



# The Green Scene

An e-mail publication of  
The Mahoning County Solid Waste District

Volume VIII, Issue 3

Summer 2016

RECYCLING DIVISION OF  
MAHONING COUNTY

LOU VEGA, DIRECTOR

DAVID DITZLER  
CAROL RIMEDIO-RIGHETTI  
ANTHONY TRAFICANTI  
COMMISSIONERS

## Inside this issue:

* Canfield Fair	2
* Summer Reading	2
* Compost Seminar	2
* Cash for Cans	3
* Tire Collection	3
* Placemat Contest	3
* Soil Testing News	4
* Special Collections	4
* Earth-friendly Mosquito Control	4

## A New Look

Green Team recycling centers have a brand new look. On June 20, each of the county's 28 drop-off sites replaced their large roll-off bins with smaller drop boxes in a larger quantity. This transition will allow material to be managed on-site rather than transported to a transfer station. The change is expected to save the county both time and money.

While the bins may look different, materials accepted remain the same. These materials include: newspaper, office paper, magazines, softbound books, corrugated cardboard,

paperboard, paper bags, aseptic cartons, food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic containers numbered 1-7, with the exception of Styrofoam.



Screw-on lids should be removed and discarded and containers should be placed in the bin loose. Paper may be contained in paper bags but never plastic bags. Plastic bags are not permitted in any

Green Team programs. It is advised that residents shop with canvas or eco-spun tote bags to reduce the number of plastic bags in circulation. Other options include donating clean, dry bags to food banks or recycling them at area grocery and department stores that have designated receptacles.

The Green Team greatly appreciates everyone's support for our recycling programs. Together, we are making a difference!

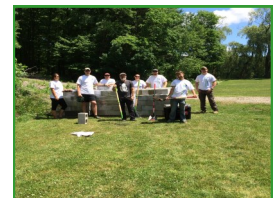


## Compost Happens

Everyone knows that "compost happens." However, compost is happening in a big way at Farmer Casey's Ranch in Coitsville. Thanks to a grant from Johnson Controls, Casey's was able to obtain funding to construct two 3-bay composting structures at their site. On June 17, clients and staff from Purple Cat,

Casey's parent organization, along with volunteers from Johnson Controls completed the project. Now organic material from the ranch and other locations can be composted and later applied to Casey's bountiful gardens. Congratulations are extended to everyone who was involved in this special project. Thanks to these

efforts, the world is becoming a "greener" place.



Purple Cat Founder Jimmy Sutman poses with volunteers as they break ground for the new composting project.



## Going Green at the Canfield Fair



These recycling bins will be strategically placed throughout the fairgrounds during the 2016 Canfield Fair. Stop by the Green Team booth for a list of locations.

The Canfield Fair is a well-attended event that local residents look forward to every year. This year the Green Team plans to make the fair a little “greener” by increasing efforts to collect and manage recyclable material.

As in years past, recycling bins will be strategically placed throughout the fairgrounds to collect bottles and cans. The bins will be monitored by Green Team staff members and main-

tained by 4-H volunteers on an assigned schedule. In addition to Green Team bins, Angels for Animals will provide recycling for aluminum cans at their booth. Monies generated by the sale of cans provides much-needed funding for the shelter.

Throughout the entire fair, Green Team staffers will be on hand at a colorful display in the Government Building. There fairgoers can learn about

wonderful environmental programs, pick up a promotional item made with recovered material, and enter a drawing to win a rain barrel.

Whether you’re interested in fair recycling, entering a drawing, or just stopping by to chat with a staff member, the Green Team will be there to accommodate you.



## Summer Reading Library Schedule

### July

6 Austintown	11 am
23 Poland	2 pm
28 Brownlee	2 pm
30 East	2 pm

Join the Green Team at the above locations for an oral interpretation of Recycle Every Day.



## Discover Your Library

Studies reveal that students lose months of reading and writing abilities over summer vacation. However, this needn’t be the case. The Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County is offering the Summer Discovery Program to keep students intellectually engaged while school is out. The Summer Discovery

Program offers a variety of fun-filled activities. From petting zoos to puppet shows to pony rides, children will be enthralled and entertained in an educational environment. And of course, there are books. Encouraging a child’s love of reading will nurture literary skills that pave the path for a promising future.

