



Wrightsville Spring Cleaning Community Yard Sale

By Mary Ellen Siksa

Sellers reported this year's Spring -Cleaning Community Yard Sale was very busy. I personally had a continuous parade of buyers from the surrounding areas at my sale. Most learned about the sale from ads placed on various Wrightsville area community Facebook pages, Craigslist's garage sale listings, or neighborhood signs posted by volunteers.

This year we tried something new to help buyers easily locate sales. Before 8am the morning of the sale, volunteers scouted Wrightsville for sale locations. Then, at the nearest intersections, they posted hot pink "SALE - >" signs. Buyers' comments on the directional signs were all positive, so next time we'll do an even better job of it.

Just for fun, we held a contest to see who sold the *weirdest* thing. Details about the contest were listed on www.WrightOnTheRiver.com accessible by a QR code on signs advertising the yard sale and through posted ads. Colin Suber is the Weird Item Contest winner. He tells his story as follows:

"I've attached a photo of one of our first customers of the day Shane W. who purchased a metal 'STOP FUNERAL' sign. The sign originated from a shuttered funeral home my fiancé Molly and I photographed several years ago. We've traveled the country together for the last 8 years photographing abandoned and historical buildings. I've also attached a photo of mine from the funeral home.



"We've salvaged and preserved many items that would've otherwise ended up in a pile of rubble. Our travels have lead us to starting our new company, Moon Note Vintage Finds, based out of Wrightsville where we sell affordable oddities, antiques and collectibles. Thank you for your consideration and for hosting the yard sale, it was our first event and it was quite successful!

We've recently began posting items on our Facebook page, here's a link!"

<https://www.facebook.com/share/aLUEuNKWeQddCdWo/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

Wrightsville Community Cleanup Day is June 8. See the Borough website at <https://wrightsvilleborough.com> for details. Our next Community Yard Sale will be scheduled in September 2024.



Upcoming Grants for Small Businesses

By Christine Siksa

York County is home to many organizations which make grants to small businesses, nonprofits, and local governments for a variety of purposes. The **Women's Business Center Organization** (WBCO), part of the York County Economic Alliance, is one of these.

WBCO's BLOOM grant program assists small businesses. To date, 235 York County small businesses together have received \$480,000 in total in BLOOM grants. (BLOOM doesn't stand for certain words, it's about helping businesses bloom and grow).

Each grant usually is dedicated to a specific group of businesses or individuals, such as women-owned businesses, or businesses serving York County. Learn more about WBCO at <https://www.yceapa.org/events/wbco-athena/> and BLOOM at <https://bloomyork.org/education/>

WBCO's summer grant will focus on small businesses throughout York County. Details will be available on Monday, July 22, when the grant application period opens. This will include information on any specific purposes for the grant funds. In the past, for example, grants were awarded for projects to improve operations or expand services, new signage, façade improvements, new equipment, and much more. All applications will be due by August 12.

WBCO's winter grant will focus on women owned businesses. Details for this grant will be available on November 4, with all applications due by November 25.

Grants are almost free money. In return, the grantee must give progress reports to the grant maker and a final report on the success of the project. Some grants have a "match" requirement. That means in return for a \$5,000 grant, you might be required to put up 10% from your business, or \$500 in this example. That match is part of the budget for your own project, it is not paid to another person or organization. So if your grant is \$5,000, your budget is \$5,000 plus the 10% match for a total of \$5,500. Grants are not required to be paid back like a loan is.

Grants can sometimes be challenging to write. Free grant writing assistance is available from Wrightsville community volunteer Christine Siksa (christine.sixa@gmail.com). Also, WBCO staff have been invited to Wrightsville to talk about the BLOOM grant program and their organization. More details for this event will be posted to <https://www.wrightontheriver.com> and on the Borough's website.