



**PLASTIC FLOWER POTS ..... PG 3**

Rhoda takes the mystery out of gardening plastics.



**COMPOST PROGRAM.....PG 4**

Learn about the 2018 compost program changes.



**IMPROVE YOUR LAWN .....PG 4**

Top dressing your lawn with compost can beautify it and reduce weeds.



**TRANSFER STATIONS .....PG 6**

Find out what you can get rid of at OCRRA's two trash drop-off sites.



**NATIONAL SWORD ... PG 7**

What does China's import ban mean for Onondaga County recycling?

## Protect Your Identity at June 2 Shredding Event

*OCRRA, Assemblyman Magnarelli, Confidata, Shred Solvers and Simple Shred offer free shredding service to county residents at NYS Fair Brown Parking Lot*

*Theresa Evans, Recycling Specialist*

Extend your spring cleaning list to include your confidential papers and help combat identity theft. Personal records containing account numbers such as bank statements, tax forms, medical records, etc., can be harmful if they get in the wrong hands. That is why OCRRA, Assembly-

- Remove non-paper contaminants before arrival (plastic – bags, binders, folders; spiral notebooks; laminated items; electronic media including computer disks, CDs, etc.). **Staples, paperclips and tape are fine.**
- Pack confidential documents loosely in easy to lift, **medium-size cardboard boxes** (measuring roughly 10" x 12" x 15") to keep attendees and staff safe from lifting injuries. There is a **five box limit per vehicle. Items in plastic bags will not be accepted** as they slow down the shredding process.
- Unlock doors and trunks so that staff may quickly and easily access your documents.
- Stay in your vehicle.

*It takes place Saturday, June 2 from 8 am to noon at the Brown Lot of the NYS Fairgrounds.*

man William Magnarelli, Confidata, Shred Solvers and Simple Shred are hosting a Shred-o-Rama event.

It takes place on Saturday, June 2 from 8 am to noon at the Brown Lot of the NYS Fairgrounds (enter from State Fair Boulevard across from Gates 3 and 4). No advance reservations are required and the event is free to **households** in Onondaga County. To reduce wait times, attendees are asked to:

- **Bring CONFIDENTIAL items ONLY;** the following items will not be accepted: phone books, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, receipts, hanging file folders, binders, photos and photo albums, trash, electronics and hazardous waste.

Business materials will not be accepted. If your workplace needs shredding services, visit **OCRRA.org** for details. Since OCRRA started hosting Shred-o-Rama in 2004, our community has recycled over one million pounds of confidential paper.

Clean your home, protect your identity and help the planet in one fell swoop by attending Shred-o-Rama on June 2.

*Theresa Evans can be reached at [tevans@ocrra.org](mailto:tevans@ocrra.org).*



Photo Credit: Klineberg Photography, Syracuse, 2017

Lonzo Passage of Confidata empties confidential documents into a toter bound for on-site shredding at the 2017 Shred-o-Rama. Shred your personal documents at the 2018 event happening on June 2 from 8 am – 12 noon at the Brown Lot of the NYS Fairgrounds. No appointment is necessary to attend this free event sponsored by OCRRA, Assemblyman Magnarelli, Confidata, Shred Solvers and Simple Shred.

### What is a Confidential Document?



Photo Credit: iStock.com

Confidential documents contain account numbers. Below are examples of confidential documents that will be accepted at Shred-o-Rama:

- medical documents
- bank information
- credit card statements
- tax forms
- other records containing account numbers

Items containing only your name and mailing address are NOT confidential. Below are examples of NON-confidential documents. These items will NOT be accepted at Shred-o-Rama:

- phonebooks
- magazines
- newspapers
- junk mail
- receipts
- hanging file folders
- binders
- photos
- photo albums



# Earth Day is Almost Here – Form a Litter Cleanup Team & Make a Difference

Andrew Radin, Recycling Director

OCRRA invites businesses, residents, schools, youth groups, religious organizations and others to join one of the largest Earth Day clean up events in the country, scheduled for Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21. Groups can pick either day (or both days) to make Onondaga County a greener, cleaner place to live.

Each spring, over 5,000 volunteers hit local streets, parks, nature areas and other locations for a short time to remove the litter revealed by melting snow.

OCRRA Recycling Specialist Dale Cocca says, “Since this program began 24 years ago, over 2.5 million pounds of litter have been collected thanks to all the terrific volunteers that

turn out. OCRRA’s Earth Day event offers the opportunity for anyone to become part of a team that shows community pride by cleaning up unsightly litter.”

Cocca says that last year’s Earth Day event attracted 290 groups comprised of 6,800 people that collected more than 73,000 pounds of litter.

“This year,” says Cocca, “we are especially urging businesses to encourage their employees to become part of this yearly affair.”

Companies large and small can make a significant environmental contribution while beautifying the area near their place of work.