Although the Summer Discovery Program officially began on June 1, it is never too late to enroll. The program continues through August 13, so there is still plenty of time to get involved. For additional information about Summer Discovery, visit the library website at [www.libraryvisit.org](http://www.libraryvisit.org).

## Learn to Compost with the Green Team

Did you know that nearly one quarter of the waste stream is composed of organic material that can be easily recycled? The process for recycling organics is called composting, and the Green Team is conducting an educational seminar to teach you all about it! On Saturday, August 20, The Green Team will host a Compost Semi-

nar at the Weidenmeir House located on St. Rt. 224 in Berlin Center. The seminar will begin promptly at 10:00 am and end at 11:00 am. Cost for the seminar is \$10.00 for Mahoning County residents and \$40.00 for non-residents. The Seminar will include a one-hour training session with video instruction and open discussion.

Registrants will receive a backyard compost bin, instructional booklet and trouble-shooting guide. If you would like to participate in this activity, please call the Green Team at 330-740-2060 and request a registration form. Pre-registration is required.



## Inspirational Quote

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.”

~ Dr. Seuss

## Mahoning County Schools Earn High Marks for Recycling Cans

Congratulations are in order for several Mahoning County schools in recognition of their exemplary recycling efforts. In the county-wide “Cash for Cans” contest, numbers are quite impressive. Fifteen participating schools collected a total of 7,463 pounds of beverage cans earning \$2,791.00. The breakdown is as follows:

Overall School Winners	Pounds Collected	Enrollment
1 <sup>st</sup> - St. Christine	1,072	380
2 <sup>nd</sup> - Damascus Elementary	995	450
3 <sup>rd</sup> - Boardman Glenwood MS	994	700

### Per Capita School Winners

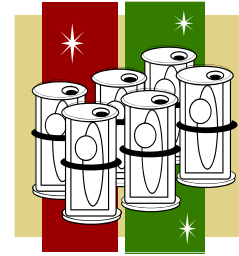
1 <sup>st</sup> - St. Charles	787	337
2 <sup>nd</sup> - Western Reserve Elem.	524	260
3 <sup>rd</sup> - Jackson Milton Elem.	736	397

These schools will receive checks for the market value of the cans along with framed Award Certificates.

Additional contributors to the contest include:

Cardinal Mooney High School	West Blvd. Elementary School	Valley Christian
Center at Javit Court	West Branch High School	St. Nicholas
Knox Elementary School	Springfield Elementary School	St. Joseph the Provider

Again, thanks to everyone involved in this worthwhile project. Mahoning County can take great pride in knowing that its youth are helping to preserve our precious environment through their outstanding recycling efforts.



Extend the life of your tires by:

- checking tire pressure on a weekly basis.
- visually examining tires for cuts & holes.
- rotating tires every 6,000 miles driven.
- keeping tires properly aligned.



## A Solution for Scrap Tires



Ohioans generate 12-14 million scrap tires per year and this waste, if not managed properly, poses significant problems for the environment. Littered tires collect water which provides breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes. Illegal tire dumps are unsightly and often lead to harmful fires. So...what's

the answer to this problem? The answer is simple. When you purchase new tires, make sure you allow the tire dealer to keep your used tires for recycling or proper disposal. The nominal fee charged for this service is a small price to pay for protecting our precious planet. However, if you have neglected to partici-

pate in a tire take-back program, there is another option. The Green Team is hosting a tire recycling drive at the Canfield Fairgrounds on July 16 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The event is open to Mahoning County residents only and restrictions and fees may apply. Please visit [www.greenteam.cc](http://www.greenteam.cc) for further information.

