



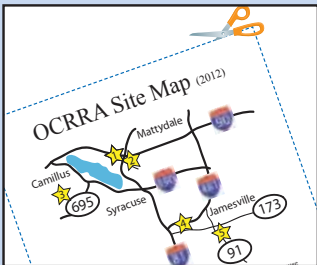
Summer 2012 Newsletter | Volume 20 | No. 2



BLUE RIBBON RECYCLERS PG 4
SEFCU & Carousel Mall
top the list of stellar recyclers this quarter



EARTH DAY PG 5
A litter clean-up
success story for our whole community



CLIP & SAVE PG 6
OCRRA site maps and hours for all locations



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR... PG 7
Meet Mark Donnelly,
OCRRA's new director

Blinded by the Light (and Battery Bags)

Bright yellow bags full of alkaline batteries line curbsides in July

Donato Mercuri

As the sun heats up so does OCRRA's battery program. Every year OCRRA dedicates the month of July to household battery collection. In 2011, OCRRA and the residents of Onondaga County did their part by recycling over 177,000 pounds of alkaline batteries.

In July, residents may use OCRRA's **yellow** battery bags to properly dispose of old alkaline batteries. Rechargeable and button batteries are **NOT** accepted as a part of the July curbside pick up due to Federal DOT regulations prohibiting transportation of mixed batteries (alkalines and rechargables). What that means to you is the July curbside pickup is only for **ALKALINE** batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt batteries.

The alkaline battery collection runs the entire month of July. Yellow bags must be visible for your hauler to see, so place them on top of your closed trash bag or can. Do not place your battery bag in your blue bin or inside of your garbage, as they will not be disposed of properly.

Yellow battery bags may be obtained at OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Transfer Station or by emailing info@OCRRA.org; include your name and address and OCRRA will mail you a battery bag (while supplies last). Businesses looking to dispose of old batteries can visit OCRRA.org for more information.



Dominique Mercuri of Brewerton puts her alkaline batteries out for her hauler to collect on trash day. Yellow bags for alkaline collection are used throughout July and may be obtained from OCRRA.

In January 2012, the Corporation for Battery Recycling (CBR) selected Onondaga County, one of five counties in the United States, to participate in a fully-funded battery recycling pilot program. Selection for the pilot program was based on the success of our current battery collection program. CBR is looking to gather data on environmentally sustainable battery collection in an effort to shape a national program that will roll out in 2013. Once again, Onondaga County is on the cutting edge of environmental stewardship! Visit recyclebattery.org for more information.

Donato Mercuri can be reached at dmercuri@OCRRA.org

What about NON-ALKALINE batteries?

Residents can drop off alkaline, rechargeable and button batteries at OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Transfer Station, any local Wegmans or Green Hills Market year-round. Only wet cell batteries are not accepted there (e.g., car batteries).

OCRRA's battery collection bins at these locations are clearly labeled with separation instructions. Visit OCRRA.org or grab a flyer at any of the collection bins for more information.

It is especially important to keep rechargeable batteries out of the trash. Doing so prevents heavy metals such as cadmium from harming the environment. Rechargeable batteries can be taken to any retailer that sells them. According to NYS Law, they must accept up to ten rechargeable batteries a day from any person, regardless if they purchase replacement batteries. Keep this in mind as you replace your power tool, laptop, phone and other rechargeable batteries.

Save the world
a little each day



School Cafeteria Composting? Piece of Cake!

Sarah Stewart

Students in Marcellus School District were faced with an important lunch-room decision upon return from April Break: To Compost or Not to Compost?

This Earth Day, Marcellus School District pushed its recycling to a whole new level. Under the leadership of Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Keith Watkins, and a team effort between their Food Service Department, administration, OCRRA and Waste Management, the

trays and compostable trash bags to replace traditional plastic bags. Each item cost a little more than the conventional materials; but the district will save money in the long run due to the decrease in trash disposal fees (compost fees are significantly less than trash).