Participating is free and simple. Sign up online at [www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org) or call



Photo Credit: Klineberg Photography, Syracuse, 2017

Volunteers from Advocates’ M&M Group display bags of litter they collected during the 2017 Earth Day Litter Cleanup at Clay Central Park on Wetzel Road. Help beautify our community and register for the 2018 event, online, by April 13. Visit [www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org) for details.

OCRRA at (315) 453-2866 by April 13. Each group picks their own clean-up spot. OCRRA supplies groups with trash stickers that are affixed to trash bags. The groups are advised where to drop off their Earth Day trash bags.

The litter is then transported to OCRRA for measurement and free disposal.

OCRRA’s Earth Day Litter Cleanup is a chance for everyone to take pride in our community and be part of Earth Day 2018. Please register your business,

neighborhood group or school today! And, thanks for helping to make Onondaga County a healthier, more sustainable place to live and work.

Andrew Radin can be reached at [aradin@ocrra.org](mailto:aradin@ocrra.org).



## Litter Cleanup Registration Form



Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Volunteers: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person (one name only): \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Contact (where information/stickers are to be sent):

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Day(s) Your Group Will Be Cleaning:

- Friday, April 20     Saturday, April 21     Both

You will receive two trash bag stickers per worker. Please indicate if you will need more.

Number of ADDITIONAL Stickers \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, **NO** chemical waste, paint cans, furniture, appliances, yard waste or gas tanks are acceptable. OCRRA encourages groups to recycle any bottles and cans they find.

**Municipality** (city/town/village) where you are cleaning. This info is used to provide instructions on litter drop off.

\_\_\_\_\_

**What area are you cleaning?** (You may choose any public space in the county. Be as specific as possible to avoid cleanup overlap. Include cross streets.)

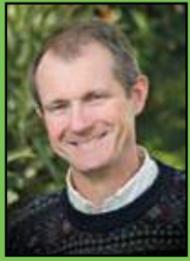
\_\_\_\_\_

Cleanup supplies are your group’s responsibility. OCRRA provides the stickers for free disposal through your municipality. Any questions, please call OCRRA at (315) 453-2866.

**Register Online at OCRRA.org**  
 OR RETURN REGISTRATION VIA FAX (315) 453-2872  
 OR MAIL TO: OCRRA  
 100 Elwood Davis Road  
 North Syracuse, NY 13212

**PLASTIC BAGS:**  
 Cannot go in the blue bin – recycle them at big box stores or supermarkets.

Spring 2018  
 Volume 27 • No. 1  
 This quarterly publication is brought to you by  
**OCRRA**  
 100 Elwood Davis Road  
 North Syracuse, NY  
 13212-4312  
 KRISTEN LAWTON  
 Public Information Officer  
 and Editor  
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 OCRRA’s waste reduction, reuse and recycling program efforts (including this newsletter) are partially financed by a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.



## The Garden GURU

Terry Ettinger  
Instructional Support Specialist, SUNY - ESF

### "Cooking" Compost Requires Only Three Steps

As the last of the snow melts each spring, our compost pile can be mistaken for a dumpster behind a restaurant as it's covered with kitchen scraps that have been frozen in place all winter. If your compost pile looks similar to ours, what can you do to get it "cooking" as fast as possible, now that winter has finally lost its grip on Central New York?

First, if you can, dig into the center of the pile once it has thawed (some years that doesn't happen until mid- to late April). Second, cover the scraps with shovelfuls of this well-aged compost. There is no need to completely turn the pile, nor purchase and apply a "compost starter."

If you can't access the center of the pile, simply spread several shovelfuls of soil from your garden or out-of-the-way corner of your yard over the pile. The microorganisms in the soil in your yard/garden are more than up to the task of decomposing whatever you add to your pile!

Holes dug into the center of the pile will allow oxygen to penetrate throughout the pile, enhancing microorganism activity. This can be especially helpful decomposing tree leaves and other materials added to the pile after cool weather arrived last fall.

Finally, give your compost pile a good long drink of water, especially if it's somewhat protected by



Many pails of kitchen scraps were frozen in place on the top of our compost pile through this past winter. Fortunately, they will quickly break down after I cover them with aged compost and add some water.

overhanging trees. If your pile is too dry, the activity of microorganisms slows dramatically and much of the population may die.

Ideally, you should be able to squeeze a drop or two of water from a handful of material you pull from the

center of your pile. To reach this moisture level, you'll need to add thirty or forty gallons of water to a nearly full compost pile that is four feet wide, tall and deep!

These simple steps will quickly get your compost pile working at peak effi-

ciency as the weather warms through the coming spring months.

Terry Ettinger can be reached at [tlettinger@esf.edu](mailto:tlettinger@esf.edu).



## Recycling Rhoda

Talks Trash - and Recycling!

### The 411 on plastic pots

Dear Rhoda,

As an avid gardener who likes to reuse, I seem to have amassed a gigantic clutter of plastic pots. Initially, I saved them because I planned to reuse them, but I have far more than I can ever use. All of those plastic pots are starting to really add up, and I fear that I'm reaching hoarder status... Can I throw them in my blue bin? Please help me sort out this plastic pot dilemma!

