

# What on Earth

## *Is Happening in the Clearfork Valley*

Comments and suggestions to What On Earth P.O. Box 81 Eagan TN. 37730

April 2019

Volume 19 Issue 4

### **A Note from The Director**

On behalf of the director and the staff of the Clearfork Community Institute, we would like to formally apologize for the September 2018-March 2019 issues of What on Earth.... Is Happening in the Clearfork Valley not being published. As we can't reverse time to fix this issue, we are dedicated to make sure that it doesn't happen in the future.

Introducing a new feature to the newsletter, Community Announcements section. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter\* please contact DJ Coker at [djcciwoe@gmail.com](mailto:djcciwoe@gmail.com) or (423)494-5361 or (423)784-0095 on Tuesdays and Thursdays .

**\*Please have all articles, announcements, or calendar items sent or turned in by the 3rd Monday of the month to be featured in next months issue\***

### **Earth Day**



Earth Day is soon approaching (April 20) and the celebration is in its planning stages and we're looking for volunteers and vendors. The roles for volunteers range from set-up, janitorial jobs, game leaders, to clean-up and anything to everything in between. If you or someone you know makes handcrafted goods, raises or has raised bees, or sells fresh honey for an apiarist and would be interested in selling the goods at Earth Day or volunteering, please contact Marie Webster at (423)784-0095 for any additional information. The focus for Earth Day this year is endangered species, more specifically, bees, giraffes, and coral. While we'd like to bring awareness to all endangered species and how to preserve them; CCI has decided to highlight our focus on bees. Bees are a crucial species to the environments and ecosystems they are found in; and are major components for pollination. Without these key pollinators many species of food plants, flowers, trees, and grasses would not thrive. So, next time you're out-and-about and see a little honey bee flitting from flower to flower say a little thank you to the hard-selfless worker.



**“ONE OF THE FIRST CONDITIONS OF HAPPINESS IS THAT THE LINK BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE SHALL NOT BE BROKEN.”**

*Leo Tolstoy*



# National Autism Awareness Month

The first National Autism Awareness Month was declared by the Autism Society in April 1970. The aim of this month is educating the public about autism. Autism is a complex mental condition and developmental disability, characterized by difficulties in the way a person communicates and interacts with other people. Autism can be present from birth or form during early childhood (typically within the first three years). Autism is a lifelong developmental disability with no single known cause. People with autism are classed as having Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the terms autism and ASD are often used interchangeably. A wide spectrum disorder, people with autism have set of symptoms unique to themselves; no two people are the same. Whilst no two people with autism will have the same set of symptoms, there are common characteristics found in those with this complex disability. Briefly, these characteristics include:

- **Social Skills:** people with autism have problems interacting with others; autistic children do not have adequate playing and talking skills. Mild symptoms on one end of the spectrum may be displayed through clumsy behavior, being out of sync with those around them and inappropriate or offensive comments being made. At the other end of the spectrum an autistic person may not be interested in others.
- **Empathy:** empathy is the ability to recognize and understand the feelings of another person. People with autism find it hard to show empathy to others although they can be taught to acknowledge the other's feelings.
- **Physical Contact:** in some cases, autistic people do not like physical contact such as hugs, tickling or physical play with others.
- **Sudden Changes to Their Environment:** a sudden change in the surrounding environment may affect a person with autism. This could be a loud noise, a change in intensity of lighting or even a change in smell.
- **Speech:** speech can be affected in people with autism. 'Echolalia' is a typical speech symptom in which the person repeats words and phrases that they hear. The speech tone of an autistic person may be monotonous. Where symptoms are more extreme the person may not speak.
- **Changes to Behavior and Routine:** people with autism often display repetitive behavior in which they repeat the same action many times over. For example, a person with autism may repeatedly pace around a room in a certain direction. Any change to their behavior or routine can be unsettling for them. This could be a reordering of daily activities such as when a person brushes their teeth, takes a shower and has breakfast when they get up in the morning.

Other characteristics of autism include an unpredictable learning rate, obsessions and physical tics. Autism is widespread, awareness about this condition is not. In the United States, autism affects 1 in every 110 children. National Autism Awareness Month aims to make the public more aware about this widespread disability and the issues which arise in the autism community. As about 1 in 150 people in America have autism, the chances are that you know someone with this disability. A better-informed public will be more empathetic and supportive towards people with autism. This month is backed by the Autism Society of America which undertake several activities to raise awareness about autism. The Autism Society has local chapters throughout the United States which hold special events throughout April.



### Obituaries

Our condolences go out to the family of

March 9, 2019

Ms. Violet Huddleston, age 93 of Clairfield, TN.

March 26, 2019

Jean Ann (Bell) Marlow, age 74 of Duff, TN

April 1, 2019

Harvey Joe Spradlin, age 60 of Westbourne Mountain

“Gone from our sight but never from our hearts”

## Community Calendar

### COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

**Claiborne County:** 3rd Monday of the month in large court-room located on Main Street in Tazewell at 6:30 p.m.

**Campbell County :** Regular Business meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month. On Main St in Jacksboro at 6:30pm

**CLEARFORK UTILITY BOARD MEETING** 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00p.m

**CLAIRFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:** meets on the 1st Monday of the month.

**SENIOR Crafts** Second and Fourth Monday of the month at 11 am at CCI

## April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Community Asset Mapping (White Oak Elementary) @5:30pm	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Earth Day @ 12:00pm (CCI)
21	22	23	24	25 Water Testing @ 10:00am (CCI)	26	27
28	29	30 TNACE @ 12:00pm (CCI)			<b>What On Earth PO Box 81 Eagan TN. 37730</b>	