



# The Green Scene

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

Volume XIV, Issue 3

Summer 2022

RECYCLING DIVISION OF  
MAHONING COUNTY

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## New Composting Project is a Win for the Valley

The Green Team is proud to announce that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) just approved our \$100,000.00 grant application to launch a new and exciting project. It is a food waste prevention project that will involve operating a large scale composting unit and partnering with valley organizations to make it all happen.

The first order of business will be purchasing a Big Hanna Aerobic Composter that will be housed at the newly acquired county building on Bev Rd. in Boardman. Once the unit is secured, we plan to partner with Sec-

ond Harvest Food Bank to collect food scraps which will be fed into the composting unit. There the food scraps will be processed and turned into nutrient-rich humus, which farmers refer to as "black gold." When the humus is harvested, it will be used to grow plants in the greenhouse, also located at the Bev Rd. facility. Members of Flying High Inc., a vocational service organization, and the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown will tend to the daily operations at the greenhouse and produce crops that will be distributed throughout the community.

The Green Team plans

to launch this project by the end of the year and continue it far into the future. It is believed that when the operation is up and running, 58 tons of food waste will be collected annually and recycled back into the soil just as nature intended. It is a win for the Green Team, a win for our valley partners, and a win for Mother Earth. What could be better than that?

~ Kim Lewis



The Big Hanna Composter will be a wonderful addition to the Green Team's recycling program.



## 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 participate in a tire take-back program, there

is another option. The Green Team is hosting a tire recycling drive at the Canfield Fairgrounds on August 20 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.

**Environmental Quote**

“Only we humans make waste that nature can’t digest.”

~ Charles Moore  
Oceanographer  
who discovered  
the Great Pacific  
Garbage Patch



**Plastic Free July**

If you’re sick and tired of the tremendous amount of plastic in circulation, consider joining the “Plastic Free July Challenge.” For information about this effort, visit <https://www.facebook.com/PlasticFreeJuly/>



To view instructions for building a bat house visit: [www.diynetwork.com/how-to/outdoors/gardening/how-to-build-a-bat-house](http://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/outdoors/gardening/how-to-build-a-bat-house)



**Play “Recycle and Win” at the Canfield Fair**



For nearly twenty years, the Green Team has provided recycling at the Canfield Fair. During this time, we have experimented with a variety of collection methods and have used over half a dozen different styles of containers. However, in spite of our best efforts, managing recycling at an event of this magnitude has proven to be quite the challenge. In fact, due to high contamination rates, fair recycling has sometimes resulted in more material being landfilled ra-

ther than recovered.

So, this year we’re advising recycling enthusiasts to adhere to a pack-in, pack-out policy. In other words, recyclables that you bring to the fair or obtain on site should be taken home with you and placed with your other recyclables. If you’re not sure which material can or cannot be recycled, stop by our fair booth and play “Recycle and Win.” This game is sure to enlighten you about the particulars of

of recycling and will also allow you to enter a drawing to win a \$100.00 Visa gift card. Wow! A reward for learning to recycle correctly: Does it get any better than that?

So please stop by our booth in the government building and play “Recycle and Win.” Who knows? You just might get lucky



**Plastic Free July**

To increase awareness about the plastic waste issue, a movement known as “Plastic Free July” was initiated in Australia in 2011. Today, the movement continues to gain momentum and is recognized worldwide as a positive way individuals can work together to make a difference. Suggestions for reducing plastic

waste include:

- Shopping with a reusable tote bag.
- Using a refillable water bottle.
- Purchasing eggs in paperboard cartons.
- Skipping the straw.
- Refusing Styrofoam takeout containers.
- Making Gatorade and ice tea by the pitcher.
- Using a travel mug.
- Purchasing kitty litter in paper bags or boxes.
- Choosing cotton swabs with paper sticks.
- Skipping the K-cup.
- Using bar soap and shampoo.
- Using powdered laundry detergent in boxes.
- Shopping for refills at a zero waste store.