Each lunchroom received three containers: gray for trash, blue for recyclables, and yellow for compostable items. Students place all leftover food scraps,



Keith Watkins, Marcellus Schools Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and Brenda Mickol, Account Manager with Waste Management, help students get the hang of cafeteria composting. Marcellus kicked off a district-wide composting initiative this Spring and has seen an 87% reduction in trash volume.

They are composting and recycling four times as much as they are throwing away!

three schools implemented a full-scale food waste composting program. Their goal: to recycle and compost as much of their waste as possible without breaking the bank.

To begin, Marcellus worked with Waste Management to arrange transport of all food waste to OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site, where food is composted into a nutrient-rich soil amendment.

Then, they purchased certified compostable lunch trays to replace Styrofoam

trays and napkins into the yellow bin for composting. Empty milk cartons, bottles and cans go in the blue bin and any leftover plastic baggies, straws, plastic utensils or other miscellaneous items go into the gray trash bin. The kitchen staff also adds food prep scraps to the compost bins.

OCRRA and Waste Management were on hand to kick off the first week. Since then, the program has been going strong. The results? Phenomenal! The first week of composting

saw an 87% decrease in trash. Now they are composting and recycling four times as much as they are throwing away! Students and staff have embraced the changes and are happy to separate their food scraps each day.

Watkins is enthusiastic that this success will continue for many years to come due to staff and ad-

ministration support. Most importantly, he believes "the program's continued success absolutely hinges on the consistent and enthusiastic participation of our students."

Kudos to Marcellus for being a leader in implementing a district-wide composting program. They are making a positive impact on the environment

by keeping hundreds of pounds of food waste out of the trash each week and are able to do it with low costs. It's a win-win!

Interested in getting your school on board? Visit **OCRRA.org** for more information.

Sarah Stewart can be reached at [sstewart@OCRRA.org](mailto:ss Stewart@OCRRA.org)

OCRRA Salutes Our Community's Composting Leaders

Local food waste generators utilizing OCRRA's Food Scrap Composting Program, as of 6/5/2012

- Community General Hospital
- Le Moyne College
- Marcellus Central School District
- Onondaga Community College
- Paul deLima Coffee
- Ramada Inn
- Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel & Conference Center
- SUNY Upstate Medical University
- Syracuse Banana Company
- Syracuse University
- The Centers at St. Camillus
- The Oncenter

And, coming on board soon:

- Destiny USA, including 22 food service locations
- DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse



Ramada Inn Chef Gregg Frazier separates melon rinds for food waste composting. The Ramada Inn is one of many local businesses leading the charge to reduce waste and compost food scraps at OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site.

Recycling: It's Elementary, my dear Watson...

Two City Schools Receive the Vonnell Mastri Recycling Excellence Award

Allison Stuart

Many schools in the Syracuse City School District do a great job with recycling. But the folks at **Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School Elementary** and **Seymour Dual Language Academy** go so far above and beyond what is required that they were both awarded the 2012 Vonnell Mastri Recycling Excellence Award!

Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School Elementary: This is a brand new school and they have hit the ground running with recycling. The director and teachers were very proactive in making sure proper recycling was set-up and ensured that students were well-versed in how recycling works. They put together a variety of activities for Earth Day this year, including a battery drive, a paper grocery bag decoration day (bags were subse-



Students from Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School Elementary proudly display their awards and Earth Flag. OCRRA presented both SASCS Elementary and Seymour Dual Language Academy with 2012 Mastri Recycling Excellence Awards.

quently distributed to grocery stores), flower planting and a litter cleanup. They have created a Green Initiatives team to head environmental issues and are looking forward to composting their food waste next school year.

Seymour Dual Language Academy: Seymour is a past winner of the award (2003)

and are well-deserving of the award again this year. Karen Hall, the head custodian, is an amazing asset; she organizes the recycling team, which is made up of students that collect recycling throughout the building every week. The staff are great waste reducers as they habitually communicate within the school via email,

instead of printing paper copies in excess. They have even installed rain barrels to collect water for the school's small garden.

