



Winter 2013 Newsletter | Volume 21 | No. 4

Start Your New Year Off Right!

Pledge to recycle more throughout the whole year

Theresa Mandery, Recycling Specialist



PASTABILITIES.....PG 2
Local restaurant is latest to embrace food scrap recycling.



RAFFLE..... PG 3
“Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off” raffle winner announced.



TEXTILES.....PG 3
Rhoda schools us on how to improve our recycling numbers when it comes to clothing, bedding and linens.



CHRISTMAS TREES.....PG 4
Learn how to turn them into compost with minimal effort.



ELECTRONICS.....PG 7
The holidays mean more e-waste; learn how easy it is to manage it in Onondaga County.



Chester from Fayetteville got a jump on his New Year’s resolution to recycle better. In time, OCRRA hopes he’ll realize that wrapping paper, cards, envelopes, boxes and paper gift bags should go in the blue bin, but NOT him, even if he has a festive holiday sweater on...

Of all the different New Year’s resolutions that could be made in 2014, recycling is one of the easiest to keep all year. What better way to start than with holiday items?

Holiday gifts arrive in all shapes and forms and when it comes to the environment, it might just be what is on the outside that counts. Between the wrapping paper, product packaging, ribbons and bows, cards, catalogs and more, our household waste starts to pile up fast during the most wonderful time of the year.

Use the following tips to keep your trash in check, and have a happy, eco-friendly New Year!

- **REUSE.** Gift bags can be saved and used again. Holiday cards can be cut

up and made into gift tags. Ribbon, bows and wrapping paper in good condition can be recovered. Wrapping paper that is torn can be shredded and applied as future filler (instead of tissue paper or packing peanuts). Packing peanuts may be accepted at certain shipping companies (including UPS Stores), contact them to inquire before dropping them off.

- **RECYCLE.** Our community enjoys an excellent annual recycling rate – 60% of our waste is recycled. To maintain and improve this effort, it is important to let out of town guests know what can and cannot be recycled in Onondaga County. Paper cards and envelopes, gift boxes, gift bags,

catalogs, clean aluminum foil, wrapping paper (except tissue paper and any metallic/foil wrapping papers – which go in the trash), can all be recycled in the blue bin. To prevent recyclable papers from becoming litter, put a second blue bin on top of the blue bin that has loose paper in it to help weigh it down.

- **DONATE.** If you received a gift that will replace an existing item in your household, donate the old item to a friend or charity. This is also an effective method for managing gifts you receive but don’t actually like...

- **COMPOST.** If you get a real Christmas tree, be sure to “recycle” it through your municipal-

ity or bring it to one of OCRRA’s Compost Sites for quick and easy disposal once there are more needles on the floor than on the tree. (See page 4 to learn more.)

- **TRASH IT.** These items must go in the trash: metallic or foil containing wrapping paper, metallic greeting cards, metallic gift bags or envelopes, tissue paper and Styrofoam.

If you have questions about what can and cannot be recycled at the holidays, or anytime in Onondaga County visit **OCRRA.org** and check out the “How do I get rid of...” search function at the top of the page.

Theresa Mandery can be reached at tmandery@ocrra.org.

Pastabilities Goes Green with Food Scrap Composting

Dave Nettle, Recycling Specialist

By the time you read this, our community will be well into a joyous holiday season that often entails gathering with family and friends. These gatherings may take you to a restaurant downtown, perhaps Pastabilities, which is located in the heart of Armory Square and specializes in delicious made-from-scratch Italian dishes and baked goods.

If you patronize Pastabilities (or Pasta's Daily Bread) you are supporting a business that goes above and beyond to sustain the environment.

Pastabilities is the most recent food establishment participating in OCRRA's food scrap program. This program removes valuable material (food scraps) from the waste stream and turns it into compost that our community can use for garden and landscaping purposes.

Food scraps comprise about 15% of our community's trash, making them one of the largest chunks of material that can be recycled, but are still commonly found in our trash. Food scraps are full of moisture and make trash quite heavy. However, this moisture is an asset when it comes to making compost, which is exactly what OCRRA does with the scraps at our Amboy Compost Site in Camillus.