Garden Gal in Geddes

Dear Garden Gal,

It's hard to resist the call of beautiful flowers or delicious tomatoes, so a vast collection

of plastic plant pots is definitely understandable and not crazy. Not at all. You're totally normal, for sure.

I said "not" crazy, right?

Regarding your quandary, let's dig a little deeper, what are planting containers made out of anyway? Well, it turns out a variety of different materials, including high-density polyethylene (also known as HDPE or #2), polypropylene (PP or #5), or polystyrene (PS or #6). Most of us normal folks (see, again with the *not* crazy), do not have a degree in chemistry, nor the ability to read the tiny little symbols on the

bottom of the pots to figure out what's what. But, it's okay! You don't need to read the number because none of those pots are blue bin eligible (**only #2 plastic BOTTLES and #5 plastic dairy tubs are recyclable in Onondaga County**). So, can you throw flower pots and plastic planters in your blue bin, Garden Gal? As a rule of "green thumb," no. **Absolutely not.**

If you can't recycle these bad boys, what can you do instead? Well, you hit the garden gnome square on his head with your reuse idea. When you get your new plants home, save the

plastic pots for future transport of new seedlings from the garden center to your house, or from one part of your yard to another as the plants grow. Consider new purposes for them within the home such as a handy place to stash trinkets, home office supplies, or loose change – or even paint them funky colors and use them as décor!

To get rid of them entirely, ask at your local greenhouse/plant nursery or farmers market if they can use them. They may take them in for reuse. **Lowe's offers a recycling program for plastic pots,**

**plant trays and tags.** Consumers can return these items to Lowe's regardless of condition or where they purchased them.

It might surprise you to learn that other gardeners do not stockpile plastic pots and they would be happy to snag some for their own seedlings and garden projects!

As a last resort, or if these items are broken and unusable, they can go in the trash. Here's to fighting the good fight against hoarder status, while continuing to reuse functional items.

Rhoda

**FACT:** Only #1 and #2 plastic BOTTLES and #5 dairy tubs can be recycled in the blue bin. All other plastics go in the trash.

# OCRRA Announces Changes to 2018 Compost Program and Site Hours

*New “trunk load” option available for mulch and compost pick up; no pass needed with this option*

Andrew Radin, Recycling Director

Thousands of local residents and landscapers rely on OCRRA’s mulch and STA-certified\* compost to create attention-getting landscapes and grow amazing vegetables. OCRRA is committed to producing these high-quality materials in a cost-effective manner. This is critical as OCRRA is a self-funded, not-for-profit public benefit corporation that receives no direct tax support. In 2018, a few changes are coming to this award-winning environmental program, making it easier than ever to use OCRRA’s mulch and compost.

### Simplified Pass System

There is **only one Compost Site Pass** available in 2018. It costs \$25 and allows residents to drop off unlimited quantities of food and yard waste. It also gives pass holders two bags of premium compost.

For your convenience, OCRRA’s bagged compost is also available at 30+ local retailers. See page 5 for a list of locations. To avoid waiting in line to buy a Compost Pass at the Compost Sites, pre-order your pass:

- online at [www.OCRRA.org/shop](http://www.OCRRA.org/shop), or

- through the mail. Send a completed “Compost Pass Order Authorization Form” (available at [www.tinyurl.com/compostpass](http://www.tinyurl.com/compostpass)) along with a \$25 check made out to OCRRA to: 100 Elwood Davis Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212

The drop off pass is for residential users only, and is not available to commercial customers.

### Bulk Purchasing

**Larger volumes of compost or mulch** may be purchased:

**1) by the trunk load:** If you are looking for **less than a cubic yard of mulch or compost** and have a car, minivan or SUV, you may **self-load with the new trunk load option**. No Site Pass is needed; a pass is only needed if you are looking to drop off material at the Amboy or Jamesville Compost Site.

**2) in bulk by the yard:** Mulch and compost can be purchased at reduced prices; **OCRRA will load your truck or trailer for you**. There is no self-loading and no Site Pass is needed. A pass is only needed if you are look-

ing to drop off material at either Site. Need a hauler to deliver your mulch and compost by the yard? Please visit: [www.tinyurl.com/haul4u](http://www.tinyurl.com/haul4u).



Photo Credit: Klineberg Photography, Syracuse, 2017

The Compost Program is undergoing some changes in 2018. A simplified pass system, a trunk load option, a reduction in bulk pricing and a change in hours at the Jamesville Site are just a few of the ways OCRRA is working to improve and sustain our award-winning program.

ing to drop off material at either Site.

Need a hauler to deliver your mulch and compost by the yard? Please visit: [www.tinyurl.com/haul4u](http://www.tinyurl.com/haul4u).