The Mastri Award is given in memory of former OCRRA Board Member, Vonnell Mastri, a City appointee to OCRRA's volunteer Board who was passionately dedicated to recycling.

All schools within the Syracuse City limits are invited and encouraged to apply each year. Contact us for details if you think your school has what it takes to win this prestigious award.

Congratulations SASCS Elementary and Seymour Dual Language Academy!

Allison Stuart can be reached at astuart@OCRRA.org



Recycling Rhoda

Let's Talk Trash...and Recycling too!

Dear Rhoda,

I'm so excited! I just signed up at **OCRRA.org** for the July 21 Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off event. While reading through my confirmation email, I was a bit perplexed. The two things I need to get rid of are old medicine and some empty paint containers that have been hanging around the house for years. Neither are listed on the "acceptable items" list. Why can't I bring them in?

Fairly Frantic in Fairmount

Dear Frantic,

OCRRA provides a safe solution for the proper disposal of household hazardous waste three times a year for no charge to Onondaga County residents (excluding the Town and Village of Skaneateles, because they

don't currently participate in the OCRRA System).

While the list of acceptable items is longer than Pinocchio's nose at a poker game, there are some things that OCRRA cannot collect. As you so astutely noted, old medications and empty containers are two of those items. Maybe you should have read the acceptable item list BEFORE you made your reservation, eh?

If you have empty paint cans, (oil or latex-based), simply remove the lids and toss them in with your regular trash. The same goes for any empty container that formerly held a toxic

material, regardless of the type of container (meaning, even if it is a recyclable bottle, don't toss it in your blue bin).

Containers that previously held toxic materials have a residue. Do not rinse or recycle them, put them in your trash. Mother Earth loves her precious water supply and will appreciate your efforts.

Now, let's talk about old medications. No need to wait for a special day or event (sponsored by OCRRA or anyone else) to get rid of your old meds safely. Here in Onondaga County, you can mix your medications (liquid, pill or powder) in

with your icky, gooey kitchen scraps. I find Aunt Martha's leftover lasagna is perfect for this...old juice cartons or coffee cans also work well. Toss the meds in with egg shells, coffee grounds, or anything that will disguise them and make them undesirable for consumption – either by a pet or human. Seal the container and set it down toward the bottom of your trash can. No need to get too particular, just don't leave it on the top for easy access.

Perhaps most important, don't be flushing your drugs down the toilet like a junkie with the po-po on his tail. If you do that they end

up at the water treatment plant and mess with the plant's biologic operations. Most sewage plants cannot filter out or treat medications, which ultimately end up in our waterways harming fish and other wildlife. We've all heard the horror stories about fish with three heads, so do your part and trash your old meds.

Well, sweatpea, I do believe I have just saved you a trip to OCRRA's Household Hazardous Waste Event. Fewer greenhouse gas emissions for you! You can thank me later.

Recycling Rhoda

Blue Ribbon Recycler Spotlight: How Carousel Center Mall Gets It Done – And Done Right

Dave Nettle

Carousel Center Mall, one of the newest BRRs to join the long list of our community's environmental standouts has proven that even large-scale operations can be notable achievers. Below are details on how Carousel is implementing recycling and waste reduction initiatives; read on so you can model their efforts at your workplace (OCRRA can help!).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Placed recycling stations for paper and bottles / cans throughout the shopping facility. Mall staff constructed their own lids, made from scrap lumber, to fit on OCRRA supplied containers.
- Implemented a fluorescent bulb recycling program, which keeps mercury-containing bulbs from going into the trash and ultimately keeps mercury from polluting our land and water resources.
- Purchased Green Seal certified paper products for use in all public restrooms and mall offices.

