



The Green Scene

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RECYCLING DIVISION OF
MAHONING COUNTY

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Join the Refill Revolution

The “Refill Revolution” is a movement to change America’s disposable mindset and stop the negative impacts our throw-away behavior has on resources, the environment, and the health of living things. To achieve this goal, we need only to apply these simple strategies:

• **Use a refillable water bottle:** Americans use approximately 50 billion water bottles per year and only 23% of those bottles actually get recycled. It makes good environmental sense to invest in a refillable bottle to avert this waste.

• **Shop with a reusable tote bag.** Americans consume nearly 100 billion plastic shopping bags per year and only 3% of these bags get recycled. Whether shopping for groceries or other merchandise, refilling your reusable tote bag will help prevent this waste.

• **Use a travel mug.** Americans throw away 25 billion Styrofoam™ coffee cups every year and most communities have no infrastructure for recycling this material. Refilling your travel mug is a practical option to reduce this non-recyclable

waste.

If you choose to join the “Refill Revolution”, you will not be alone. For the past four years, this program has been successfully implemented at the Bonnaroo Music Festival, producing impressive results. To date, an estimated 2 million plastic cups and water bottles were diverted from the landfill through this waste prevention program.

Its time to become part of the solution and join the “Refill Revolution.” The planet is depending on you.



Helium Balloons Don’t Go To Heaven

I frequently wonder why states that have strict anti-litter laws will sanction an organized litter activity known as a helium balloon release. Often times the balloons are attached with messages written to departed loved ones. While this may seem kindhearted, it really is not.

When helium balloons fall to the ground, this material becomes just another source of litter. Regrettably, this litter poses serious threats to wildlife. Sometimes animals ingest balloons. This can lead to serious intestinal damage or possible starvation. Other times

animals become tangled in the balloons’ strings. This can lead to physical injuries with tragic consequences.

So... the next time you see someone releasing a helium balloon, please remind them: “Helium Balloons Don’t Go To Heaven.”

~ Kim Lewis



Going Green at the Canfield Fair



Yellow recycling bins will be strategically placed throughout the fairgrounds during the 2017 Canfield Fair. Stop by the Green Team booth for a list of locations.

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

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

bers on a daily basis. In addition to Green Team bins, Angels for Animals will provide recycling for aluminum cans at their booth. Monies generated by the sale of cans will help provide much-needed funding for the shelter.

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

exciting environmental programs, pick up a promotional item made with recovered material, and enter a drawing to win a backyard compost bin.

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



Volunteers installed a native pollinator garden at the Mahoning Valley Service Center

Nurturing Nature

On May 19, The Ohio Turnpike partnered with Davey Tree, Keep Ohio Beautiful, and Keep the Mahoning Valley Beautiful to install native pollinator plant gardens at the Mahoning Valley & Glacier Hills Service Plazas. Installed by volunteers from The Purple Cat &

Gateways to Better Living, the gardens contain 17 different species of native plants and shrubs that not only provide beauty, but play a crucial role in supporting a healthy ecosystem. According to the Ohio Turnpike website, native plants are easy to care

for & are naturally drought-resistant. They attract birds, butterflies & bees, all of which play an important role in Ohio’s food supply.

If you’re hitting the highway this summer, be sure to notice the valley’s new gardens. It may inspire you to plant one at home.



Food Waste Warriors

Students at Damascus Elementary School have long been known as “West Branch Warriors,” but now they can be known as “Food Waste Warriors” too.

When Damascus Elementary School implemented its Food Waste Prevention Program in November, no one was sure what to expect.

Now the results are in and everyone agrees that the program is a success.

By utilizing a sharing table in the cafeteria, the school was able to collect 938 pounds of surplus food and donate it to local food pantries. By utilizing a backyard compost bin, the school was able to compost 263 pounds of pre-consumer food

waste on site. These activities combined allowed 1,201 pounds of food to be diverted from the waste stream and put to good use.

Congratulations are extended to Damascus Elementary School for taking on this special project. They have truly earned their new title as “Food Waste Warriors.”



Lowe’s & River’s Bend Farm accept nursery pots for re-use.

Mahoning County Schools Earn High Marks for Recycling Cans

Congratulations are in order for several Mahoning County schools in recognition of their exemplary recycling efforts. In the county-wide “Cash for Cans” contest, numbers are quite impressive. Fifteen participating schools collected a total of 6,933 pounds of beverage cans earning \$2,773.20. The breakdown is as follows:

Overall School Winners	Pounds Collected	Enrollment
1 st - Damascus Elementary	1,319	450
2 nd - Boardman Glenwood Jr. High	1,140	700
3 rd - St. Christine	901	380

Per Capita School Winners	Pounds Collected	Enrollment
1 st - Center at Javit Court	187	76
2 nd - St. Charles	615	337
3 rd - Western Reserve Elem.	471	260

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

Additional contributors to the contest include:

Cardinal Mooney High School	West Blvd. Elementary School	Valley Christian
Jackson Milton Elementary	West Branch High School	St. Nicholas
Knox Elementary School	Stadium Drive Elementary School	St. Joseph the Provider

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



A Solution for Scrap Tires



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

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

pate in a tire take-back program, there is another option. The Green Team is hosting a tire recycling drive at the Canfield Fairgrounds on July 15 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 for further information.

Extend the life of your tires by:

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

Placemat Winners Recognized by Mahoning County

Commissioners David Ditzler, Carol Rimedio-Righetti and Anthony Traficanti honored eight students who won first place out of 1,131 entries in the Green Team's 2017 Earth Day Placemat Contest. The winners and their schools are: Amadea Ovaska, Holy Family; Noah Derrickson, W. Reserve Elem; Lexie Treharne, West Blvd. Elem; Olivia Greenei-

sen, Damascus Elem; Emily Beany, Austintown Intermediate; Kallioppe Ivvari, Jackson Milton Elem; John Cheliras, Lowellville Jr./Sr. High, and Karlie Brestelli, Holy Family. Each student received a \$25 gift card provided by Dominion & assorted Earth-friendly prizes provided by the Green Team. Look for winning placemats at the following locations:

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



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



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**Upcoming
Special Collections**

E-drives

Sept. 16 Goshen Twp.
Sept. 23 Canfield Twp.

Tire Drives

July 15 Canfield Fairgrounds
Sept. 16 Goshen Twp.

Document Shredding

Sept. 9 - Shepherd of the
Valley, Boardman

For additional information
call 330.740.2060 or visit
www.greenteam.cc

greenteam.cc

What on Earth Can You Do with...

- A used compact fluorescent light?
-recycle it at any Home Depot
- A plastic grocery bag?
- recycle it at a retail outlet that provides a “bags only” bin
- An empty gift card?
- mail it to Kim Lewis, RREAP Mgr.
MC Green Team, 345 Oak Hill Ave.
Suite 330, Youngstown OH 44502
- An old flag?
- retire it at the Veterans Service
Commission or contact the
Boy Scouts

For further information about recycling and other solid waste management programs, visit our website at www.greenteam.cc or follow us on facebook.