### New Site Hours

The **Jamesville Site**, located at 4370 Route 91 in Jamesville, will be open to residents three days a week **Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays**, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm, from Apr. 5 – Nov. 30, 2018.

This allows us to better align our employee

resources with the times that the vast majority of customers visit our site.

The **Amboy Site**, located at 6296 Airport Road, Camillus, continues to be open year-round:

**Spring/Summer Hours** (Apr. 1 – Nov. 30):  
M – Sa, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm.

**Winter Hours** (Dec. 1 – Mar. 31): M. – F.,  
7:30 am – 4:00 pm.

OCRRA encourages you to visit our award-winning Compost Sites and help “save the world a little each

day” while creating beautiful landscapes.

*\*STA or Seal of Testing Assurance is a certification bestowed upon organizations that rigorously test their compost products. It is given by the US Composting Council, a national organization devoted to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry.*

Andrew Radin can be reached at [aradin@ocrra.org](mailto:aradin@ocrra.org).



## How Do I Get Rid of...?

Check out OCRRA’s online directory

Whether you are on a mobile device or a computer, this handy tool helps clarify blue bin rules, offers info on how to recycle items outside of the blue bin and defines what items must be thrown out.

Visit [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) and look for the search magnifying glass at the top of your mobile screen, or enter your search item in the “What are you looking for?” box at the center of your desktop screen. If you cannot find what you are looking for, ask us on Facebook or call us at (315) 453-2866.



## How to Get Compost and Mulch

### 1) Fill Your Trunk

Car, van & SUV owners can hand load their trunks.

- Compost = \$10 / visit (1/2” compost only)
- Mulch = \$5 / visit (double ground)

### 2) Buy it in Bulk

Bring your truck or trailer to either of our Compost Sites and we’ll load it for you by the cubic yard; or contact a hauler who will deliver it for you. For a list of haulers, visit: [www.tinyurl.com/haul4u](http://www.tinyurl.com/haul4u)

- 1/2” compost = \$15 cu. yd.
- 1/4” compost = \$20 cu. yd.
- 2” double ground mulch = \$12.50 cu. yd.



### 3) Buy it in Bags

OCRRA Compost is available at over 30+ retail locations (1/4” only). Each store sets its own price point. Check out page 5 for a list of retailers.



**FACT:** The Jamesville Compost Site is now open 3 days a week (Thurs. – Sat.), April 5 – Nov 30 from 7:30 am – 4:00 pm.

# How “Recyclables” Can Improve Your Lawn this Spring

Dale Cocca, Recycling Specialist

What do recyclables have to do with your lawn? Well, the items that go in your blue bin are not the only kinds of recyclable materials. Food scraps and yard waste can also be recycled (but not in your blue bin!) in the form of compost.

Compost is widely known for improving vegetable or flower gardens, but grass craves healthy soil too. Compost is introduced to lawns by scattering a thin layer on top of grass in a practice known as “top dressing.”

With growing interest in safe and natural lawn care practices, top dressing is gaining popularity, and not just for its sustainability. Top dressing with compost produces results. Onondaga County based Custom Lawn-Scapes recently started offering compost top dressing for lawns and has seen great success.

quick; there’s rapid ‘green up,’” said Custom Lawn-Scapes owner Paul Fried. “Multiple top dressings over the course of a few seasons have also improved turf density, root depth and in some cases produced less weed growth.”

Homeowners who are worried that compost contains weed seeds may find the idea of “less weed growth” counter intuitive. But, compost does not always contain weed seeds. In fact, good compost is free of weed seeds. How do you know you have good compost?

Look for the U.S. Composting Council’s Seal of Testing Assurance. A requirement to earn this Seal includes reaching minimum sustained temperatures of 131°F during production, killing off pathogens and weed seeds alike, making the compost weed seed free and safe



Photo Credit: Custom Lawn Scapes, Syracuse, 2017

Top dress your lawn with OCRRA compost for improved health, growth and aesthetics. Do it yourself or hire a professional. This natural lawn care practice reduces weed growth by promoting robust, healthy lawns.

for gardens and lawns. All OCRRA compost carries the USCC’s Seal of Testing Assurance badge.

And, if these kinds of results are not enough to pique your curiosity about top dressing with compost, then perhaps a reduced water bill may interest you!

“Compost top dressing has certainly stretched out irrigation cycles,” said Fried. “Compost’s high organic content acts like a sponge, retaining water in dry spells and preventing it from run-

ning off during heavy rains. This means less watering, or even no watering.”

So, as spring alights upon us, consider “greening up” your grass and improving your lawn’s overall health with a local product made from recycled food and yard waste, and help “save the world a little each day.” See the list below, left, to learn how to get your hands on some of OCRRA’s nutrient-rich compost.

Dale Cocca can be reached at [dcocca@ocrra.org](mailto:dcocca@ocrra.org).