- Distributed a formal recycling and trash disposal guide to all tenants so they may understand and comply with guidelines.
- Gave reusable water bottles to all Carousel Center employees to promote waste reduction and reuse policies.
- Began food waste collection program with participation from 17 food court establishments; in the future, it will also include all restaurants in the mall expansion. The food scraps are collected in 5-gallon buckets and transferred into larger totes, which are delivered to the OCRRA Compost Site in Camillus. There the food waste is mixed with yard waste (grass clippings, brush, etc.) and is transformed into a nutrient-rich soil amendment, which is then sent back into our community for use in gardens and lawn applications.

CHALLENGES

Education. Mall patrons and retail personnel can be transient in nature, which reduces recycling ef-



Carousel Center employee Adam Arnold demonstrates how easy it is to recycle beverage containers using OCRRA supplied recycling containers. Your business can boost recycling by setting up recycling stations at your workplace, simply visit OCRRA.org to order your free recycling supplies today!

ficiency (e.g., patrons often throw non-recyclable cups in containers labeled for recycling; new employees are not always aware of recycling policies.)

SOLUTIONS

- Planned purchase of single stream recycling containers, which allows all recyclables (paper, bottles and cans) to be mixed

in one container. These containers minimize the learning curve for staff and patrons, meaning recycling will become more efficient.

- Increase the frequency of reminders to staff on proper recycling guidelines. Recycling is just one of many workday responsibilities; providing frequent recycling re-

mindings helps employees to understand its importance and adhere to the guidelines.

OCRRA applauds Carousel Center's efforts to develop and implement a comprehensive program that responsibly disposes of the trash and recycling generated at their facility.

Dave Nettle can be reached at dnette@OCRRA.org



Keisha Harper, Nadine Savage, Amy Beckwith, Craig Martin and Robert Tackman of SEFCU show off their Blue Ribbon Recycler certification. Their SEFCU branch, located in the Deys Building, uses 100% recycled content copy paper and recycles batteries and fluorescent bulbs through a certified vendor in compliance with the NYS DEC standards.

Go Green – Become Blue...

Apply for certification and join the local companies that became Blue Ribbon Recyclers this quarter!

- Carousel Center Mall
- SEFCU (Deys Building Branch)

www.blueribbonrecycler.com

has been completely revamped – take advantage of the easy navigation and simple application process.

Earth Day: A Little Effort Goes a Long Way

Sarah Stewart

The 2012 Earth Day Litter Cleanup was a monumental success. Over 323 groups (that's 6,500 people!) registered to help pick up litter in their corner of the world. Banding together in locations all over Onondaga County, volunteers cleaned up over 68,000 pounds of litter.

"Each time you see some litter floating around toss it in the trash."

What does that mean? It means that enough trash to fill almost three school buses was removed from local roadways, parks and streams over a two-day period. That is something to be proud of. Many thanks to the municipal workers from local towns and villages for transporting the trash and making this event possible. And, thank you to the volunteers who got outside and gave a little of their time to improve our community.

Check out photos of some of the hard-working groups on OCRRA's Face-



Find us on:
facebook®

**Want to see
More Earth Day pictures?**

*Find "OCRRA.org" on Facebook
and vote for your favorites!
"Like" us today to start saving the
environment.*

UPS Staff and family members clean up in East Syracuse during the 2012 Earth Day Litter Cleanup Event. More than 68,000 lbs. of litter were collected by county residents this year.

book page: **www.facebook.com/OCRRA**. Feel free to post your own cleanup pictures and tell us about your effort.

Stay tuned to **OCRRA.org** for information on next

year's event. Don't want to wait until next Earth Day to get involved? Check out the state-run Adopt-a-Highway program or the county-run Adopt-a-Roadway program; contact

information can be found at **OCRRA.org**. Or better yet, take a few extra seconds each time you see some litter floating around and toss it in the trash. Your small actions will add up over

time and make our community a better place to live and work.

