



By the Way

We're helping people make a difference in Westmoreland County

105 West 4th Street, Greensburg, PA 15601-2981
web site: www.westmorelandcleanways.org

Phone: 724-836-4129 Fax: 724-836-5597
email: info@westmorelandcleanways.org



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

The tenth annual collection of household hazardous waste (HHW) will be held **Saturday, September 23**, at the **Westmoreland Fairgrounds from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Westmoreland Cleanways members, residents of sponsoring municipalities and employees of corporate/business sponsors can drop off their HHW free of charge: all others will be charged our cost - **\$35 per vehicle**.

This event is for the collection of **residential HHW only** – **No small business waste can be accepted**.

To date, the following have signed on as sponsors:

Boroughs of Adamsburg, Arona, Donegal, Irwin, Ligonier, Manor, New Stanton, South Greensburg, Sutersville, West Newton, Youngwood, City of Greensburg, Municipality of Murrysville, Mon Valley Refuse Disposal Authority (Monessen & N. Belle Vernon). Cook Twp., Derry Twp., Donegal Twp., East Huntingdon Twp., Hempfield Twp., Ligonier Twp., Loyalhanna Twp., Mt. Pleasant Twp., North Huntingdon Twp., St. Clair Twp., Unity Twp., Washington Twp.

Businesses:

- Durr Marketing
- Elliott Company
- Mine Safety Appliances Company
- Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County
- North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority

Supporters:

- Westmoreland Fairgrounds Association
- Salandro's Refuse, Inc.
- Waste Management

We will have a tire, battery, appliance and scrap metal collection at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds the week prior to the HHW collection - Saturday, September 16, from 8:30 am until noon. We **will not** accept these items at the HHW collection.



SUMMERTIME CLEANUPS

On June 1, Westmoreland Cleanways was joined by members of the Kiskiminetas Watershed Association, the Westmoreland Conservation District, and employees of Washington Township to assist the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County in a cleanup near the Beaver Run Reservoir. A 40 cubic yard rolloff of trash was taken to Valley Landfill and 42 tires were taken to Westmoreland Cleanways' recycling event at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds on June 24.

On June 16, Westmoreland Cleanways joined employees of the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC), staff from the DEP, PA CleanWays Fayette County, and Hazelbakers Recreation in Layton for River Sweep 2006.

A little after 10:00 am, canoes were launched on the Youghiogheny River near Dawson and began the 8 mile trip back to Layton. Along the way, volunteers picked up canoe loads of tires, auto parts, pieces of furniture and assorted trash as they meandered down the river.

Since 1989, River Sweep has been organized by the *Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)*, as a riverbank clean-up of the Ohio River Valley and its tributaries. As an interstate water pollution agency, ORSANCO partners with environmental protection and natural resource agencies, from Illinois to Pennsylvania, for this annual clean-up.

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By the Way is published four times a year by Westmoreland Cleanways. Articles may also be found on our web site at: www.westmorelandcleanways.org



Small package, Big results

A story by Walt Wiley from the July 3, 2006 issue of *Waste News*.

Those are going to be some nice benches around the courthouse square, placed by proud members of the Franklin, Ind., Beautification Committee.

And goodness knows they're needed. A man sat down on one of the old benches to watch the Fall Parade last year and it broke, dumping him on the ground. So the old benches will have to be recycled.

In fact, the new benches will be recycled, too - as in made from recycled No. 1 and No. 2 PET bottles.

It's all happening because of a recycling grant won by Katie Curry, 9, a third-grader who not only composed the grant application but then went on to inspire her school and church to step up their recycling. It's stepped up so much that at least one of the benches will be made from the very bottles collected by the people of Franklin.

Katie's project has snowballed across the state while Katie built an army of ardent fans in the recycling community.

"It's 80 bags and it seems like a lot," said Katie. "But it was easy, really, because everybody knew what I was doing it for."

Katie learned of the grant as she was helping her grandmother on the town's beautification committee. The state Office of Energy and Defense Development grants are available to students of any age to teach students about recycling. "We needed a student to apply, and Katie said, 'I'm a student,' so she did it," grandmother Alice Curry said.

