

Composting season is now underway

The weather is finally getting warmer, the sun is out a bit more and you may have put away the snow shovel. It's spring!

That also means it's time to start prepping your garden for the new growing season. If you were able to keep your compost pile going all winter, or you have some leftover finished compost, that will certainly help nourish your garden.

April is the best time month to get compost down in your garden beds as part of your spring prep.

First, there are two main ways to lay down compost. Many people lay it down in the fall and cover it with mulch to keep the moisture in. If you did not do that last fall, you can lay down the compost two weeks before gardening.

Incorporate compost into your spring soil prep. Add three to four inches of soil to your garden area and till the upper six inches. You'll add compost to the soil in vegetable gardens, flower beds and around perennials as you plant them.

TIPS FOR NEW COMPOSTERS

* **Patience is key.** It'll take six months to a year for compost to be ready to use. So think about investing in a compost pile now as part of your spring garden prep. Your garden will have plenty of natural, nutritious food come next gardening season.

* **Don't forget the water.** If your pile is covered or you are having a dry spell, add moisture. The pile should be damp.

* **Keep the compost loose and turn every so often.** That will keep air in the system and allow for healthy decomposition. Compacted compost will cut off oxygen to the microorganisms that break compost down.

* **Have a balance between wet (green) and dry (brown) compost.** Add natural items like grass clippings, leaves, pulled plants, weeds, plant-based food scraps and wood chips. Don't add meats or fatty foods, animal droppings, seeds or diseased plants. Keep foodstuffs in the center of the pile to detract pests.

* **Always remember patience.** Using compost that is not ready will rob garden plants of nitrogen. You'll know the compost is ready when it crumbles easily and has a very earthy smell. Take compost out of the middle and bottom of the pile.

The Limits of Recycling



By Diane Bickett
Executive Director
Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District

I have worked for the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District for 28 years and over that time I have seen attitudes change about waste. What used to be a "put it on the curb and forget about it" attitude is now a "put it on the curb and feel guilty about it" attitude. To compensate, we recycle.

This shift in attitude is very important, as we all need to be aware of the impact of our waste. But we also need to be aware that we will not recycle our way out of our waste problem. There are limits to recycling. Local recyclers report people contaminate their recycling by putting non-recyclable trash in their curbside recycling. This is at a time when China, the world's largest importer of our recyclables, has banned most of its global recycling imports because of contamination.

As a result, recycling properly is more important than ever. We can't put trash into our recycling bins and wish it will all get recycled. The sorting technology at recycling facilities is not designed to recycle everything and neither are our global recycling markets.

Recently the Solid Waste District has received some push back regarding instructions it has distributed through its recycling education campaign. Many perceive that the District has changed the rules and restricted recycling. This is partly true. To develop the list of what can and cannot be recovered for recycling in Cuyahoga County, we went to the source – the four local material recovery facilities (MRFs) that collect and sort our household recyclables. Here is what we learned:

Improper Recycling Threatens the Sustainability of our Programs. People are loading up their recycling carts with a lot of things the recycling machinery is not designed to capture. This includes things hazardous to employees like syringes, propane tanks and large pieces of

Continues on page 2



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY —at— HEINEN'S

Shop at Heinen's on Monday, April 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. and receive a reusable University Heights shopping bag.

Rain Barrel workshop

Save the Rain for a Sunny Day!

Learn to harvest rain water for all your garden needs, and to combat stormwater pollution in your community! An average house's rooftop generates more than 24,000 gallons of runoff every year! That's rainwater that you could be harvesting to water flowers or vegetables.

Thursday • May 9 • 6:00pm - 7:30pm

University Heights Service Garage (behind City Hall)
2300 Warrensville Center Rd. • University Heights • 44118

Register online • www.cuyahogawcd.org
(click on Events - May 9)
or contact Amy Roskilly
216/524-6580, ext. 1005
aroskilly@cuyahogawcd.org

Sponsored by:






Steve and Adam Grace are the father and son team at Fairmount Cleaners, located at 2163 South Taylor Road.

Fairmount Cleaners continue to Go Green

Earth Day is April 22nd. But for the owners of Fairmount Cleaners, every day is Earth Day.

Steve Grace runs Fairmount Cleaners with his son Adam. They know dry cleaning has a reputation for being damaging to the environment. That's why they take steps to make their business as environmentally friendly as possible.