To get the restaurant started, OCRRA visited and encouraged them to partner with their trash hauler, Syracuse Haulers, who could pick up their

separated food scraps and other organic compostable materials (including paper napkins, waxed paper, coated cardboard, etc.). Behind the scenes coffee grounds from the coffee station, dough and bread scraps from the bakery, and food scraps from kitchen prep and dining plates come together.

Pastabilities owner Karyn Korteling knows they are doing the right thing being a part of the environmental solution and feels good knowing that something good can come out of their participation.

PROGRAM SUCCESS.

Pastabilities took a few simple steps to ensure their food scrap program was a success.

- The owner and management team worked together with their waste hauler and OCRRA to identify what could be composted and "right-sized" their waste and recycling services. *Cooperation between food generators, haulers and OCRRA makes this environmental effort possible.*
- Kitchen managers held a training session for all food handling staff to share protocols and address questions and concerns. *This vital step helps keep everyone on the same page and allows staff to provide suggestions for workflow improvement.*
- Staff uses color-coded containers and OCRRA decals (provided for free) to clearly identify the

food scrap vs. trash collection receptacles. *This visual reminder helps all employees, both veteran and newbie alike.*

Meg Hodnett, Pastabilities' daytime kitchen manager, notes, "The employee group is proud to be working on a team that is supporting local environmental efforts by shifting their waste output for a more beneficial use."

Since starting the program in August 2013, Pastabilities reduced their trash volume 88%, going from 52 yards to 6.5 yards of trash per week. In turn, they decreased their trash pickups from six to three times per week.

Food scraps are now picked up six days per week and delivered to OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site where they are mixed with yard waste to produce a nutrient-rich compost. This material is sold to residents and businesses alike at extremely reasonable prices. Visit OCRRA.org for more details.

As a result of their separation efforts, Pastabilities has composted over 16 tons of food scraps (32,000 lbs.) since they started separating in August.

A sampling of what some patrons had to say about the restaurant's food scrap program include:

- "It's awesome."
- "It's the way it should be."
- "I wish all restaurants were doing it."
- "FANTASTIC!"



Margaret Walsh from Pastabilities preps ingredients and separates food scraps for delivery to OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site. Pastabilities is one of many participating commercial entities in Onondaga County that is trimming their trash and recycling their food scraps into nutrient-rich compost. Interested in doing the same at your business? Contact OCRRA or your hauler today!

Pastabilities makes our environment healthier by recycling food scraps into nutrient-rich compost at OCRRA and they extend a helping hand to people who need nourishment too. They do the latter by donating prepared foods to a local church to feed those without sufficient means to put food on their table.

Pastabilities sets a social and environmental example for our community and

OCRRA is thrilled to have them on board as a food scrap composting leader.

If you are a food generating business interested in following Pastabilities great lead, explore your options with your commercial hauler and become a part of OCRRA's award-winning compost program!

Dave Nettle can be reached at dnette@ocrra.org.

Answer Key for Food Scrap Composting Word Search found on page 8.

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

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

WINTER 2013
VOLUME 21 • No. 4

This quarterly publication is brought to you by the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency.

First OCRRA Raffle Winner Announced

Ann Fordock, Recycling Specialist

Register for a household hazardous waste drop-off appointment and enjoy a chance to win green cleaning supplies from OCRRA! (See article on page 5 for program details.)

Congratulations to Janelle Ancillotti of Baldwinsville, who made an appointment at **OCRRA.org** to drop off household hazardous waste during the new Monday-Friday drop off. She was randomly selected as the winner of a basket filled with green cleaning supplies.

Do you want to be our next winner? Go to **OCRRA.org** to make your appointment today! Once you receive a confirmation from OCRRA and arrive at your selected time and date, you are entered into our quarterly raffle.

What are you waiting for? You have nothing to lose, except for that household hazardous waste that has been lingering in your basement or garage... Visit **OCRRA.org** for a list of acceptable items and program details.

Ann Fordock can be reached at afordock@ocrra.org.

Janelle Ancillotti of Baldwinsville is the first recipient of OCRRA's quarterly "Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off" raffle. Janelle won a basket full of green cleaning products. Get rid of your household toxics at OCRRA's year-round drop-off; make an appointment at **OCRRA.org** and be entered for a chance to win too!



Recycling Rhoda

Talks Trash – and Recycling!

