

A BUSY SPRING SEASON

people got involved in making Westmoreland a bit cleaner this spring. Twenty events were in support of the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. You remember that April 22 was not a great day for us, however, hundreds of volunteers turned out for cleanup events all over the county.

Westmoreland Cleanways joined with the Pennsylvania Resources Council, PA CleanWays, Inc., and the Key Creek Watershed Association on the "Let's Clean Up PA" event in Youngwood Borough and Conowingo Township. We also supported the third Vandergrift Community Day cleanup sponsored by the Vandergrift Improvement Program. Volunteers staffed a battery, appliance, and scrap metal collection at the Pymatuning Theater near Delmont and also the Westmoreland Cleanways display at the Earth Day celebration at St. Vincent College.

In addition to the Vandergrift and Delmont recycling events, we held events at Norwin Hills Shopping Center and Keystone State Park. In spite of the weather and many things to do, many residents brought their unwanted items to these collections, insuring that they would be disposed of properly. The four events yielded a total of: 973 tires, 73 lead acid batteries, 108 freon containing appliances, 35 non-freon appliances, and

Our education programs have been quite popular this spring. We staffed Westmoreland Cleanways displays at several events: Representative Pallone's Senior Citizen Expo in New Kensington; Representative Stairs' Senior Citizen Expo in Donegal and Kid's Day at Idlewild Park and the Westmoreland Earth Day event at St. Vincent College. The litter and recycling IQ boards were used by more than 1,000 students and more than 2,000 students have attended classroom presentations about the Westmoreland Cleanways programs.

The worm bin has visited several schools, teaching children the benefits of vermicomposting. They really enjoy feeding the worms and watching them turn the food scraps into a rich compost that enriches the soil and nourishes the plants.

Did you know:

- North America is home to about 150 worm species and of these, about one third (45) are exotic. The nightcrawler is the largest of these species.
- Worms live where there is food, moisture, oxygen, and a favorable temperature. If they don't find these things, they go somewhere else.
- In one acre of land, there can be more than a million earthworms.
- Worms tunnel deeply in the soil and bring soil closer to the surface, mixing it with the topsoil. Slime, a secretion of earthworms, contains nitrogen.

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cant
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Most of the spring events have been completed, however, we do have some sampling of our programs remaining with the upcoming compost work and the recycling event at the fairgrounds, a cleanup with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County, school presentations, and Riversweep. By the end of June, Nancy will be well indoctrinated in our programs and given a chance to catch her breath before we begin preparations for the fall recycling event and household hazardous waste collection. If you would like to say well to Nancy's email address is: ndiguseppe@westmorelandcleanways.org.



ANOTHER GOODBYE

Long time Westmoreland Cleanways member, volunteer, board member and vice president, Glenda Testa, has resigned from the board. Business responsibilities and other commitments have restricted the time available to devote to Westmoreland Cleanways functions and activities, so Glenda decided the best thing to do would be to step aside for now. We all wish Glenda the best and we will miss her assistance, counsel, positive attitude and humor. Good luck Glenda and hurry back!



THANKS

Cleanups take a lot of organization and the help of many. Westmoreland Cleanways thanks Jolene Naugle from PA CleanWays, Inc. Larry Myers from the Pennsylvania Resources Council, and Tom Keller from the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association for their help in organizing and managing our Great PA Cleanup event in Youngwood and Hempfield Township on April 20. Forty-one volunteers turned out and collected approximately 135 bags of trash, as well as a set of bed springs and mattress and 20 tires.

st 200 tires from each group for a 25 cents per tire
 ng fee (paid by Westmoreland Cleanways) and
 noreland Cleanways pays a \$1.00 per tire disposal
 r any tires exceeding 200. The groups receive a
 d, paid by Westmoreland Cleanways, for the first
 es. They can use the reward money to support their
 rograms. In order to receive their reward, the group
 o fill out a short questionnaire about what they
 ved, why they believe illegal dumping occurs, who is
 nsible and what can be done to prevent illegal
 ng. The program has proven to be a win-win-win
 on as young people see what is being done to the
 nment, they earn money to support their programs,
 e community is rid of abandoned tires.

of the comments we receive on the surveys are
 nteresting and insightful:

*do you think these locations were chosen as illegal
 ing sites?*

- idden & easy access
- remote locations
- body to stop the dumping

*do you think people illegally dispose of tires and
 trash?*

- ey don't want to pay to dispose of them properly
- ople are lazy
- ey don't understand what illegal dumping does to
 e environment

do you think could be done to stop illegal dumping?

ike disposal easier

Totals

*** Information not received by press time**



- No small business waste can be accepted.