## OCRRA Bagged Compost

Buy it here:

### North Area

- Ballantyne Gardens – Liverpool
- CountryMax – Baldwinsville
- CountryMax – Cicero
- Deaton’s Agway – Pulaski
- Green Acres Lawn & Garden Center – Liverpool
- Lan’s Flower Farm – Clay
- Oliver B. Paine Greenhouses Fulton
- T.J.’s Lawn Plus – Phoenix
- Village Ace Hardware Baldwinsville

### South Area

- Carol Watson’s Greenhouse LaFayette
- CountryMax – Cortland
- CountryMax – Norwich
- Green Hills Farms – Nedrow
- Lee’s Feed Store – Syracuse
- Neil Casey’s Farm Market – Tully
- Valley View Gardens – Cortland
- Watson Farms Landscaping & Garden Center – LaFayette

### East Area

- Aspinall’s – Chittenango
- CountryMax – DeWitt
- EverGreen Landscaping and Garden Center – Syracuse
- GreenScapes – Jamesville
- Manlius True Value Hardware Manlius
- Syracuse Real Food Co-op Syracuse
- Village Ace Hardware Fayetteville
- Vollmer Farms – East Syracuse
- Wagner Farms – Rome
- Zerrillo Gardens – Kirkville

### West Area

- Maldonado Gardens – Elbridge
- Silver Springs Farm Market Onondaga Hill
- Town Square Ace Hardware Skaneateles
- Westvale Gardens – Syracuse



Each retailer sets their own price. Call ahead for details.

## Metal Momentum

When we think of blue bin materials there’s paper and plastic bottles, but let’s not forget about metal.

In Onondaga County, metal food cans (coffee, soup, tuna fish and even pet food cans) go in the recycling bin. Give your metal cans a quick rinse and toss the lid AND can in the bin.

Metal cans are recycled into many products, including new cans, bicycle frames, pipes and train tracks. According to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, for every can you recycle, you save enough energy to run a 60 watt light bulb for 26 hours.

Make sure your metal cans find their way into the blue bin. Have questions about what else is recyclable? Search OCRRA’s recycling list at [tinyurl.com/OCRRAlist](http://tinyurl.com/OCRRAlist).



Photo Credit: iStock.com

## RECYCLE



**Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs and Softcover Books**  
Keep loose, don’t tie.



**Papers, Mail, Envelopes**



**Cardboard, Pizza, Pasta and Cereal Boxes**  
Flatten.



**#1 and #2 Plastic BOTTLES**  
Empty and rinse.



**Cans and Jars**  
Empty and rinse out, labels are okay.



**#5 Plastic Tubs**  
Empty and rinse, no lids.

Save the world a little each day.



Want to know about an item that is not listed? Search our recycling list at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org).

**FACT:** Cardboard: Flatten and cut it down into 3’x3’ pieces for easy recycling. It can go in, under or next to your blue bin.

# “Wasted! The Story of Food Waste”

*Anthony Bourdain documentary debuts in CNY in April*

*Dale Cocca, Recycling Specialist*

The single largest component of Onondaga County’s trash is food waste, and that is true for most areas of the country with recycling programs. It does not have to be that way.

Take a behind-the-scenes look at waste in the food industry at one of two free public screenings of Anthony Bourdain’s new documentary, “Wasted! The Story of Food Waste.”

During the follow up question and answer session, learn about the challenges and benefits of food

scrap diversion from local businesses in the know.

Explore how you can be part of the organics recovery revolution.

### SCREENING 1

*Hosted by Syracuse University and OCRRA*

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 4, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**WHERE:** Syracuse University’s Watson Theater, park at Booth Garage (there will be a small parking fee).

Light refreshments and finger foods at 6:00 pm, film

at 6:30 pm, Q&A discussion at 8:00 pm.

This event is zero-waste so please bring eating wares and drinking vessels.

### SCREENING 2

*Hosted by Friends of the Cicero NOPL and OCRRA.*

**WHEN:** Monday, April 9, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**WHERE:** NOPL Cicero, 8686 Knowledge Lane, Cicero.

Food and drink at 5:30 pm, film at 6:00 pm, Q&A discussion at 7:30 pm.



Photo Credit: Super Ltd., 2017

Please let us know you are coming. RSVP via OCRRA’s Facebook event at [www.tinyurl.com/WastedFilm](http://www.tinyurl.com/WastedFilm)

*Please note, this film has some language that may not be suitable for all audiences.*

Dale Cocca can be reached at [dcocca@ocrra.org](mailto:dcocca@ocrra.org).

## OCRRA Trash Drop-Off Sites: Acceptable Material

### ACCEPTABLE WASTE (C&D)

- Bricks, concrete and masonry (No larger than 3’ x 3’ x 4’.)
- Electrical wiring
- Glass
- Metal (Small quantities.)
- Non-asbestos insulation
- Paint cans (Must be empty and dry. Lids must be off.)
- Plumbing fixtures
- Roofing shingles
- Siding
- Wall covering, drywall, plaster, etc.
- Wood, untreated (No longer than 4 feet.)

