/2 cup filtered water, 1/4 cup vinegar.

OHS Environmental Corner

Ossining High School's Composting Initiative

By Eliana Johnston

The Ossining High School Environmental Club, led by biology teachers Mr. Carlucci and Mrs. Baumann, is currently working on establishing composting throughout the school. This includes leftover fruit and vegetables that can be easily decomposed, and a new program called Aquaponics (which consists of growing tomatoes and tilapia fish). Look for the Environmental Club at Green Ossining's Fifth Annual Earth Day Festival, as well as Riverkeeper Sweep in May, when they pick up litter along the Hudson River in Ossining (below, the club participated in last year's Sweep).



OHS Juniors Win Young Naturalist Awards

Four Ossining High School juniors were selected for the American Museum of Natural History's Young Naturalist Award for outstanding research in environmental and animal studies. Congratulations to Kimberly Badger, Soon Il Higashino, Jennifer Meikle, and Kiran Goveas!



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead.

Green Ossining Spring Newsletter Thanks: Amanda Marsh of Buzzmaestro (Writing/Layout); Suzie Ross (Earth Day Festival); Andrea Kimmich-Keyser (Mural Contest/Tag Sale/ODDS Event Curation); Victoria Gearity (Solarize Westchester-Briarcliff); and Eliana Johnston (OHS Environmental Corner).