Sarah Stewart can be reached at [sstewart@OCRRA.org](mailto:ss Stewart@OCRRA.org)

Toss Your Toxics on Saturday, July 21

*Visit **OCRRA.org** to schedule your appointment today!*

Ann Fordock

July is prime time for pools, gardens and lawns in Upstate NY. It's also the time of year where you may want to dispose of unused pool chemicals, insecticides, herbicides, pesticides,

times and fast service, so make yours today.

Oil-based paints are accepted at these events, however, latex paint is not. Latex paint is water-based and is not hazardous. Please

them at 475-9172. While you are at it, ask them about other items they could use that you are looking to get rid of (think home repair or building supplies). Please remember: reuse is always preferable to recycling or disposal.

Can't make it on July 21? Never fear, OCRRA has another event scheduled for October 6. You can also contact Environmental Products and Services at 451-6666; they accept hazardous waste, year-round, for a small fee.

Ann Fordock can be reached at afordock@OCRRA.org

*"Reservations ensure short
wait times and fast service"*

automotive products or other hazardous items you have hanging around.

The July Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event fills up fast, so be sure to make a reservation today at **OCRRA.org** or call 453-2866. Reservations ensure short wait

dry the can out with cat litter or paint drying crystals, leave the lid off and place it in your trash for curbside pick up.

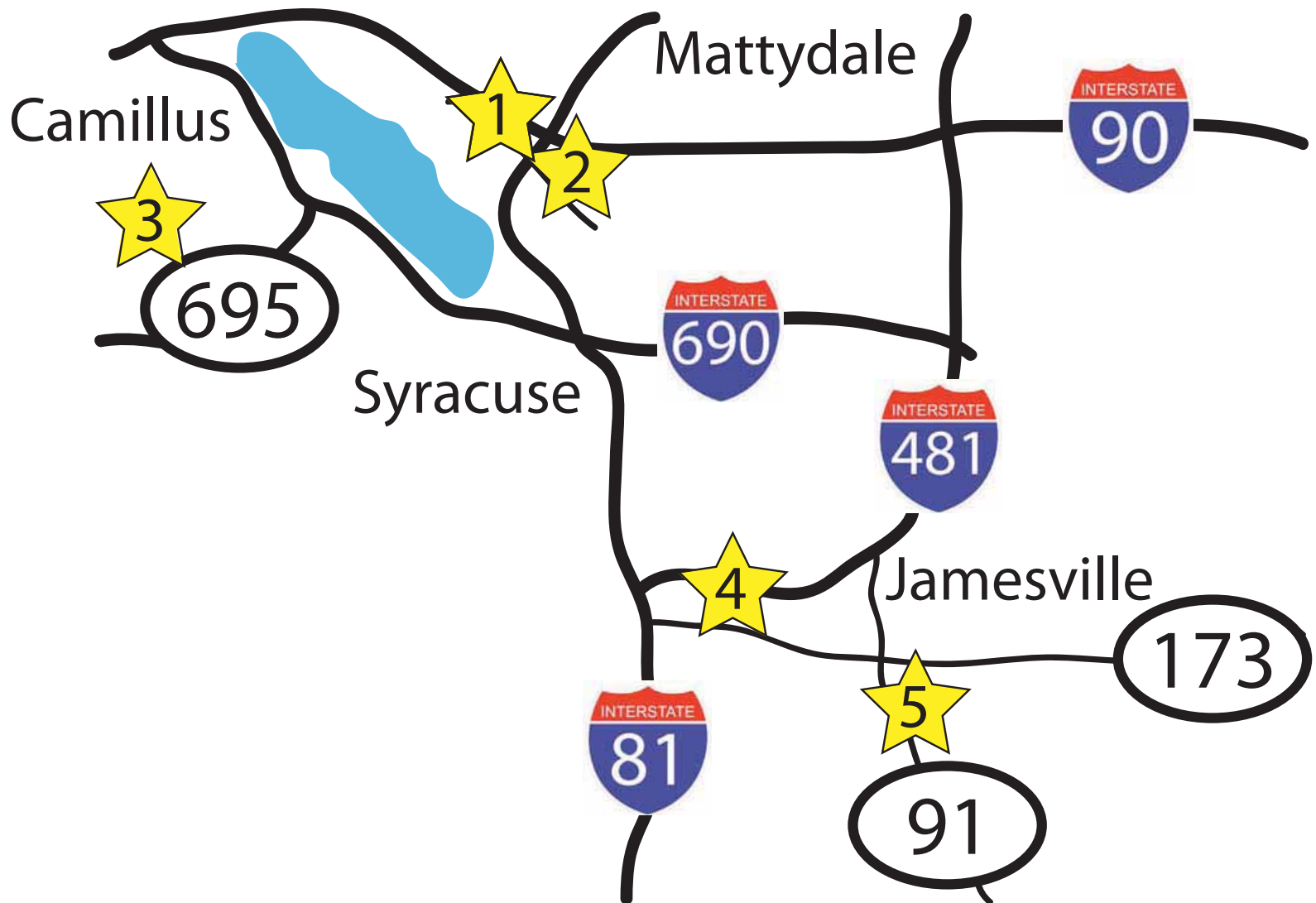
You can donate latex paint that has never been frozen and is at least 1/3 of a gallon to the Habitat for Humanity Restore; call