June 12, the following have signed on as sponsors:

Adams Twp., East Huntingdon Twp., Hempfield Twp., Lawrence Twp., Loyalhanna Twp., Mon Valley Refuse Authority (Monessen & N. Belle Vernon) Mt. Pleasant Twp., New Stanton Borough, and St. Clair Washington Twp.

Businesses:

Green Marketing

Partners:

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

Waste that we cannot accept:

Flammable/Combustible Liquids
Hazardous Materials
Compressed Gas Cylinders
Explosives
Empty/Dry Paint Cans (throw them away)
Pressurized Fire Extinguishers
Radioactive Wastes
Regulated Substances
Smoke Detectors

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force was formed in 2002 to fill the need to coordinate the funding, organize events and create a leadership of individuals representing governmental,

Degreasers
Drain Cleaners
Dry Cleaning Fluids
Engine & Radiator Flushes
Fertilizers
Herbicides
Insect Sprays
Kerosene
Metal Polish
Moth Balls
Muriatic Acid
Mercury
Oil-Based Paints*
Old Chemistry Sets
Oven Cleaners
Paint Thinners
Pesticides
Photography Chemicals
Pool Chemicals
Radiator Cleaners
Rodent Poisons
Rust Inhibitors
Solvents
Transmission Fluids
Wood Preservatives

* Remember, any paint, latex or oil based, that is not dried and hardened in the can may be thrown away in the normal trash. Any can with less than an inch of paint can be thrown away in the normal trash.

Latex paint is considered non-hazardous and can be dried and thrown away with normal household

Materials as small as 100 pounds of household hazardous waste in the basement or garage and in the closets. When improperly disposed of, household hazardous waste can create a potential risk to people and the environment. This page describes steps that people can take to reduce the amount of household hazardous waste they generate and to ensure that those wastes are safely stored, handled and disposed of.

Are the Dangers of Improper Disposal?

Household hazardous wastes are sometimes disposed of improperly by individuals pouring wastes down the drain on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them in with the trash. The dangers of such disposal methods may not be immediately obvious, but certain types of household hazardous wastes have the potential to cause physical injury to sanitation workers; contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment plants if poured down drains or toilets; and present risks to children and pets if left around the house. While households do not have to separate household hazardous waste from trash under federal law, some states have special requirements. Call local or state waste officials to learn what requirements apply to households or small businesses in your area.

to Reduce and Recycle

One way to reduce the potential concerns associated with household hazardous waste is to use non-hazardous or less hazardous components to accomplish a task at hand. Individuals can do this by reducing the

amount of hazardous materials contained in household hazardous substances safely:

Tip #1

Use and store products containing hazardous substances carefully to prevent any accidents at home. Never store hazardous products in food containers. Keep products containing hazardous materials in their original containers, keep out of reach of children, and never remove the labels. Medicines should have their caps never remove the labels. Medicines should have their caps be repackaged and clearly labeled. This will prevent accidental ingestion and also can help protect sanitation workers.

Tip #2

When leftovers remain, never mix household hazardous waste with other products. Incompatibilities may cause a mixture to ignite, or explode; contaminated household hazardous waste may become unrecyclable.

Tip #3

Keep original labels on all containers, read and follow directions carefully for use and disposal.

Tip #4

Install child safety latches on all drawers or cabinets containing harmful products.

Tip #5

Avoid contact with skin and eyes.

composting: from making it to using it, Bob is the
 have two sessions remaining on this year's
 schedule - September 16 and October 7 - see the
 calendar of Events on the following page for locations
 and times. There are still openings available, however,
 you must pre-register by calling our office at 724-836-
 1111. A \$5.00 per person fee will be collected at the
 workshop to cover the cost of workshop materials.