### ACCEPTABLE WASTE (Trash)

- Carpeting
- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Metal (No large machinery.)
- Microwaves (\$15 surcharge applies.)
- Tires (\$7 each. No rims. Limit 10 tires. No tires over 20 inches. No off-road or tractor tires.)
- White goods (\$15 surcharge for items containing refrigerants.)
- Wood, treated (No longer than 4 feet.)

The acceptable materials listed here can be received at either of our Trash Drop-Off Sites. This list is not all-inclusive. Contact us with questions at (315) 453-2866.

### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Asbestos-contaminated material, including transite
- Electronic waste including computers and televisions
- Explosives
- Liquid wastes
- Medical waste including sharps, syringes and adult diapers used after radioactive isotope treatments
- Propane tanks and compressed gas cylinders
- Radioactive materials including smoke detectors
- Yardwaste

## OCRRA Drop-Off Site: HOURS

### ROCK CUT ROAD

5808 ROCK CUT ROAD, JAMESVILLE, 13078

- RESIDENTIAL USERS:  
Tuesday – Saturday: 7:00 am to 2:30 pm

### LEY CREEK

5158 LEY CREEK DRIVE, LIVERPOOL, 13088

- RESIDENTIAL USERS:  
Second and fourth Saturday of each month: 8:00 am to 12 pm
- COMMERCIAL AND PERMITTED USERS:  
Monday – Friday: 7:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Second and fourth Saturday of each month: 8:00 am to 12 pm

*Both sites are closed on New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.*

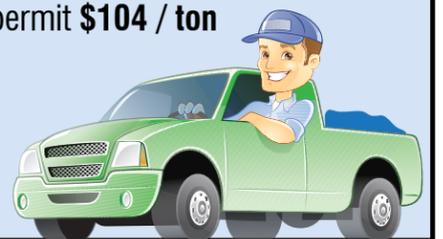
## OCRRA Drop-Off Site: FEES

### FLAT RATE FEES (both sites):

- Cars, mini-vans, sport utility vehicles (SUVs) \$15
- Pickup trucks, vans, single-axle trailers \$30  
(Loads may be assessed an additional fee, depending on vehicle modifications or load size)

### SCALE FEES (Ley Creek only):

- Trash (MSW) per ton –  
For business users with an OCRRA permit \$89 / ton
- Trash (MSW) per ton –  
For users without an OCRRA permit \$104 / ton
- Construction debris \$50 / ton
- Roofing material \$41 / ton
- Clean wood \$39 / ton
- Minimum scale charge \$30





## From the Executive Director's Desk...

### Recycling is Mightier than the Sword

*Quality reigns king in wake of China's National Sword Campaign*

DERETH GLANCE, Executive Director, OCRRA

Onondaga County residents are excellent recyclers. The 37,000 tons of paper, metal cans, cardboard, glass bottles and plastic items that Onondaga County families sort on an annual basis are of tremendous quality. As a result, we can also boast having one of the lowest blue bin contamination rates in the nation. Local residents know that if they are in doubt about whether something is recyclable, they should simply throw it out, not put it in the blue bin and potentially contaminate the recycling stream.

In Onondaga County, curbside recyclables are sorted at Waste Management's Recycle America Material Recovery Facility in Liverpool. The Recycle America staff, aided by assembly line separation technology, effectively sort our blue bin materials and market them to domestic and global markets.

