

REPAIR CAFE

Merritt Island

Overview

- Repair Café is a community-led effort to provide free repair of household items to local residents by volunteer “coaches” who are experienced in making repairs
- Founded in Europe in 2009, Repair Café is an international organization to promote community involvement and sustainability. There are approximately 300 Repair Café registered in U.S. (3500 worldwide).
- East Merritt Island Community Association (EMICA), a community association that has been in existence for 62 years, is seeking to establish a Repair Café in Merritt Island.
- Timeline for establishing first Repair Café in Merritt Island is Fall of 2026
- For more information, contact Richard Cripps by phone/text: 4107107588

Keys to Success

- Broad participation of community organizations to publicize the workshops to attract local volunteer repair coaches with relevant skills for fixing household items **and** making residents aware of the workshops
- Utilize Repair Café Foundation guidelines (see Appendix) as well as reaching-out to successful workshops in U.S. (i.e., WNC/Asheville)
- Identify Coordinators to assemble repair coaches, sponsor relations, publicity & social media, and workshop operation
- An initial location for workshop and subsequent suitable sites around Merritt Island
- While repair services are free, donations are accepted. Judging from experience of established Repair Cafés, initial capital expenses are modest (less than \$2000).

Sponsorships

We are asking local community organizations to become sponsors of the workshops. Sponsors support and publicize participation in our effort to attract residents (participants) and repair volunteers.

The initial target list of sponsors are local non-profit/volunteer organizations:

- East Merritt Island Community Association (EMICA)
- Community Association of Merritt Island (CAMI)
- North Merritt Island Homowners Association (NMHOA)
- Brevard Library (Merritt Island)
- Churches (Lighthouse, etc.)
- Merritt Island Senior Resource Center
- Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA)
- District 2 Brevard County Commissioner
- Brevard County workforce training coordinator

Organization

Richard Cripps, President of East Merritt Island Community Association, will serve as the start-up director of Repair Café of Merritt Island (RCMI). We will follow the Repair Café Foundation Guidelines for establishing workshops. Initial organization is oriented to getting RCMI underway in Fall of 2026. Our focus is to put together a team of individuals with the following responsibilities:

- Coordinator to identify and solicit repair coaches
- Sponsor and community out-reach Coordinator
- Publicity and social media Coordinator
- Workshop facility coordinator (location, volunteers for set-up, clean-up, coffee service, etc.)

How it Works



If it comes from your house and if fits in your car, we'll fix it for free.

Workshops are open to participants of all ages. Guests are encouraged to bring broken household objects - small appliances, torn clothing, heirloom objects, almost anything! - to repair events where qualified volunteers will help *guide you* through the repair process. We reserve the right to limit repairs for concerns of safety, for example, CRT TVs, firearms, automobile repairs are not offered. All volunteers and visitors are encouraged to read our house rules. Registration is NOT necessary.

Volunteers:

- Are you a skilled repair person?
- Do you have a passion for community, sustainability, and education?
- Can you help with promotion, organization, or provide baked goods?

A reasonable ratio of volunteers to participants is essential for a successful repair event, and volunteers of all skill levels are greatly appreciated

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Example of House Rules

- **Volunteers and Participants are required to sign in upon arrival**, including signing a release of liability waiver prior to participation in a workshop.
- **Volunteers perform work free of charge.**
- **Participants offering items for repair do so at their own risk.** Understand that it's possible your item may not be repairable by our volunteers, and/or may be damaged in the process of attempting repair.
- **Volunteers reserve the right to refuse items for repair.** Some items are inherently dangerous and will not be considered for repair during workshop events. Repair Cafe will not repair the following: CRT televisions, firearms, explosives and other weapons, items with compressed gas, medical devices and personal hygiene devices.
- **Participants should offer a maximum of one item for repair at a time.** This helps make sure that during busy events, everyone gets a chance to participate. Participants are invited to join the back of the queue if there is a second item for repair.
- **Procuring special order parts is not the responsibility of Repair Cafe or its volunteers.** Repair Cafe will aim to keep regular supplies on hand. We reserve the right to ask for fair compensation for supplies required.
- **Volunteers should prioritize safety** and use every caution to prevent dangerous conditions, including but not limited to excess fumes, dust, and noise. Safety of our volunteers and guests is a top concern. Safety glasses, dust masks and nitrile gloves are provided at no cost and are required when applicable.
- It is not the responsibility of Repair Cafe or its volunteers to re-assemble or dispose of any unsuccessfully repaired items.
- Parents are responsible for the supervision, behavior and safety of their children during Repair Cafe events. Children may not be left unattended.