Recycling Textiles



*Hey Rhoda!
I just heard a disturbing statistic! 85% of textiles are thrown out and not recycled in the U.S. How is this possible? We have to **do** something about this! What do you suggest and how soon can we start?*

Agitated in Amboy

Dear Agitated,

Let's slow down and dissect this one a bit. While we all know Onondaga County residents are tops when it comes to recycling, even here, we could do a better job with textiles. As it stands, each year our peeps toss out over ten thousand tons of textiles.

So, we agree that textile recycling and repurposing is an important endeavor. And, with only a little bit of effort, we could shift those statistics to more palatable numbers. First let's ponder WHY people aren't recycling their textiles...

Do you think it is because they don't know *where* to recycle these things? No, that can't be – the Salvation Army and Rescue Mission have a really big presence in this community. Everybody must know they are some of the many places where you can take your old duds... Oh wait, maybe that's the issue. Maybe people think it's *only* about **CLOTHES**.

Well, I'm here to tell ya clothes are just the tip of the iceberg!

TEXTILES INCLUDE:

- clothing,
- bed sheets,
- table linens,
- towels,
- blankets,
- shoes,
- purses, and
- stuffed animals.

Many, if not all of these items are accepted at churches, consignment shops, those brightly colored collection boxes lurking in parking lots, and at large reuse organizations like the Salvation Army or Rescue Mission.

Now here is a novel concept, before you gather your textiles and drop them off, confirm your intended location wants all the items you have. Checking in advance saves time and frustration, Fruitloop.

Tip for all those overzealous curbside recyclers out there: **Textiles DO NOT go in your blue bin.** If you put them there, they will be thrown out. They will not be recycled.

Did you know that the CNY SPCA accepts old blankets, sheets and towels as bedding for animals? They especially need those items in the wintertime. Call (315) 454-4479 for details and help our four-legged friends out.

So what's the best way to move the needle in the upward direction on that scary statistic you mentioned? Spread the good word! Talk to all your friends and family, even Uncle Albert, about textiles. Define textiles so they understand the breadth of the term. Let them know

that even items that can't be worn or used by others in their original form can be recycled into rags or into tiny fibers that are turned into paper, yarn, insulation, carpet padding and sound proofing material.

Don't just limit yourself to word of mouth, guerilla marketing is in order here: emails, blogs and even that social media stuff is a great way to shout this from the rooftops.

If you're not sure where to recycle something you can give us a call (453-2866) or look it up on the OCRRA website – search **ocrra.org/how-do-i** for "textiles" to find a list of places that will recycle your old textiles!

*Recycling
Rhoda*

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree...

How lovely are your branches – for composting

Theresa Mandery, Recycling Specialist

Give your Christmas tree a second life after the holidays by “recycling” it. Most communities, including the City of Syracuse, provide curbside pick up for trees.

You may simply put your tree at the curb during your scheduled pick-up time, as long as it is free of tinsel, decorations, lights, nails, tacks, plastic bags or other foreign materials. Contact your town or village for more information.

Additionally, Onondaga County residents are welcome to bring their Christmas trees, (as well as leaves, brush and wreaths—providing they are free of metal, Styrofoam, ribbons and bows) to one of OCRRA’s compost sites between Monday, December 30, 2013 and Saturday, January 11, 2014.

OCRRA operates two compost sites, which are located in Camillus and Jamesville. For driving directions and hours of operation, please visit OCRRA.org.

There is no charge to residents, municipalities or haulers to deliver materials to either compost site during these two weeks.

In the spring, the trees, wreaths and brush are ground into mulch that in turn can be used for landscaping.

Therefore, when you compost your Christmas tree at OCRRA, you are quite literally spreading holiday cheer throughout the community all year long!

Theresa Mandery can be reached at tmandery@ocrra.org.



Out with the Old and In With the New!

Holidays bring new electronic gadgets – be sure to recycle the old ones

Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year’s holiday season than at any other time of the year!* During this time, there is typically an increase in household electronic waste, or e-waste, as new gadget gifts abound. Luckily, it is easy and FREE for residents to recycle their old electronics in Onondaga County. Protect our environment from toxic materials by recycling your e-waste at one of these locations:

Best Buy (All local stores). *Accepts electronics including TVs for free; some size restrictions apply. Hard drive removal and e-waste pick-ups may be arranged for a fee.*

Bruin Computer Trading (Liverpool), 410-0050, ext. 4.
Accepts electronics including microwaves but EXCLUDING TVs for free.

