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Unusual Local Business Holds Quirky Spring Celebration

Hyattsville area, Maryland

On Saturday, March 26th, Community Forklift is inviting the public to celebrate spring with its annual Garden Party and Sale, including **a potluck, crafting with scraps, live mandolin music, and free flower and vegetable seeds.** Attendees are encouraged to bring pets and wear vintage garden party attire.

As many DC area homeowners know, **Community Forklift does not sell forklifts.** It is a nonprofit thrift store for home improvement, where folks can donate or shop for gently-used building materials, hardware, and architectural salvage at a fraction of retail prices. The name Community Forklift refers to the **nonprofit's mission: to lift up local communities by reducing waste, creating green jobs, and making repairs affordable.**

The large warehouse is located just outside Northeast DC, between Kenilworth and Rhode Island Avenues, and it will be open from **9 am to 6 pm on March 26th.** Directions and a schedule of events can be found at www.CommunityForklift.com.

Chief of Operations Nancy Meyer cautions, "We will be have gardening items and tools for sale all day, but be sure to show up early for the best selection. Last year, we had folks lined up outside the gates before we opened." There will be garden tools, furniture, landscaping materials, planters, statuary, and architectural artifacts.

There will also be:

DOOR PRIZES 10am - 5pm

A "MAKE IT - TAKE IT" CRAFTING AREA from 10am – 2pm. Volunteers from [Scrap-DC](#) will provide materials and inspiration to help folks make any number of things.. The School and Community Reuse Action Project is a new organization that works to inspire creative reuse and environmentally sustainable behavior by providing educational programs and affordable art materials to the community. Simply put, they aim to be a Community Forklift for artists and artistic endeavors).

LEMONADE & LUNCHTIME POTLUCK from 12pm – 3 pm

VINTAGE GARDEN PARTY ATTIRE AWARDS for two- and four-legged Forklift Fans from 12pm – 1:30 pm. Meyer explains, "As you might expect, many of our regulars love vintage homes, and some of them have great personal style as well. I think we'll see plenty of seersucker suits, frilly dresses, & jaunty hats." Pets can enter the contest too, as long as they're on leashes (and their humans are willing to clean up messes).

Prizes donated by:

www.shoptreasury.com: Located on 14th Street in NW DC, Treasury is a concept boutique melding an appreciation for the historical with the quest for modern beauty. Says owner Cathy Chung, "We consider our products to be artifacts of superior quality, to be reinterpreted and repurposed by the stylish and socially-conscious individual."

www.BigBadWoof.com: The Big Bad Woof provides essentials for the socially conscious pet. They have a store in the Takoma Park area, and will soon open a location at The Shoppes at Arts District Hyattsville.

"PUT SOME PEP IN YOUR SPRINGTIME STEP", presented by Community Forklift's resident DJ, volunteer DJ One HeART Muzik

LIVE MANDOLIN MUSIC by Neil Gladd at 1:30 pm. (Neil Gladd received his B.A. in Music from Virginia Tech, and has appeared as a mandolin soloist at Carnegie Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian Institution, at mandolin festivals in Germany, Sweden, Belgium and Japan, as well as in recital in Canada, England and France. He has been recycling, restoring and repurposing music and musical techniques for decades, and after buying his first home in Hyattsville in 2009, he became a Forklift fan and start doing to same to his house).

FREE SEEDS & PLANTING ADVICE from 2-5pm by volunteers from the [Neighborhood Farm Initiative](#) (NFI is a non-profit project of America the Beautiful Fund. NFI aims to improve underutilized public green spaces in the DC area by creating demonstration gardens for hands-on community-wide education, thereby increasing access to fresh vegetables for all members of our community, regardless of income).

Although Community Forklift has specialized in building materials since they opened in 2005, lawn and garden supplies are a more recent focus. They get frequent requests from folks who want to improve the "curb appeal" in their neighborhoods, and from community gardening groups. In fact, Bancroft Elementary (the **school that has been helping Michelle Obama with the White House garden**) used salvaged bathtubs from Community Forklift to create planting beds in their school's courtyard.

Says Meyer, **"We are asking landscaping suppliers around the region: if you are disposing of stone, pavers, or tools, please keep us in mind!** Donors receive a tax deduction, and you can drop it off or schedule a pickup. Our big truck picks up throughout the metro region."

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About Community Forklift:

Community Forklift is a thrift store for home improvement. Instead of donating clothing and couches, folks donate renovation leftovers like cabinets, doors, lights, and lumber. The building materials can then be sold to the public at very low prices (40% to 90% below big-box stores). The organization is operated by the 501c3 nonprofit Sustainable Community Initiatives, so donations are tax-deductible.

Since opening in 2005, Community Forklift has made it possible for thousands of local homeowners and nonprofits to repair substandard housing. Not only have 17 green jobs been created at the store, but hundreds of local contractors have been able to keep their estimates low, allowing them to attract clients and keep working despite the tough economy. Reuse of materials also means that fewer materials go into the landfill, which reduces the burden on local governments; and that less energy is used to extract, manufacture, and transport new materials. Community Forklift is better for our wallets and our world!

The 40,000 square-foot warehouse store is located at:
4671 Tanglewood Drive, Edmonston MD 20781
(In the Hyattsville/Bladensburg area, five minutes outside NE DC)
www.CommunityForklift.com