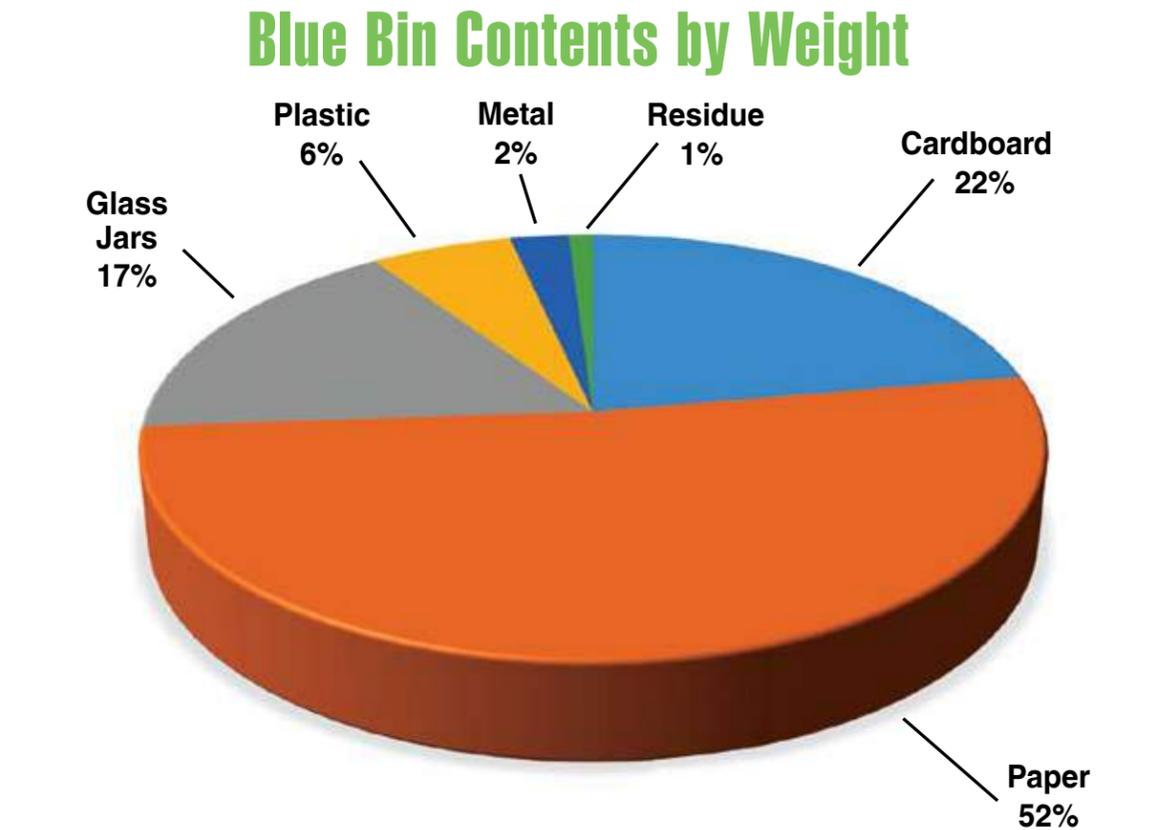
Much of Onondaga County's recyclables have domestic buyers. For example, it is very likely that the box from your latest Amazon shipment, upon being collected at the curb, is sent to WestRock Paper Mill in Solway, NY to be recycled into a new box for your next purchase. It is important to note that even with

domestic outlets, the prices for recyclable commodities or secondary materials are influenced by global pricing trends.

**Recycling markets are volatile.** They are influenced by many factors on a global scale. China was the largest market for paper for years. Recently, the Chinese government announced the National Sword Campaign in an attempt to reduce the amount of contaminated materials accompanying the recycling streams it was importing, including paper. China's action has taken the wind out of the sails of the paper market. Some communities with poorer quality recycling are struggling to sell materials in the face of current lower market demand. What about Onondaga County? We still enjoy market outlets thanks to the high quality of Onondaga County's recycling streams, just at a lower value until pricing stabilizes.

**What does this mean?** OCRRA and Recycle America have a contractual partnership where both entities share the bounty when the recycling markets are strong, and both share the economic pain when the secondary material markets tank.

This contractual arrange-



Onondaga County residents do a lot of recycling and they consistently recycle the right things. The largest component of our blue bins by weight is paper, followed by cardboard, glass, plastic, metal and lastly by residue. Residue are the contaminants that get in the bin, but are really trash (think plastic bags, hoses, cords, plastic clam shell containers, etc.) Onondaga County has one of the lowest residue/contamination rates of any community in the U.S., which helps insulate us from China's National Sword Campaign.

ment also consistently provides a zero dollar (\$0.00) tip fee for household recyclables. This means that your hauler is incentivized to collect recyclables because it doesn't cost them anything to **dispose** of the recyclables, whereas trash does. (Please note: there is most certainly a cost to **collecting** recyclables as your hauler must have the proper staff and equipment to do the actual collection).

Paper comprises over 50% of the recyclable materials

in Onondaga County by weight. When paper prices drop, the costs skyrocket for OCRRA and our partners.

**Weathering the storm.** Recycling paper, metal, plastic and other blue bin items is critical to society regardless of the state of the market. Sustaining our local solid waste infrastructure is predicated on OCRRA's ability to ride the rough seas of the secondary material market, which is bolstered by tip fees from the Waste-to-Energy Facility

and electricity revenues.

The quantity and quality of blue bin materials matter in bull and bear recycling markets and Onondaga County residents are fervent recyclers. So, please keep recycling, and if you have questions about what does and doesn't belong in your blue bin, inquire on our Facebook page or check out our searchable recycling list at **OCRRA.org**.

Dereth Glance can be reached at [dglance@ocrra.org](mailto:dglance@ocrra.org).



**Go Green —  
Become Blue...**



Photo Credit: Northwestern Mutual, Syracuse, 2017

Northwestern Mutual Marketing Coordinator (and Recycling Champion) Charlotte Scrantom, receives the Blue Ribbon Recycler Certificate from OCRRA Recycling Specialist Dale Cocca.

Northwestern Mutual has developed a culture of recycling thanks to Scrantom and Sarah MacCallum. Both recycling champions have taken lead roles to ensure the company properly manages a variety of materials including batteries, old electronics, toner and ink cartridges, as well as paper and cardboard. Communication with their office team has been a critical component in the success of the Northwestern Mutual Syracuse office's program.

