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Go Green for Earth Day



BY LAURA BLACK. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY GO GREEN GLEN ELYNN

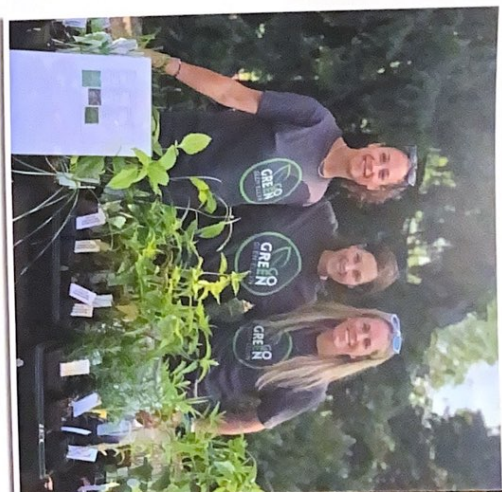
Earth Day is just around the corner—on April 22—and it represents the birth of the modern environmental movement that started back in 1970. Did you know Glen Elyn has its very own nonprofit grassroots environmental organization dedicated to helping the village become greener and live more sustainably? Let's learn more about the organization. Go Green Glen Elyn is a community environmental organization with a mission to make it easier for residents and businesses in Glen Elyn to be greener through education, advocacy and volunteerism. Some areas of focus include nurturing and creating green space and sustainable use of resources at home and business. "We love the quote 'The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The next best time is today,'" says Jacquelyn Casazza, president and co-founder, Go Green Glen Elyn. "What this means is that it is never too late to start making changes to care for our community and planet! Start small, try one new habit and build on it. Some ideas: do a carpool or walk, bring reusable bags to the store, pick up five pieces of trash outside, or even yes, plant a tree. If you aren't sure where to start, ask us!" This organization educates and advocates on local environmental issues, provides volunteer

opportunities and joins more than 20 other local chapters of Go Green Illinois community groups.

There are a number of ways the organization achieves this education and advocacy. For example, in March, the organization hosted its Spring Sports Swap. The gently used equipment swap and sale enabled people to drop off items such as cleats, bats, bases, balls, racquets, skates and more at Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center. The proceeds from the event benefited the Glen Elyn Park District Scholarship Fund and Go Green Glen Elyn.

As another example, last August, Go Green Glen Elyn worked with the Chamber and the Village to bring aluminum can recycling to the Taste of Glen Elyn. Volunteers with Go Green Glen Elyn created signage to help attendees recycle beverage cans for the first time at the event. For three days, volunteers collected 360 lbs. of aluminum. The organization is working to do the same thing in 2024 and is working to add additional reuse and recycling opportunities at community events.

Go Green Glen Elyn offers microgrants from \$50 to \$500 to people and organizations in support of projects that create a more sustainable Glen Elyn. The organization is a 501(c)(3) and it can take donations to help support its efforts. To learn more about Go Green Glen Elyn, visit www.gogreenglenelynn.org.



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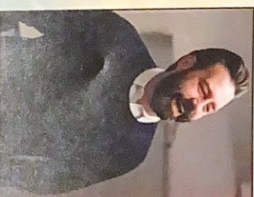
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