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Clemson hosting garden fest, mower swap

By Anna Simon
CLEMSON BUREAU
asimon@greenvillenews.com

CLEMSON — A pair of events in Clemson on Saturday seek to help residents and better the environment with more homegrown vegetables and fewer lawn mower emissions.

Clemson Mayor Larry Abernathy has proclaimed Saturday as Home Gardening Day, and a centerpiece is a community Garden Fest from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help new gardeners learn basic skills and help experienced gardeners expand their knowledge.

Gardening is a tradition that allows people to produce their own food and inspires an appreciation for local farmers and food producers and the need to sustain our land for the future, Abernathy said in a city proclamation.

Topics include garden planning, soil improvement, composting, vegetable choices, seed selection and container gardening.

Admission is free at the state Botanical Garden off Perimeter Drive at Clemson University. A special Clemson Area Transit route will provide free transportation from Clemson Community Care on U.S. 76 and from the Littlejohn Community Center on State 93.

Also Saturday, Clemson University will host the Tri-County Lawn Mower Exchange from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kite Hill Recycling Center, located across from the South Carolina Botanical Garden.

Residents of Pickens, Anderson and Oconee counties can exchange gasoline mowers for new battery-operated lawn mowers at a discounted cost.

A 14-inch cordless electric mower will cost residents $192 including sales tax, and a 19-inch cordless electric mower will cost residents $298 including sales tax. Both mowers are discounted $218 from the list price.

Supplies are limited. Only residents of Anderson, Pickens and Oconee counties are eligible to exchange lawn mowers. A driver's license as proof of residency will be required. Credit cards are preferred. Cash and checks also will be accepted but no debit cards.