Staff at the Johnson County Solid Waste District helped prepare the application using Katie's words, district Director Amy Grimmer said.

"It really took off," Grimmer said. "We set up containers at her school, then her church, then we ended up collecting at three schools and the hospital."

At the end of the project, the grant provided \$3,500 to help buy 10 new benches, but that was not the end of things by far.

Grimmer was at the Indiana Recycling Coalition Conference in May in Muncie, and was listening to manufacturer Jim Alderden talk about his light, portable, transparent ClearStream portable collection units. "I told him about Katie and how she'd used his containers," Grimmer said. "They'd worked well even for a little girl collecting a lot of bottles."

And that was when Brent Grafton piped up and said he wanted his Green Tree Plastics of Evansville, Ind., to turn Amy's bottles into a bench or benches — despite the cost and despite the fact that the grant money had already gone to buy benches from someone else.

Plans are now for it all to happen July 19, the day after Katie's 10th birthday. A caravan of Franklin fans of Katie and her project will join her and the 80 bags of bottles for the trek to Grafton's Evansville plant.

"I'm going to let her see her bottles turned into benches right in front of her. This is great," Grafton said. "I'm just excited that there's a child so on fire with recycling."

"If I have anything to do with it, Katie will be governor of Indiana some day."

After the report on the dismal state of recycling in southwestern Pennsylvania published in the Sunday, July 2, 2006 *Tribune-Review*, I thought it would be interesting to learn what "concerned" citizens can do about recycling, even if they are only in elementary school.



Picking up trash during a leisurely float down the "Yough" during River Sweep 2006.



Retrieving tires and assorted trash left by illegal dumpers during the Beaver Run cleanup.



A pile of abandoned tires at Beaver Run await proper disposal.



Assorted trash is bagged and taken to the landfill

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
WESTMORELAND COUNTY

117,000 Customers
Largest Municipal Water Authority in Pennsylvania

The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County is a regional water supplier - serving over 117,000 customers in a five county area, that include sections of Allegheny, Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland Counties. Water distribution extends over 2,100 miles from the Youghiogheny River and Beaver Run Reservoir.

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THE ECONOMICS OF RECYCLING

Recycling Helps Pennsylvania's Economy

Recycling manufacturing involves the conversion of recyclables into new products. The primary recycling industries in Pennsylvania are steel mills, paper and paperboard mills, plastic converters, glass container plants and nonferrous metal manufacturers. These and other recycling manufacturers employ more than 64,000 people with a payroll of almost \$2.5 billion and annual sales of more than \$15.5 billion.

Reuse and remanufacturing focuses on the refurbishing and repair of products. The largest activities are retail sales of used motor vehicle parts and used merchandise. Reuse and remanufacturing contributes more than 7,000 jobs, a payroll of \$115 million and sales of more than \$500 million annually.

Municipal and private collectors, material recovery and composting facilities, and recyclable material wholesalers employ nearly 10,000 people in Pennsylvania with a payroll of \$284 million and annual sales of \$2.3 billion. Support businesses that provide goods and services to the recycling and reuse establishments also contribute to the Commonwealth's economy. Recycling and reuse equipment manufacturers, consulting/engineering services, brokers and transporters contribute an additional 13,297 jobs and \$1.8 billion in annual receipts.

Recycling Contributes to State Revenues

Pennsylvania tax revenues from recycling and reuse businesses are estimated at \$305 million dollars per year.

Recycling Means Business in Pennsylvania

Recycling and Reuse Establishments	3,247
Recycling and Reuse Employment	81,322 jobs
Annual Sales Receipts	\$18.4 Billion
Annual Payroll	\$ 2.9 Billion
Indirect Benefits	\$ 1.8 Billion
Taxes to General Fund (est) .	\$ 0.3 Billion
TOTAL	\$23.4 Billion

RECYCLING PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT

Recycling Provides Industry with An Environmentally Preferable Source of Raw Materials

Supplying industry with recycled materials, rather than virgin resources extracted from forests and mines, is environmentally preferable because it saves energy, reduces emissions of greenhouse gases and other dangerous air and water pollutants, and conserves scarce natural resources. In 2004, Pennsylvania recycling programs supplied industry with over 4.8 million tons of commodities like metals, paper, glass, plastics, wood, organics and other materials.

