

Greening Vermillion Newsletter

December 2019

Dear Friends and Fellow Vermillionaires:

Welcome to the year-end Greening Vermillion newsletter! We hope you have had a bright and wonderful 2019 and we're looking forward to spending 2020 with you, working to make Vermillion a more sustainable place.

Recycling and Sustainability Guide

After working closely with residents, the city, and the recycling center, we are pleased to unveil our **Vermillion Recycling and Sustainability Guide**! This 36-page booklet contains a wealth of information, including the basics of recycling, what can be recycled in Vermillion, and where items can be recycled in town. It also highlights some of Vermillion's local green options, including the Vermillion Area Farmers Market and Civic Council. You can pick up a copy of the guide at the locations listed at left. Don't want a paper guide? A .pdf version will soon be available on our website: www.greeningvermillion.org.

FIND OUR GUIDES AT:

City Hall

Missouri Valley Recycling Center

Vermillion Library

Vermillion Chamber and Development Company

Civic Council

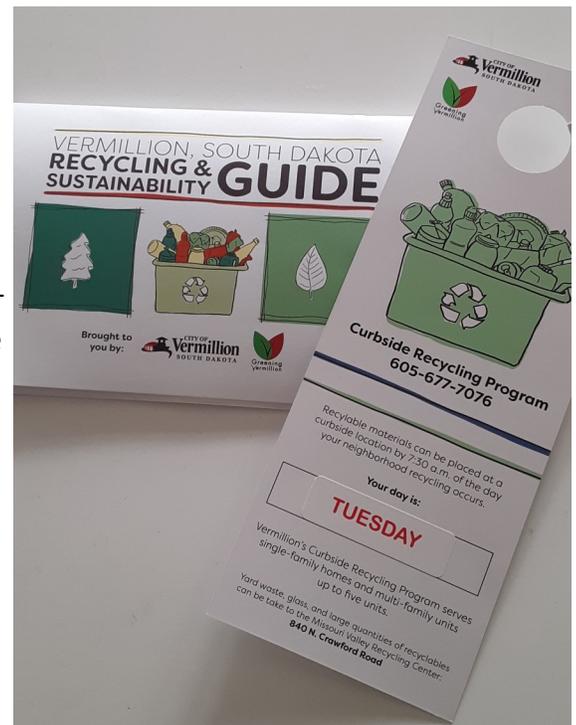
In addition to our Recycling and Sustainability Guide, we produced **door hangers** with basic information about the curbside recycling program. Starting at the end of the October, volunteers have been busy distributing these door hangers throughout the city. As of the time of this newsletter, approximately half of the town has received a door hanger. We plan to complete this

project in the first few months of 2020.

Joshua Haiar, who graduated from USD in 2019 with a degree in communication studies, was responsible for the graphic design of the door hangers and guide. He is continuing to work with Greening Vermillion to complete our planned series of **informational videos**. Look for our video series in the new year!

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- EARTH DAYS 2019 & 2020
- ADOPT-A-DRAIN
- NATURE WALK



The Vermillion Recycling & Sustainability Guide with a curbside recycling doorhanger

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Earth Days 2019

In April, we celebrated Earth Days 2019! Hundreds of people engaged in over a dozen events in and around Vermillion. There was broad community support as many local organizations joined with Greening Vermillion to make Earth Days 2019 possible.

Two new events this year included the **Tour of Green Homes in Vermillion** and an **Earth Day Gala**. During this event, Vermillion residents were able to visit local homes that showcased energy efficiency and sustainable building materials. We also held several of our perennial favorite events including the **Earth Days Fair** at USD, children's programming at the Vermillion Public Library, a community hike, and our keynote Earth Day's speaker. This year's keynote was a special event as it combined a speaker and a musical performance. Renowned environmentalist, economist, and author **Winona LaDuke** gave the keynote lecture entitled, "Building a Green Economy," interspersed with music



VERMILLION Earth Days 2019

Saturday 4/20 Earth Days Book Discussion
1:00pm-3:00pm Vermillion Public Library (Kozak Room)
Book: *The Soil Will Save Us* by Kristin Ohlson

Monday 4/22 USD Earth Day Fair
11:00am-2:00pm Muenster University Center, USD
Earth Days Activities for Kids
Vermillion Public Library, see website for times
Free Showing: *Happy Feet*
3:30pm-5:00pm Coyote Twin Movie Theater
Building a Green Economy: Winona LaDuke with music by Annie Humphrey
7:00pm-9:00pm Farber Hall, USD

Tuesday 4/23 Earth Days Gala
5:00pm-8:00pm MUC Ballroom, Free Event (Tickets Required)

Wednesday 4/24 Bus, Bike, or Walk to School & Work Day
Celebrate Sustainability: Free Concert
6:00-9:00pm MUC Pitt Lounge, USD

Thursday 4/25 Vermillion Public Transit Open House
4:00pm-6:00pm 604 High St
Campus in Bloom
5:00pm Meet at the east entrance of the MUC
Green Day on the Platz
4:30pm-6:30pm Platz Downtown