**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.

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](http://batrescue.org) a single bat can consume up to 1,000 mosquitoes per hour. Attracting bats to your backyard will greatly reduce 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.

## Mahoning County Schools Earn High Marks for Recycling Cans

Congratulations are in order for several Mahoning County schools in recognition of their outstanding recycling efforts. In the county-wide “Cash for Cans” Contest, which resumed this year after a brief hiatus, the numbers are in. Seven participating schools collected a total of 2,443 pounds of beverage cans earning \$ 929.79. The breakdown is as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Pounds Collected</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
1. Glenwood Junior High	694	685
2. Jackson - Milton Elem.	549	410
3. West Blvd. Elem.	440	418
4. St. Christine	320	296
5. St. Joseph the Provider	240	171
6. Damascus Elem.	171	391
7. Western Reserve Elem.	29	262

A special thank-you goes out 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.



## E-waste Update

Electronic waste (e-waste) is the fastest growing component of the waste stream. From computers to TV's to copiers, electronic equipment outlives its usefulness in a brief period of time and the waste it creates must be managed in a safe and efficient manner. To address this issue, the Green Team is offering residents

a new program for recycling e-waste. Beginning in mid July, residents will be able to contact us via phone or website to schedule an appointment to drop off accepted materials at our new facility located at 825 Bev Rd. in Boardman. Please be aware that an appointment is required for all drop-offs and that a

\$20.00 flat fee will be charged for TV's and computer monitors.

The Green Team is eager to set the new e-waste recycling program in motion and hopes that everyone will jump on board. Please refer to the list at right for accepted materials. The program will continue until further notice.

### Accepted E-waste

- Cable & Wire
- Cell Phones
- Copiers
- Cordless Phones
- Computer Accessories
- CRT Monitors
- CRT TV's
- Desktop Computers
- DDV / VCR Players
- Fax Machines
- Flat Panel Monitors
- Laptop Computers
- LCD / LED TV's
- Microwaves
- Misc. Electronics
- Network Equipment
- Plasma TV's
- Printers / Scanners
- Servers
- Stereos
- Tablets

## Get Ready for Designer Ditches

Living in certain areas, you may run into having an ugly drainage ditch in front of your home. Keeping a maintained lawn is always challenging with an open ditch so you may want to consider a change. Here is a very simple way of converting your ordinary ditch into a “designer ditch.” Not only will it be more appealing to the eye but it will also help

the environment. A designer drainage ditch is basically a filter for all run off from the street and yard. First you will need to check with your local municipality to see what is allowed. Once permission is granted, you may begin the process by first cleaning the area. After the area is clean, you'll need to put down sand and then gravel followed by landscap-

ing fabric. After the fabric is secure, you can add river rock or any stone you prefer. Next you'll want to add some plants like spotted joe-pyeweed, black-eyed susan, prairie smoke, ironweed, and butterfly milkweed. Not only will this add to the aesthetic appeal, it will help attract pollinators to your yard.

~ Nicholas DeMart



A designer ditch filters water, attracts pollinators & adds beauty to your landscape.



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**Upcoming  
Special Collections**

**Appliance Drives**

July 16 New Middletown  
July 30 - Aug. 6 Berlin Twp.

**E-drives**

July 16 New Middletown

**Document Shredding**

July 16 - New Middletown

**Tire Drive**

August 20-Canfield Fairgrounds

For additional information,  
contact the Green Team.

**greenteam.cc**

Join the Green Team at  
New Middletown's National Night Out

Please visit our booth at this event scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, at Welker Park , 10711 Main St., New Middletown, OH 44442. We will be offering Earth- friendly crafts, a hydration station, promotional items, and recycling information. As an added bonus, we will provide anyone who brings a reusable water bottle from home the opportunity to enter a drawing to win a prize from Mahoning County's premier zero-waste store: "Sustaining Bliss." The festivities will begin at 5:00 pm and continue into the night. Hope to see you there!



For more information, visit our website  
at [www.greenteam.cc](http://www.greenteam.cc) or  
follow us on Facebook.