After all the sessions have been completed, a
 survey questionnaire will be mailed to all attendees. We are
 interested to gather this information in order to receive a
 grant award from the DEP for hosting the workshops.

HOW TO USE COMPOST

Soil amendment: Work in 2-3 in. of compost
 into top 6-8 in. of soil when ground is warm and moist.

Vegetables: Amend soil with compost before planting.
 Dress (mulch) with 2-3 in. of additional compost for
 heavy cropping and heavy-feeding plants.

Flower beds: Mix 1-2 in. compost into top 2-6
 in. of soil before sowing seeds. Layer 1/2-2 in. compost
 on top of soil during growing season. Spread 1-2 in.
 of partially decomposed compost over planting bed during
 clean-up; dig it into soil or cover with mulch for
 winter.

Perennials: Layer 2-4 in. of compost on soil and mix in
 before planting. Add fresh compost mulch annually to
 surrounding soil surface. Dig 2 in. layer of compost into
 top 12 in. deep around all perennials just outside root

Potting mix: Mix sifted compost with equal
 garden soil and perlite or lava rock. In a soil less
 use 30% compost, more for moisture-loving plants.
 Use sifted compost as a top dressing for container
 plants.

Try these variations on composting

Sheet composting: Spread leaves or plant residues
 over soil surface in fall. Turn materials into soil once
 until spring.

Compost tea: Soak compost in water (a burlap bag
 useful) to make a liquid fertilizer.
 Use compost tea to water transplants, garden flowers,
 vegetables, and container plants. Apply to soil at
 half-strength as a foliar spray.

Trench or posthole composting: Bury garden
 residues and kitchen wastes (not meat or bones)
 deep in garden. Soil is ready for planting in 2-6 months.

Source: *Recyclenow*

TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE

Problem	Probable Causes	Solution
Bad odor	Too many greens	Add browns and mix.
		Turn pile and mix with soil
Smells like	Not enough air	Turn pile for

ted) to connect Pittsburgh to Cumberland MD. rail then will connect to the C&O Canal Towpath winds another 185 miles into Washington DC. In er year or two, it will be possible to ride about 370 traffic-free from Pittsburgh to Washington DC. r, the trip can be done with only about 60 miles of s on roadways.

rails around Pittsburgh are mostly surfaced with ed limestone. This makes it a bit bumpy for a road (skinny tires), but very do-able. The most prevalent seen is a 'hybrid' or typical mountain bike. The are clean, wide open and safe. They are also very ful and wend through some very rural stretches one can often go for miles without seeing another person. Other times, a trail may pass through towns, where the remnants of an old train station hat is left of a town's once prosperous days.

f the biggest benefits of these trails to recreational comes from a scientific law of train travel – trains, me scientific reason that I shall not explain here, t like hills. As such, none of these rails have very hills, other than gradual slight grades. This makes ry enjoyable bike riding

are 5 major trails in Western Pennsylvania:

Montour Trail; the Steel Heritage Trail, the Three s Trail, and two local trails –

Mononghery River Trail - North

in 1883, the Pittsburgh, McKeesport, and Mononghery hauled coal and coke from the rich Allegheney District to the steel mills of

Appliance Recycling
Westmoreland Fairgrounds
8:30 AM - Noon

AUGUST

- 10** Monthly Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 18** Westmoreland Fair Begins
- 26** Westmoreland Fair Ends

SEPTEMBER

- 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

What We're All About

Westmoreland Cleanways is a nonprofit organization that fights illegal dumping and littering. We coordinate and facilitate the cleanup of non-state maintained roads and other areas (Adopt-A-Road addresses state maintained roads). We address problematic items: yard waste; tires; batteries; appliances; paper; stumps; 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 on all the resources necessary to provide these programs.

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



We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. To support our activities, please become a member. Return this form and your payment to Westmoreland Cleanways, 1010 4th Street, Greensburg, PA 15601-2981.

Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip+4 _____

County: _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____

Email: _____