Friday 4/26 Plant Some Trees
Multiple locations around Vermillion
Night Sky Hike
8:30pm Spirit Mound Historic Prairie-Free Rides

Saturday 4/27 Tour of Green Homes
2:00pm-5:00pm Meet at Austin-Whittemore House
Event cost: \$5 - limited space

More event information at www.GreeningVermillion.org



Laduke and Humphreys take questions at the 2019 Earth Days Keynote.

performed by **Annie Humphrey**, Native American Music Award Artist of the Year (2018). "We were so fortunate to have both Winona LaDuke and Annie Humphrey here for Earth Days," said Meghann Jarchow, President of the Greening Vermillion Board of Directors and Professor of Sustainability & Environment at the University of South Dakota. "Humphrey's music was beautiful and insightful, and LaDuke's lecture

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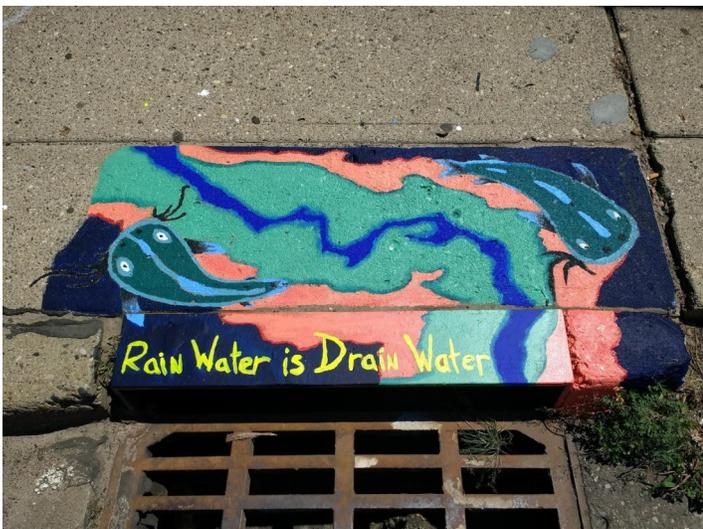
Rear Admiral David Titley, USN (Ret). Earth Days keynote speaker 2020.

spoke to systems-level problems and solutions.”

Planning for Earth Days 2020—which is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day—is underway. As in previous years, Earth Days 2020 will be a community-wide series of events celebrating the Earth. Our 2020 keynote speaker will be **Rear Admiral David Titley**, United States Navy (Ret), who holds a Ph.D. in meteorology. Dr. Titley is an acknowledged expert in military readiness in the face of our changing climate. He currently serves on the advisory board for the Center for Climate and Security and is the founding director of the Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk at Pennsylvania State University. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for opportunities to learn, make connections, and take actions to help our environment.

Adopt-a-Drain

Adopt-a-drain continues to be one of our most popular programs. In 2019 we continued our long-standing project of repainting old and worn drains. This year, board members and students with the USD Sustainable River Research Undergraduate Experience (REU) repainted the drains around **Austin Elementary School, Jolly Elementary School, and Vermillion High School**. We also touched up the drain across from City Hall. We have several new drains planned for 2020 and are **actively looking for artists!** If you are an artist and have any interest in working with Greening Vermillion please send us an email at greeningvermillion@gmail.com



HOW DO I BECOME A DRAIN SPONSOR?

- STENCILED DRAINS ARE \$25
- PAINTED DRAINS ARE \$100.
- EMAIL GREENINGVERMILLION@GMAIL.COM

A newly repainted drain from our Adopt-a-Drain program. If you would like to sponsor a drain, please contact us at our email: greeningvermillion@gmail.com

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Fall Nature Walk

On October 19, we sponsored a nature walk led by field ecology research assistant **Geoffrey Gray-Lobe** around the **North Alabama Bend** property south of Vermillion. Ten community members joined us to learn about the history of North Alabama Bend, identify birds, and enjoy the fall colors as we hiked the mowed trail to the river. This is the second year Gray-Lobe has led a nature hike with Greening Vermillion and we thank him for his knowledge and enthusiasm in working with us. More hikes may be underway, including a winter hike and a summer foraging hike to find mushrooms and berries. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information about any upcoming hikes!



The Vermillion community enjoys a nature walk led by Geoffrey Gray-Lobe

Interested in What We Do?

Want to have a say in the direction of Greening Vermillion? We are actively recruiting new board members! Please send an email stating your interest to greeningvermillion@gmail.com

Earth Day art, created during one of the Earth Day events sponsored by the Vermillion Public Library





Your Greening Vermillion Board of Directors

Meghann Jarchow - Chair
Maggie Pettersen - Vice Chair & Treasurer
Sara Packard - Secretary
Jenny Fierro - Board Member

Kelly Dilliard - Board Member
Mark Daniels - Board Member
Mark Sweeney - Board Member
Jo Kim - Board Member
Maddi Kallsen - Board Member

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