Coast 2 Coast Electronic Recyclers Inc. (Syracuse), 579-2868.
Accepts electronics EXCLUDING TVs for free.

F-M Returnables (Manlius), 682-4830. *Accepts electronics including TVs for free.*

Radio Shack *accepts certain electronics via mail for trade-in value. Call for details.*

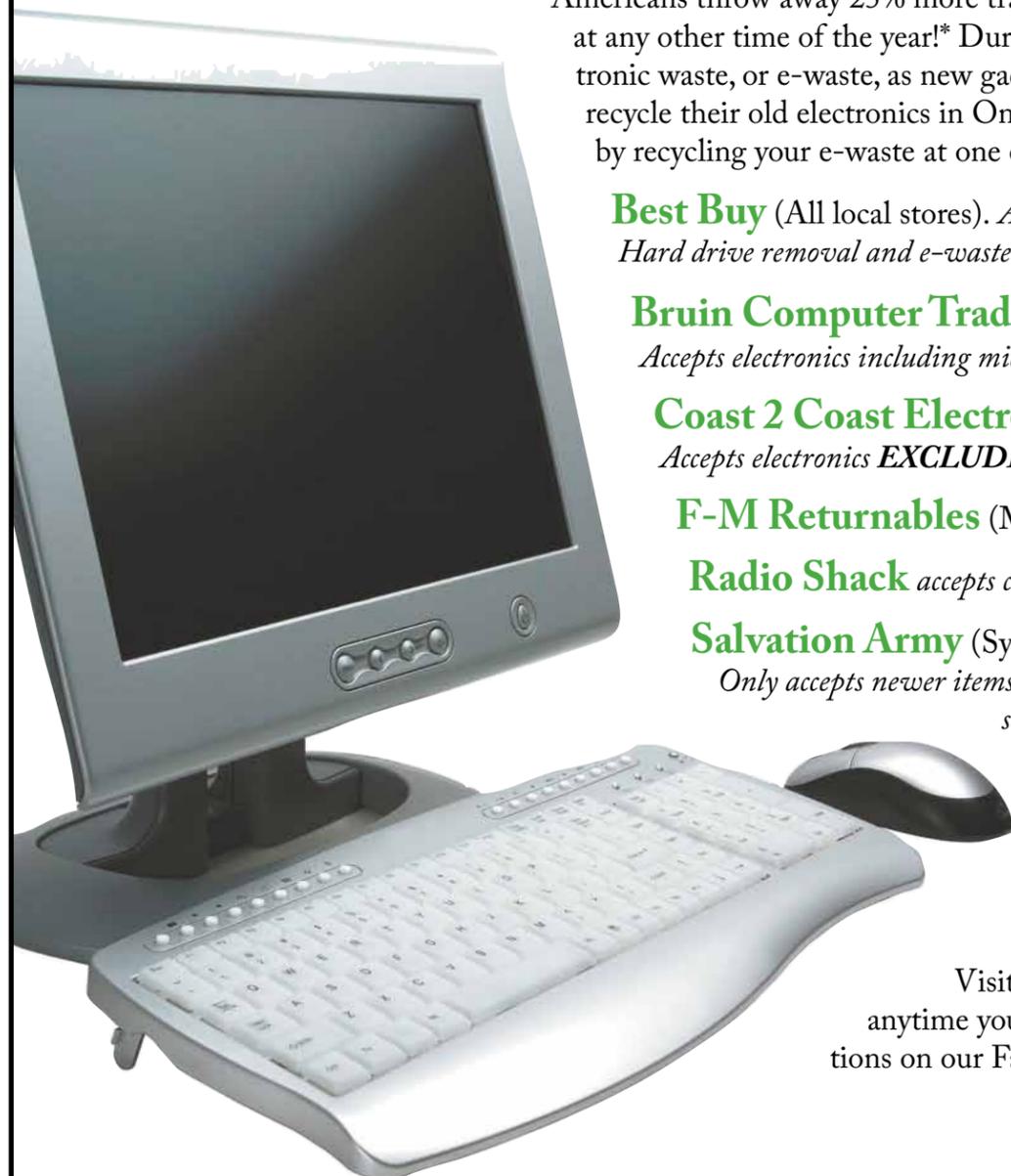
Salvation Army (Syracuse), 445-0520, ext. 320.
Only accepts newer items in working condition. No older computer monitors, only flat screen monitors are accepted. Call for more information.