OIL-BASED paint cans being prepped at the July Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event in 2010. **LATEX** paint is not accepted at these events as it is not considered hazardous. Donate it if it is still usable. If not, dry it out completely and toss the open container in your trash.



OCRRA Site Map (2012)



-  **OCRRA Main Office** - 100 Elwood Davis Road, North Syracuse
Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.
-  **Ley Creek Transfer Station** - 5158 Ley Creek Drive, Liverpool
Second and fourth Saturday of each month, 8:00 am - noon.
-  **Amboy Compost Site** - 6296 Airport Road, Camillus
2012 season runs April 2 – Nov 30.
Monday - Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm; closed Sunday.
-  **Rock Cut Road Transfer Station** - 5808 Rock Cut Road, Jamesville
Tuesday - Saturday, 7:00 am - 2:30 pm; closed Monday and Sunday.
-  **Jamesville Compost Site** - 4370 Route 91, Jamesville
2012 season runs April 2 – Nov 30.
Monday - Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm; closed Sunday.

www.OCRRA.org
(315) 453-2866



OCRRA Welcomes New Executive Director

Jamesville resident with 10 years experience on the OCRRA Board took the helm in May

Andrew Radin

Mark Donnelly has extensive knowledge about both our community, and the OCRRA System. He is a long time resident of Jamesville, and comes to OCRRA with over 30 years of experience as Facility Operations and Contract Manager for Carrier Corporation's Syracuse division. In that position, he played a key role in managing energy and solid waste systems, as well as implementing computer maintenance software systems and leading employee teams.

He previously served on the OCRRA Board for 10 years in various important positions, such as Board Chairman, Treasurer and Chair of multiple committees including Audit, Ethics, Governance and Operations.

Ravi Raman, OCRRA's current Board Chairman, notes, "Mark's extensive managerial experience and familiarity with operations and business management will help OCRRA excel in its mission to provide a comprehensive solid waste management system for

our community that is environmentally, socially and financially sound."

An active community volunteer, Mark has served a number of local non-profit and educational or-

"Proper waste management begins with the generator. Each of us must lead by example."

ganizations, including the United Way, Habitat for Humanity and Seymour Dual Language Academy. He coached Little League Baseball for 12 years.

Mark earned a Masters of Business Administration degree from Le Moyne College, and a Masters in Adult Education and Human Resources from Elmira College.

