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## NEWS BRIEFS

### City, Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District will host cleanup day April 29

The city of Prior Lake and the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District are sponsoring their annual spring clean-up event on Sunday, April 29.

Volunteers will rake leaves and remove buckthorn at Crystal Lake Park, 4217 Village Lake Drive in Prior Lake, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring gloves.

The event is free and family-friendly.

Buckthorn is a non-native, invasive shrub that can take over wooded areas and crowd

out native plants. Leaves and other organic matter are carried by storm water into storm drains and end up in lakes and streams. Once in bodies of water, they break down and release phosphorus, which feeds algae. Algae growth is a serious threat to water quality, aquatic life, property values and water recreation, according to a news release.

The event was originally scheduled for April 22, but was moved due to inclement weather. A new backup date of May 6 has been scheduled.

At the cleanup event, local businesses will provide door prizes and snacks. Several rain barrels will be given away, thanks to a donation from Lord of the Gears, a local robotics team.

Volunteers are asked to sign up on the watershed district's website, [plslwd.org](http://plslwd.org) or by call-

ing the district at 952-447-4166.