Donations in excess of the cost of supplies are greatly appreciated and will help grow our inventory of readily available supplies



2026 Event Schedule "We Fix it For Free"

2/5	5:00-8:00	All Household Repairs	Asheville Tool Library
2/19	4:00-7:00	Sewing and Mending Repairs	Fairview Public Library
3/8	TBD	Farm and Garden Tools	OGS Spring Conference, Mars Hill
3/14	10:00-2:00	All Household Repairs	Haywood Community College
3/19	5:00-8:00	All Household Repairs	Weaverville Community Center
4/14	2:00-4:30	All Household Repairs	Waynesville Senior Center
4/18	10:00-3:00	Sewing and Mending Repairs	Asheville Maker Faire
5/7	5:00-8:00	All Household Repairs	Asheville Tool Library
5/9	10:00-2:00	All Household Repairs	Haywood Community College
5/19	5:00-8:00	Sewing and Mending Repairs	East Asheville Public Library
7/16	5:00-8:00	All Household Repairs	Weaverville Community Center
7/18	10:00-2:00	All Household Repairs	Haywood Community College
8/6	5:00-8:00	All Household Repairs	Asheville Tool Library
8/13	4:00-7:00	Sewing and Mending Repairs	Remnants Thrift & Sew
8/22	TBD	All Household Repairs	Caja Solidaria, Mills River
9/17	5:00-8:00	All Household Repairs	Weaverville Community Center
9/19	10:00-2:00	All Household Repairs	Haywood Community College
10/15	4:00-7:00	All Household Repairs	Dig In! Yancey Tool Library
10/22	4:00-7:00	Sewing and Mending Repairs	Black Mountain Public Library
11/5	5:00-8:00	All Household Repairs	Asheville Tool Library
11/12	4:00-7:00	Sewing and Mending Repairs	Fairview Public Library
12/3	10:00-1:00	Sewing and Mending Repairs	Pack Memorial Library
12/17	5:00-8:00	All Household Repairs	Weaverville Community Center

We are volunteers in Western North Carolina offering free repairs in the spirit of building sustainable and resilient communities.

For volunteer opportunities and questions, email WNCRepairCafe@gmail.com

Visit WNCRepairCafe.Org for more info. Follow us on social media @WNCRepairCafe

Table shows schedule of Repair Café workshops in the Asheville, NC area. Workshops are 2-3 hours and are scheduled approximately 2 per month in various locations in the area.

For more information or to become a volunteer contact Richard Cripps via email at marscripps1986@gmail.com or by phone at 410-710-7588

REPAIR CAFE

Facebook Post for Event in Hendersonville, NC

Hello Neighbors,

Blue Ridge Repair Cafe where no cost repairs are done Thursday Feb 19th, 3:30-6:30pm at Blue Ridge Community College library. Killian building. We will be doing lamp repairs, sewing, knife sharpening, electronics, small appliances, and more.



[Sara T Huggins](#)

This is a great community service!

[Sandy LeRoy](#)

How about a wellness check on a 1988 KitchenAid mixer?

[Richard Freudenberger](#)

Any old singer troubleshooting people there? For a look at bobbin feed?

[Shelagh Tillott](#)

Hi Ann, will there be anybody to work on a laptop? I was supposed to take it to Brevard in Feb but it was cancelled due to the weather.

[KimJim Bolen](#)

I hope I remember this ! I have a strap on purse that needs to be sewn back in!

[Morgan Bowman](#)

is anyone able to repair jeans that have holes in them without using the patches

[Tammie Bogin](#)

Ooo I need knife sharpening.

See you there thank you!

[Lisa Byrd Dobbins](#)

I've been trying to fix my sewing machine for a couple of years but had no clue what I was doing and the instructions didn't really help. I brought it to the Repair Cafe and walked back out 30 minutes later with a huge smile on my face!! "Turtle" was awesome with her help!! And she also took time to explain to me exactly what I needed to do in the future!! Happy Camper here!!

[Frannie Jacobus](#)

This is an awesome service, thank you all.

[Belinda Eckhardt](#)

Thanks

[Debbie Cramer Funk](#)

Will you be doing this again? I just saw this.

[Kim Kitchin Haynes](#)

Vacuum cleaners?

73 Comments in 3 days after post