

TALKING TRASH

Volume 11, Issue 3

The Voice of Trash Force, Inc.

Autumn 2007

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Trash Force is a nonprofit community based organization dedicated to educating the public about solid waste issues, reducing the amount of waste going to our landfill and promoting responsible environmental practices.

“And Man created the plastic bag and the tin and aluminum can and the cellophane wrapper and the paper plate and the disposable bottle, and this was good because Man could then take his automobile and buy his food all in one place and he could save that which was good to eat in the refrigerator and throw away that which had no further use. And pretty soon the earth was covered with plastic bags and aluminum cans and paper plates and disposable bottles, and there was nowhere left to sit down or to walk. And Man shook his head and cried, ‘Look at all the God-awful litter.’”

--Art Buchwald, 1970

“The Best Harvest Homecoming Ever!”

Once again the corner of Pearl and Main Streets in downtown New Albany will be the “Harvest Homecoming” home for the Trash Force booth in 2007. And again this year, **we really, really need your help!** We’ve got set up Wednesday night, Oct. 10, then lots of help to staff the booth will be needed Thursday morning through Sunday afternoon, and finally we have the tear down, (the easy part) Sunday evening.

Why should you help? The altruistic answer is that it is your opportunity to aid an organization to which you have a commitment, to help get out the word on the need to conserve and recycle. But the real answer is that it’s fun. You get to hang out with a bunch of reasonably nice people who have some of the same values as you. You get to see a lot of old acquaintances and perhaps make some new ones while promoting our messages of conservation. It gives you a good cover story for your friends, “Well, I wouldn’t normally put up with that crowd, but I’m working at the Trash Force booth.” And you can probably add a few reasons of your own.

Myra Craig (phone: 812/225-1433) is handling the scheduling for volunteers. Call early to get the best shifts. And remember that famous saying about working at the HHC Trash Force booth, **“It’s not a job, it’s an adventure!”**

Disposal of Expired or Unneeded Drugs

The improper disposal of expired or unused pharmaceuticals is a serious problem. One of the most common solutions seems to be flushing them down the toilet. This solution rates right up there with some of the worst choices available. It puts the contents into the water supply system where it works its way into the food chain via fish, and ultimately into people. This witches’ brew of medicines appears to be affecting the reproductive capacities of various forms of aquatic life, (and possibly the creatures that feed on them.) Burying unused medicines merely slows down this process, but ultimately the results are the same.

Now mark your calendars! Triad, (an organization of law enforcement personnel and Senior volunteers), Lifespring, and AARP, are combining forces again this year to organize a collection of these unneeded medicines.

Floyd County: Oct. 12, 1 pm to 2 pm, Floyd Co. AARP, St. Johns Presbyterian Church, 13th and Elm Sts; Oct. 29, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Riverview Towers, 500 Scribner Dr.; and Nov. 1, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Mark Elrod Towers 1 Wolfe Trace.

Clark County: Oct. 8, 11 am to noon, LIFT Group, Moose Lodge, 1040 S. Indiana Ave., Sellersburg; Oct. 11, 10 am to 11 am, Clarksville Parks Dept., Senior

(continued on next page)

Drug Disposal Continued

Bingo, Clarksville Community Ctr, 2311 Giltner Ln., Clarksville; Oct. 20, 9 am to 11 am, Clark Co. Solid Waste, 9208 Hwy 62, Charlestown; and Oct. 25, Noon to 1 pm, Ken Ellis Senior Ctr., 1425 Pennsylvania Ave., Jeffersonville.

You do not have to be a member or resident at any of these disposal sites to take advantage of the opportunity to dispose of excess drugs! And by the way, tell anyone else about this program that might need to use this service. For more information, call 948-1111, Floyd County Solid Waste.