Staples (Participating stores). *Restrictions apply. Call your local store for more information.*

Tech Reworks, Inc. (North Syracuse), 214-4444.
Accepts electronics including TVs for free.

Visit OCRRA.org to learn what items are considered e-waste or anytime you have a recycling or disposal question! You can also post questions on our Facebook page and we’ll get you the info you need.

**Bob Liliensfeld - The Use Less Stuff Report.*



Getting Rid of Household Toxics has Never Been Easier

Sign up online to drop off – appointments now available Monday-Friday year-round

Theresa Mandery, Recycling Specialist

OCRRA and Environmental Products and Services of Vermont have teamed up to bring Onondaga County residents YEAR-ROUND household hazardous waste drop-off services! That means you can get rid of household toxics in an earth-friendly manner, Monday – Friday, from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., all year long! Visit **OCRRA.org** to fill out an appointment request form to take advantage of this, at no cost to residents. If you do not have internet access, get an appointment by calling OCRRA at 453-2866. Before calling get a rough idea of what and how much you will be bringing in, as this information is required to make your appointment. Once you register, you will be entered into a quarterly raffle. See article on page 3 for details.

Not sure what household

products are considered hazardous? Here are some of the most common items:

- Automotive products, such as transmission or brake fluid, engine degreaser, anti-freeze, diesel fuel, gas cans and contaminated gasoline.
- Painting supplies, including OIL-BASED paints, stains, or finishes, paint thinner, turpentine, brush cleaner, paint stripper and wood preservatives.
- Garden supplies and pesticides.
- Cleaning supplies, such as oven cleaner, drain cleaner, lye, toilet bowl cleaner, floor and furniture polish, mothballs and products containing petroleum.*
- Miscellaneous products, such as fluorescent light bulbs, pool chemicals, lighter fluid, kerosene, driveway sealer, mercury thermometers and thermostats, nail polish re-

move, smoke detectors, loose asbestos that has been double bagged and any product labeled with toxic, flammable, poisonous or corrosive.

Please note that there is a limit to how much material you can bring in, a maximum of 20 gallons of liquids and 30 pounds of solids per visit. Protecting human health and the environment is easy if you know how. Visit **OCRRA.org** to make an appointment.

**Do you have unwanted/unopened household cleaning supplies hanging around? Instead of bringing them to OCRRA, consider donating them to your local food pantry, as many appreciate these sorts of donations. Contact them first to be sure they are seeking these supplies.*

Theresa Mandery can be reached at tmandery@ocrra.org.



Emerson Wade Hansen of Baldwinsville brings household toxics to OCRRA's year-round household hazardous waste drop-off. Rid your home of toxic items for free. Simply make an appointment at **OCRRA.org** (or call 453-2866) and help save the world a little each day!

Green Up Onondaga County

For a better, greener tomorrow...