Recycling Conserves Natural Resources

Recycling conserves the world's natural resources and reduces the need for landfills and other disposal facilities, thus allowing land to be used in other ways. Substituting scrap materials for other virgin materials reduces the pressure to expand forestry and mining production. For example, by recycling over 1 million tons of steel in 2004, Pennsylvania industries saved 1.3 million tons of iron ore, 718,460 tons of coal and 61,582 tons of limestone. Through recycling newsprint, office and mixed paper, we saved over 8.2 million trees.

Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Recycling in Pennsylvania reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 1.9 million metric tons of carbon equivalent.

Recycling Saves Energy

Recycling in Pennsylvania saves more than 66 trillion BTUs of energy each year, enough to power 643,000 homes and the equivalent of saving 531 million gallons of gasoline.

Recycling Reduces Emissions of Air and Water Pollutants

Pennsylvania's recycling efforts reduced other air emissions, including 7,731 metric tons of sulfur oxides and 8,814 metric tons of nitrogen oxides. Water pollution reductions totaled more than 9,000 tons in 2004.

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

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Offer good thru Oct 31, 2005

Best Wishes

Westmoreland Cleanways

From

TOM BALYA

Westmoreland County Commissioner

Paid for by the Balya for Commissioner Committee



VERMICOMPOSTING

The worm bin has been making its rounds again in Westmoreland County. Children have been excited to learn that worms are recyclers. They eat our garbage and put nutrients back into the soil. The natural process of changing organic waste into brown nutrient-rich material is called vermicomposting. Worms need a lot of the same things we need to live: air, water, food, and temperature. Worms love to eat kitchen scraps, coffee grinds, tea bags, and egg shells. You should never put meat, fish, or dairy products in the worm bin as they will attract insects and create foul odors.

Did you know:

- Worms are vegetarians.
- Worms don't have eyes, yet they can sense light, especially at their anterior (front end). They move away from light and will become paralyzed if exposed to light for too long (about one hour).
- Earthworms are 82 % protein.
- Worms breathe through their skin and if a worm's skin dries out, it will die.
- Worms have 5 hearts.
- Worms can grow a new tail but not a new head.
- Worms are cold-blooded.

The worm bin is now being scheduled for the 2006 - 2007 school year. Please call the office at 724-836-4129 for more information.



FIND YOUR FIT

Do you wish you could help others, but don't know where to start? Then perhaps you should make plans to attend the second annual **Westmoreland County "Find Your Fit" Volunteer Fair** that will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2006 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm at the Westmoreland County Community College in the Founders Hall gymnasium . This event is sponsored by Westmoreland Association of Volunteer Administrators (WAVA), Westmoreland County Community College, and United Way of Westmoreland County.

Individuals, families, and groups are welcome. Come to the fair and encounter a variety of agencies and organizations. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with representatives from many service organizations and discuss how they can help. You will be able to explore various volunteer opportunities and internships.

For more information, contact Louise Wilhelm at 724-853-7752 or email louisewilhelm@yahoo.com.

Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others. - *Danny Thomas*

IN-OFFICE SPECIAL

SEPTEMBER, 2006 ONLY

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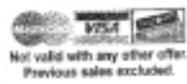
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WEST NILE VIRUS IN THE NEWS AGAIN

West Nile Virus is a disease that is spread by infected mosquitoes. So the best defense against the West Nile Virus is not giving them a place to breed.

Here are some things you can do around your home.

- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have collected on your property.
- Pay special attention to discarded tires. Stagnant water in tires are where most mosquitoes breed.
 - The PA WNV Surveillance and Control Program is NOT responsible for waste tires. The PA DEP Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Management handles waste tires. For more information on waste tires or to report waste tire piles, contact Tom Woy at 1-800-346-1932 · Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers left outdoors.
- Have clogged roof gutters cleaned every year, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug up the drains. Roof gutters can produce millions of mosquitoes each season.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use. Stagnant water in a wading pool becomes a place for mosquitoes to breed.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and don't let water stagnate in birdbaths. Both provide breeding habitats for domestic mosquitoes.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens can become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate. Clean and chlorinate swimming pools not in use. A swimming pool left untended by a family on vacation for a month can produce enough mosquitoes to result in neighborhood-wide complaints. Mosquitoes may even breed in the water that collects on pool covers.

It is not necessary to limit any outdoor activities, unless local officials advise you otherwise. However, you can and should try to reduce your risk of being bitten by mosquitoes. In addition to reducing stagnant water in your yard, make sure all windows and doors have screens, and that all screens are in good repair.

If West Nile virus is found in your area, here are some ways you can protect yourself.

- Take normal steps to prevent insect bites.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for long periods of time, or when mosquitoes are most active.
- Consider the use of mosquito repellent, apply according to directions, when it is necessary to be outdoors. Wash all treated skin and clothing when returning indoors.

The contact for Westmoreland County's dead bird Surveillance is the Department of Public Safety, 911 Public Safety Road, Greensburg, PA 15601 (724) 600-7304.

The contact for Westmoreland County's mosquito surveillance is Richard J. Matason, rmatson@co.westmoreland.pa.us, Westmoreland Co. Commissioners, 2 N. Main St., Ste. 110 Greensburg, PA 15601(724)600-7304 or (724) 600-7388.

Source: DEP



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 14 Annual Meeting - 7:00 PM
- 14 Monthly Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 16 Tire Collection, Battery, & Appliance Recycling
Westmoreland Fairgrounds
8:30 AM - Noon
- 16 Compost Workshop
Westmoreland Conservation District Education Center
9:00 AM - Noon
- 23 Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Westmoreland Fairgrounds
9 AM - 2 PM
- 30 Tire Collection, Battery, & Appliance Recycling
Norwin Hills Shopping Center
9 AM - 1 PM

OCTOBER

- 7 Compost Workshop
Westmoreland Conservation District Education Center
9:00 AM - Noon
- 12 Monthly Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 21 Make-A-Difference Day

NOVEMBER

- 9 Monthly Meeting - 7:30 PM

DECEMBER

- 1 Appreciation Dinner
Lakeview Restaurant



HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

Our thanks to Suzanne Plesha of the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County for her contributions to this newsletter and for the snacks and bottled water she and MAWC provided the volunteers and workers attending the cleanups (see cover page).

By the Way - Fall 2006



WESTMORELAND CLEANWAYS
105 WEST FOURTH STREET
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If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please call 724-836-4129 and ask to have your name removed from our mailing list.

What We're All About

Westmoreland Cleanways is a nonprofit organization that fights illegal dumping and littering. We coordinate and facilitate the adoption of non-state maintained roads and other areas (Adopt-A-Highway addresses state maintained roads). We address problem disposal items: yard waste; tires; batteries; appliances; paper; Christmas trees; and household hazardous waste. We work to educate the public on the proper disposal of unwanted items and the environmental and personal consequences of improper disposal.

We don't have a large source of funding so we work hard to draw together all the resources necessary to provide these programs.

If our work interests you, please join us. Your contribution can be just your dues, or you can also volunteer to assist in our many activities. **We welcome all levels of support.**

~ MEETING NOTICE ~

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 PM in our office conference room at Fourth Street Square, 105 W. 4th St., Greensburg, on the second Thursday of every month (except July & December). Call 724-836-4129 for information. Everyone is welcome.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE
\$100 Lifetime Individual Member
\$300 Lifetime Family Member
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Memberships and contributions are tax deductible, as defined by law

2

We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. To support our activities, please become a member. Return this coupon and your payment to Westmoreland Cleanways, 105 West 4th Street, Greensburg, PA 15601-2981.

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Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____

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