## Placemat Winners Recognized by Mahoning County

Commissioners David Ditzler, Carol Rimedio-Righetti and Anthony Traficanti honored eight students who won first place out of 780 entries in the Green Team's 2016 Earth Day Placemat Contest. The winners and their schools are: Makiah Kutz, West Branch MS; Gwen Lamp, West Branch MS; Lucia Naples, Holy Family; Haley Jones, West

Branch MS; Delaney Ankeles, Holy Family; Matthew Steiner, West Blvd. Elem.; Isabel Klisiewicz, West Blvd. Elem. and Zoe LaRosa, Stadium Drive Elem. Each student received a \$25 gift card provided by Dominion & assorted Earth-friendly prizes provided by the Green Team. Look for winning placemats at the following locations:

- Alliance Perkins
- American Legion #737
- Canfield Perkins
- Canfield Belleria
- Carchedi's
- Beloit FD
- Denny's
- Dino's
- Saxon Club
- Yankee Kitchen



Mahoning County Commissioners pose with placemat award winners and members of the Green Team.

**5 Components of Healthy Soil**

- rock particles
- water
- air
- organic matter
- microorganisms



**Soil Testing is Worth the Effort**

Testing soil is the most cost effective and time saving measure a gardener, homeowner, landscaper, or crop farmer can do prior to spending money on fertilizers or a contract with a commercial lawn care company. A soil test costs approximately twenty dollars compared to the hundreds of dollars you might spend to conduct a three step fertilizing process or have a professional handle the test for you.

A soil sample is like having blood work done to determine your body's cholesterol levels, insulin levels, white blood count, etc. In nature's case, the soil sampled will determine a soil's level of phosphorus (P), nitrogen (N), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg) and pH to name a few. But why are levels of these basic

nutrients important to know? Because knowing their levels PRIOR to fertilizer application will save a landowner both time AND money while protecting the environment. Excessive fertilization of gardens, lawns, landscaping, and fields produces an abundance of nutrients that an already "stuffed" nature cannot absorb. In the end, the excess is carried away by stormwater and ends up in our surface waters. Excess nutrients in our surface waters, combined with the spring and summer temperatures accelerate the formation of algal blooms.

Results from a representative soil sample and accurate test include, but are not limited to, adjustment suggestions for fertilizer, timing of fertilization, and pH modification.

Knowledge is power, and understanding what is present or absent in your soil can make a difference in your wallet! Before you sign your name on the dotted line of a lawn care company's contract, pay for a three step fertilizing process, or buy the first phase of fertilizer for your project, sample your soil. You may be paying for nutrients you don't need!

For more information regarding this topic, contact your local Ohio State University Extension Office or Ag Center and submit a request. Remember: Having your soil analyzed will create more "green" not only in your yard but in your wallet too.

~ Stephanie Dyer  
Environmental Program Mgr.  
Eastgate COG



**Repel Mosquitoes Naturally**

How would you like to brighten your flowerbeds, flavor your food, support wildlife, and repel mosquitoes in your yard? If your curiosity is piqued, please continue.

Mosquitoes are pesky insects that annoy people and carry diseases. However, instead of using dangerous chemicals to control the situation, try an Earth-friendly approach as an alternative. Flowers such as marigolds and geraniums repel mosquitoes naturally while adding beautiful color to your landscape. The flowers also provide nectar for pollinating insects

such as bees and butterflies.

There are several herbs that repel mosquitoes. Basil, rosemary, sage, and peppermint are a few varieties that will not only fend off mosquitoes, but will provide seasonings for your some of your favorite recipes.

While plants are effective in repelling mosquitoes, they are only part of the solution. To boost your efforts, consider building a bat house. According to *batrescue.org* a single bat can consume up to 1,000 mosquitoes per hour. Attracting bats to your backyard will re-

duce the mosquito population and provide valuable habitat for an endangered species.

I hope you'll consider taking an Earth-friendly approach to pest control this summer. By doing so, you'll create a better environment for everyone.

~ Kim Lewis  
RREAP Mgr.



**Upcoming Special Collections**

**E-drives**

- July 9 Berlin Twp.
- Sept. 17 Goshen Twp.
- Sept. 24 Canfield Twp.

**Tire Drives**

- July 16- Canfield Fairgrounds
- Sept. 17 Goshen Twp.

**Document Shredding**

- Sept. 10 - Shepherd of the Valley, Boardman

For additional information call 330.740.2060 or visit [www.greenteam.cc](http://www.greenteam.cc)