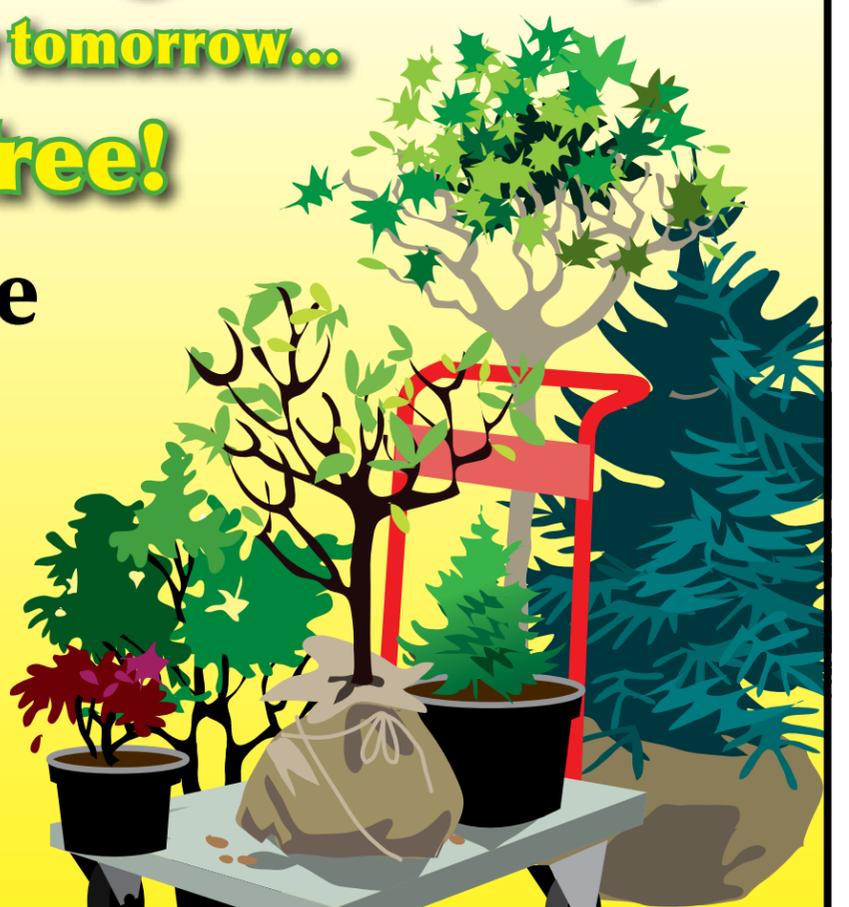
Plant a Tree!

Annual Tree & Shrub Sale

Bare-Root Stock

Featuring Noninvasive and Native Species

- ☀ Conifers
- ☀ Deciduous Trees & Shrubs
- ☀ Fruit Bushes
- ☀ Fruit Trees – Apple & Pear
- ☀ Conservation Pacs
- ☀ Bluebird & Bat Houses



Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Call us for an order form at 315-457-0325 or visit our website www.ocswcd.org

Potential Cortland-Onondaga Ash-for-Trash Partnership

Learn more online, tour Waste-to-Energy Facility, send us questions and give us your feedback

Amy Miller, Agency Engineer

In the last newsletter issue, OCRRA's Executive Director shared some information about the potential ash-for-trash partnership between OCRRA, Onondaga County and Cortland County. You can find the article here, in the Fall issue, page 7: tinyurl.com/OCRRANewsletter.

We know this is an important issue to the community and we encourage you to learn more about the concept. Please also review the frequently asked questions on this topic, which is a living document that we continue to expand (OCRRA.org/news/details/42). If you still have unanswered questions, please contact us via email, Facebook or phone (453-2866), so that we may respond, perhaps even in a future newsletter article!

In addition, if you are interested in learning more about the Onondaga County Waste-to-Energy

Facility in general, please visit tinyurl.com/ocrrawte to take a virtual tour, read the annual air emissions reports and learn more about the process of converting trash into electricity (enough to power 30,000 homes).

Last, but not least, if you are interested in visiting the Facility to get a first-hand look, please contact me. Hundreds of individuals tour the Facility annually and it is the best way to discover more about this crucial part of our community's resource recovery program.

In summary, OCRRA encourages you to learn more about the potential ash-for-trash partnership, send us your questions and consider a virtual or physical tour of the Onondaga County Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Amy Miller can be reached at amiller@OCRRA.org.



The proposed Onondaga-Cortland County inter-municipal agreement would improve trash management operations for both counties through an exchange of Onondaga County WTE Facility ash for Cortland County trash. Environmental, operational and financial benefits for both counties would accompany this partnership, making it a great example of regional collaboration. Learn more at OCRRA.org/news/details/42.

Earth Day: Come Out and Clean Up the County!

OCRRA celebrates Earth Day 2014 on Friday, April 11 & Saturday, April 12



Groups large and small, young and old can make a difference cleaning up on Earth Day. Tender Hearts Family Child Care, who collected litter in the Canterbury Woods development in Minoa, was one of hundreds of groups that participated in the 2013 Earth Day Litter Cleanup. Visit OCRRA.org and register your group for the 2014 event today!



Registration Deadline – Friday, April 4, 2014

Visit OCRRA.org for details and to register your cleanup group.

Make it Your New Year's Resolution to...
Go Green and Become Blue!