When asked about his selection as Executive Director, Mark said, "I have enjoyed a great career with Carrier and felt it was time for a change. The opportunity to join an organization I respect from association



OCRRA Executive Director Mark Donnelly (right) chats with OCRRA Board member John Copanas and Syracuse Common Councilor Jean Kessner at an OCRRA welcome reception in June. The event brought together elected officials, local municipalities and environmental groups to meet Mark and learn about the suite of services that OCRRA offers the community.

through my Board service was very inviting. I am excited for the challenge!"

Speaking to what lies ahead for OCRRA, Mark

stated, "OCRRA has changed its face with new and emerging issues constantly. We will continue to adapt because we have great people, as well as a great system. Solid waste management goes far beyond Waste-to-Energy and battery collection. It is about changing human behaviors to do the right thing for the world our children's children are loaning us.

OCRRA exists to serve Onondaga County. As we experience new challenges, it will be with the customer and sustainability in mind."

He added, "Proper waste management begins with the generator. Whether

residents, not-for-profit or commercial enterprises, we are all custodians of the environment. Each of us must lead by example. OCRRA provides all the training and materials that businesses and residents need to be successful stewards of the environment."

Mark looks forward to helping OCRRA serve the community's solid waste and recycling needs in innovative and environmentally sound ways. If you have thoughts or feedback for Mark you can contact him at mdonnelly@OCRRA.org.

Andrew Radin may be reached at aradin@OCRRA.org

Honey Do List Got You Down?

Want to dispose of debris from household remodels or clean-ups?
Visit OCRRA's Transfer Stations and we'll help you out.

Rock Cut Road Transfer Station

5808 Rock Cut Road, Jamesville, NY 13078
Just east of the Rock Cut Road exit on Rt. 481 North,
across from the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 7 AM to 2:30 PM

Ley Creek Transfer Station

5158 Ley Creek Drive, Liverpool, NY 13088
7th North Street, east of exit 25 from Rt. 81, across the street from the Pilot Travel Center.

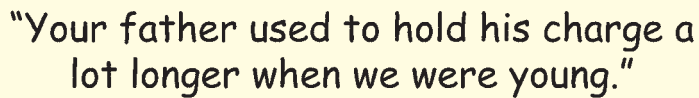
Hours: Second and Fourth Saturday of each month: 8 AM to Noon

Fees:

Cars, Mini-Vans, or SUVs, \$10.00
Pick-Up Trucks, Vans, Single-Axle Trailers \$25.00
Tarps are required. All untarped vehicles are charged \$15.00

For more info on acceptable items or fees visit: www.OCRRA.org/trash_transfer.asp





Post your most pressing recycling or disposal questions and get answers in short order.

We want to hear from you!



**This quarterly publication is brought to you by
OCRRA**

**100 Elwood Davis Road
North Syracuse, NY 13212-4312**

KRISTEN LAWTON
Public Information Officer

*OCRRRA's waste reduction, reuse and recycling program efforts
(including this newsletter) are partially financed by the
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.*

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C	D	J	S	B	L	U	B	T	N	E	C	S	E	R	O	U	L	F

- antifreeze
- drain cleaner
- driveway sealer
- fluorescent bulbs
- gas
- insecticides
- kerosene
- lye
- mercury thermometers
- oil based paints
- paint thinner
- pesticides
- pool chemicals



P A C C J R D R B I M N L A M T Y O P
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Mark Your Calendar



COMPOST SITES CLOSED

**JULY 4 &
SEPTEMBER 3**

Enjoy the holidays!

**TRANSFER
STATIONS AND
OCRRA OFFICE
CLOSED**

**JULY 4 &
SEPTEMBER 3**
Enjoy the holidays!

**HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS
WASTE DROP-OFF
JULY 21**

**Ley Creek Drop-Off
Station
8 am - 2 pm
Register at OCRRA.org**

SHRED-O-RAMA SEPTEMBER 22

**Alliance Bank
Stadium
8 am - Noon
(Enter from
Grant Blvd.)**