**Become a Blue Ribbon Recycler next quarter!**

Apply for certification at: [www.tinyurl.com/BRrecycler](http://www.tinyurl.com/BRrecycler)

# Thank You to Partnering Hardware Stores that Collect Fluorescents

Dale Cocca, Recycling Specialist

The world is full of under praised people who go beyond what is required of them because they believe in doing the right thing. Among these people are the staff and owners of 14 local hardware stores that have partnered in OCRRA's residential fluorescent bulb recycling program over the last 10 years.

Fluorescent light bulbs contain mercury vapor – a known neurotoxin. To keep mercury out of the air we breathe, old fluorescent bulbs should be specially processed (including the corkscrew shaped CFLs). Incandescent bulbs and LED lights do not contain mercury vapor, and can be disposed of in the trash.

Residents are encouraged to recycle their fluorescent bulbs. This prevents the release of mercury into the environment and allows for the reuse of glass, metal and other materials that make up fluorescent bulbs.

To assist households, OCRRA created a residential fluorescent bulb take-back program. Partnering hardware stores accept CFLs, 4-foot, U-shaped and circular fluorescent bulbs on behalf of OCRRA, at no charge.

This program relies on partnering hardware stores to be open and available for convenient drop off. These stores voluntarily handle and ship off the spent bulbs that the community returns to them.

So, when it is time to swap out your old bulbs for new ones, make sure to thank them for the service they are doing for our community, too.

For questions on maximum quantities accepted and business hours, call the most convenient store to you. See the list to the right for contact details.

Dale Cocca can be reached at [dcocca@ocrra.org](mailto:dcocca@ocrra.org).



Photo Credit: iStock.com

Compact fluorescent lamps, 4-foot, U-shaped and circular fluorescent bulbs from households can be recycled at area hardware stores through OCRRA's drop off program. Find a location near you and when you are dropping your old bulbs off (free of charge), consider shopping local to help the environment AND the local economy.

**City of Syracuse:**

- Bob's True Value  
4805 S. Salina St.  
Syracuse  
(315) 469-4065
  - City Hardware  
214 S. Geddes St.  
Syracuse  
(315) 479-9020
  - Valu Home Center  
123 Teall Ave., Syracuse  
(315) 414-0186
  - Valu Home Center  
4671 Onondaga Blvd.  
Syracuse  
(315) 471-1280
- East Area:**
- Manlius True Value  
8225 Cazenovia Rd.  
Manlius  
(315) 682-6531

- Village ACE Fayetteville  
204 S. Manlius St.  
Fayetteville  
(315) 637-7696

**South Area:**

- Nightingale True Value  
Tully Lakes  
6 Elm St., Tully  
(315) 238-7050
- Tully Building Supply  
24 Onondaga St., Tully  
(315) 696-8984

**West Area:**

- Calley's Hardware  
15 North St., Marcellus  
(315) 673-2121
- Nightingale Mills  
True Value  
4068 South St. Marcellus  
(315) 673-2001

**North Area:**

- Suburban ACE  
7990 Oswego Rd.  
Liverpool  
(315) 652-7850
- Valu Home Center  
3803 Brewerton Rd.  
North Syracuse  
(315) 452-6822
- Village ACE  
Baldwinsville -  
43 E. Genesee St.  
Baldwinsville  
(315) 638-4026
- Wrightway True Value  
9236 Oswego Rd.  
Baldwinsville  
(315) 695-2394

**Get in the Loop:**

Follow OCRRA on Facebook and join our email list at [www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org)!



**QUESTION OF THE QUARTER**

**Q: I was wondering if old metal bakeware is recyclable in the blue bin?**



**A:** This type of metal should go in the trash in Onondaga County. It will get removed at the Waste-to-Energy Facility (we have both ferrous and non-ferrous metal recovery systems there).

Each year more than 9,000 tons of non-blue bin eligible metal is reclaimed and recycled this way.

Check out this link to learn more about Onondaga County's unique trash management system: [www.tinyurl.com/trashWTE](http://www.tinyurl.com/trashWTE)

# Mark Your Calendar

**JAMESVILLE COMPOST SITE**  
Opens for the Season on New 3 day/week schedule  
**APRIL 5, 2018**

**EARTH DAY 2018**  
**APRIL 20 & 21**  
Register at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org) by **APRIL 13**  
See Page 2.

**ALL OCRRA SITES CLOSED**  
**MAY 28**  
**JULY 4**  
Enjoy the Holidays.

**SHRED-O-RAMA**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 2**  
**NYS FAIRGROUNDS Brown Parking Lot**  
8:00 am – 12:00 noon  
Enter opposite gates 3 & 4.

**HOUSEHOLD TOXICS DROP-OFF**  
**Year-Round by Appointment ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES**  
**M – F, 6:30 am – 6:00 pm**  
Register at [OCRRA.org](http://OCRRA.org).

**FACT:** If you're a business looking to recycle fluorescent bulbs, check out the list of disposal options at [www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org).