Tessy set up technician, Alvin Poweska, places scrap plastics leftover from the manufacturing process into a cardboard gaylord. This material is sent to Rochester Recycling where it is reprocessed and then reused.



Just like...

Tessy Plastics Corporation

In addition to their special plastics recycling, Tessy pairs their paper and bottle and can recycling bins directly next to trash cans (which makes the choice to recycle easy) and they also double-side their copies and recycle their ink and toner cartridges.

blueribbonrecycler.com

*Apply online today!
 Application fee waived through end of 2013.*

Banished from the Blue Bin

Tips on what should NOT go in your blue bin...



Strands of Christmas Lights:

Recycling Christmas lights is a great idea. Just remember, they cannot go in the blue bin as they cause equipment shutdowns at the sorting facility. *Recycle Christmas lights at Home Depot (through the end of December) or Lowe's (through January 4).*

Frozen Food Boxes:

Boxes designed for freezer foods, such as frozen pizza and TV dinners, have a plastic polymer sprayed on them to protect against freezer burn. That same coating prevents the box from being recyclable. *Place them in the trash.*



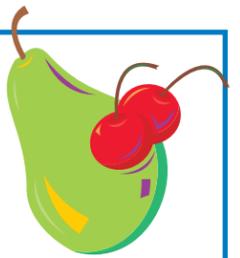
Plastic Bags:

Every bag that goes to the recycling facility causes a problem. Bags wind up like rope around the equipment and cause shutdowns. So, please no plastic bags in your blue bin. If you collect your recyclables in a plastic bag, be sure to empty it into the blue bin. Do not leave the bag in the blue bin. *Clean plastic bags can be returned to retail and grocery stores for recycling.*

If you have any questions about what should or should not go in your blue bin, please visit OCRRA's Facebook page, our website OCRRA.org, or call OCRRA at (315) 453-2866.

Food Scrap Composting Word Search

Find the items below that are collected by local businesses (like Pastabilities) and recycled into compost at OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site (see article on page 2).



Coffee Grounds

Dough

Fish

Fruits

Meat

Napkins

Paper Towels

Straw Wrappers

Waxed Paper

Vegetables



C	D	N	A	P	K	I	N	S	Z	L	Y	S
O	N	M	P	Q	W	Y	Y	F	O	V	R	P
F	N	E	D	I	I	X	Q	M	T	E	J	A
F	T	A	D	O	U	G	H	V	P	G	R	P
E	I	T	N	J	M	F	D	P	W	E	E	E
E	E	S	S	J	I	X	A	T	O	T	P	R
G	O	I	W	S	C	R	W	Q	Z	A	A	T
R	B	G	H	O	W	F	E	R	S	B	P	O
O	B	W	N	W	R	E	N	D	I	L	D	W
U	P	V	A	U	W	W	A	E	C	E	E	E
N	H	R	I	H	P	U	U	T	F	S	X	L
D	T	T	I	M	D	D	X	B	I	G	A	S
S	S	W	E	E	N	L	M	T	T	Z	W	V

Answer key can be found on page 2.

Facebook Question of the Quarter



BATTERIES...

Norm Pyzynski of Syracuse asks:

Q: I have a cell phone battery and 2 ni-cd cordless phone batteries, do I put them in the yellow bag with the other batteries? Thanks.

A: Due to NYS DOT regulation changes, OCRRA is only allowed to take ALKALINE batteries in the yellow bags that are collected by your hauler in July.

However, you can return the types of batteries that you mentioned (rechargeables), year-round (no yellow bag needed) to any of the Wegmans locations in Onondaga County, where OCRRA has battery collection bins.

There are instructions on the bin telling you which opening you should drop those rechargeable batteries in (there are three openings in the bins, one for alkalines, one for rechargeables, and one for button batteries).

Follow OCRRA on Facebook and ask us all your recycling and disposal questions!



Mark Your Calendar

Search our disposal database



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

Year-round by appointment at Environmental Products and Services. Mon.-Fri., 6:30 am – 6:00 pm Register at OCRRA.org.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Year-round at various local businesses. **FREE** See page 4 for details.

BATTERY RECYCLING

Year-round at OCRRA Drop Boxes located at Wegmans. See "Facebook" article above for details.