Pirates of the Caribbean Ohio, Annual Meeting

If you didn't make it to this year's annual meeting, you missed a great time! Entertainment, provided by "Steel of the Night" was excellent. Duvon McGuire's presentation concerning clean water solutions in Third World Countries was informative and encouraging. Great food and fun people! And to top it all off there was a treasure chest of pirates' booty for all who attended. Some of the prizes included art pieces from "Place to Create," books, tea assortments, and passes to the Falls of the Ohio, to name a few.

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If every household in the US replaced its most commonly used incandescent light bulb with a compact florescent, electricity use for lighting would be cut in half and CO2 emissions would be reduced by about 62.5 million tons.*

(The following is a commercial announcement.)

"Entertainment 2008" Dining Guide is now available.

Again this year the organization, in a heroic attempt to remain financially solvent, is selling the "entertainment '08" Coupon book. This is the book filled with "half off" and "two fer" coupons for restaurants, hotels, and other entertainment venues in the Louisville area. (Just in the New Albany, Clarksville, and Jeffersonville area alone, there are 45 businesses with coupon specials.) It's a great way to save money on dinning and it provides the incentive to try businesses you might not otherwise patronize. Mary Ann Sodrel , phone 945-0825, will be more than happy to give you more details and fill you orders. The "book" makes a great present so you might well consider this for holiday giving. (And it's not made in China.)

Floyd County Solid Waste District Fee Schedule

Automotive Waste: Following items are no charge

Motor Oil, Oil Filters, Antifreeze, and Transmission Fluid

Batteries: Following household batteries are no charge

Alkaline, Mercury button, Lithium, Lithium Ion, Silver Oxide, Lead-acid

Mercury & Universal Waste

Fluorescent tubes	.10/foot
U Tubes Circline	.50

Paint/Oil Base

Pint or Quart Can	.50	Gallon	1.00
Thinners/solvents: Pint	.50	Quarts	1.00

(Latex based paints can safely be disposed of by opening the can, letting the dry and discarded with trash.)

Electronics

Computer monitor	\$10.00	Printer	5.00
Computer CPU	5.00	VCR	5.00
Television 18" or less	\$10.00	Over 18"	\$20.00

Other

Microwave	\$ 5.00
Propane tanks #20	\$10.00
Small Coleman type	\$ 5.00
Fire extinguisher	\$10.00

Call 948-4733 for further information or to make drop off arrangements.

Suggestions for a Greener World

When eating out, take your own disposable containers for leftovers. This way you can help stop the needless slaughter of thousands of little Styrofoam pellets.*

At safelawns.org, you can learn how to tend your yard organically, thereby reducing some of the 100 million pounds of chemicals and pesticides, much of which Americans apply to their lawns, which can then end up in ground water or streams.*

Yes, reusable coffee mugs are preferable to styrofoam, but how many coffee mugs are enough? Consider what goes in to the production of the items that we thoughtless purchase and the impact it has on the environment.*

Nationally, we use about 58 billion kilowatt-hour of electricity a year drying clothes. Have you considered a clothesline? Get ideas for alternatives from [Project Laundry List](#).*

* Sierra Club Breen Life ** Michelle Singletary, Lou. Courier Journal

“You say tomato, I say ‘mater.” Growing your own vegetables reduces “food miles”, saves money, helps connect you to the earth, and tastes better.*

Next time you eat an orange, tangerine, or other citrus fruit, take the peelings, put them in a small dish and leave them in your bathroom for three or four days to create a natural fragrant potpourri.* (Replace after three or four days the or the peelings will start to mold.)

Plant a tree on the west or northwest side of your house. The tree stores carbon, then provides much needed shade in the summer thereby reducing cooling costs and fossil fuel use.*

According to the EPA, each American household could save \$170 per year by retrofitting their homes with water efficient fixtures and appliances.** (Editor’s note: The first generation of low flow toilets did not work well and consequently they got a bad reputation. My wife and I bought one about a year ago and it works better the one we took out. We’ve since bought a second fixture.)

(“Last Words” Sierra Magazine Sept/Oct 2007)