"Customers in the Heights have always been eco-sensitive," Steve said. "We're on the same page as our customers, and we are always making environmental improvements."

Fairmount Cleaners solvent of choice, SOLVONK4, is now Biobased and has been awarded the USDA Bio-Preferred product label. SOLVONK4 is the first and only Bio-based solvent in the dry cleaning industry.

As defined by the USDA, bio-based products are derived from plants and other renewable agricultural, marine, and forestry materials and provide an alternative to conventional petroleum-derived products. Made primarily from corn, SOLVONK4 is also completely biodegradable.

"Bio-derived and sustainable are words never before applied to the dry-cleaning industry until now," Steve said. "There is peace of mind in using SOLVONK4. We know we are safe using it, our customers are better off, and the environmental liability was eliminated as well."

Solvent use is not the only way Fairmount tries to help the environment. "We use plastic bags made with 50% recycled material, and we offer reusable fabric garment bags to further reduce our need for plastic," Steve explained.

"We use many recycled paper products as well. In addition, we manually recycle many hangers we receive back from our customers."

Limits of Recycling, from pg 1

scrap metal. This also includes things that tangle in the machinery like clothing, plastic bags, rubber hoses, hangers, plus non-recyclable plastics. This contamination must be removed, then is landfilled at a very high cost. This cost will eventually be passed onto the communities or services may end.

Recycling is Driven by Economics

Yes, recycling rules have changed over time because recyclables are commodities that are sold and traded throughout the world. Recycling is an industry fueled by environmental responsibility but ultimately driven by economics.

The economics of recycling are rarely discussed but are at the center of the issue of recyclability. Currently supply exceeds demand mainly because of recent restrictions China has placed on the materials they will import including mixed plastics and paper. China is tired of being the world's dumping ground and is now demanding cleaner, sorted recyclables since they use them to produce the goods we buy here at home.

Only Certain Materials are Recoverable through Backyard Recycling. Recycling is designed to collect five types of materials. These five materials form the basis of the District's message around recycling and reflects the industry standard at this time. New markets may develop down the road but for now, the following are recoverable through backyard recycling:

Cans

Cartons (milk, soup, broth and juice)

Glass bottles and jars

Paper and cardboard (excluding sanitary items and those contaminated with food)

Plastic bottles and jugs

Stop Wish-Cycling. The District and your recycling processor want everyone to stop "wish-cycling" which is putting things in your recycling that you wish would be recycled, and stick to the core items that can be recycled. There are other ways to recycle things that are considered contamination in your recycling bag but still can be recycled separately in other ways.

For instance, plastic bags can be taken to grocery and retail stores for recycling and scrap metal can be taken to a scrap yard.

While recycling has its limits, we urge everyone to learn the recycling rules to recycle more and recycle better. You can do learn more by visiting CuyahogaRecycles.org.

Small Business SPOTLIGHT

Rozita's
Fashion Boutique
Fashionable, modest clothing and accessories for women and teens
Sizes XS-3XL
Rozitasfashionboutique@gmail.com

Hours
Sunday 11:00-5:00
Monday 12:00-5:00
Tuesday 12:00-5:00
Wednesday 12:00-7:00
Thursday 12:00-5:00
Friday 10:00-2:00

216-465-4005
216-299-5821

2243 Warrensville Center Road
University Heights
OH 44118

Mika's
Wig Boutique & Spa
216.382.2954

2199 South Green Road
mikawigboutique.com
Mika's Wig Boutique
mikawigboutique

Full service waxing available

All wig & hair services available

Boris Glatt Kosher Meats, Inc.
Specializing In Smoked Meats

When you want the Best Service and Quality Meats,
Come to Boris!

GLATT TO MEET YOU!

www.BorisKosher.com

14406 Cedar Road
University Heights, OH 44121
Email: boriskosher@aol.com

Tele: 216-382-5330
Fax: 216-382-3520

Tibor's
TIBOR'S KOSHER MEAT MARKET
GLATT KOSHER
Specializing in Smoked Meats

TIBOR ROSENBERG
2185 SOUTH GREEN RD.
UNIVERSITY HTS., OH 44121
216.381.7615 • 216.381.7616
FAX: 216.381.5215
"When You Shop at Tibor's You're Assured of Quality"

CHILDREN'S OPTICAL CO., INC.

SPECIALISTS IN CHILDREN'S EYEWEAR

2256 WARRENSVILLE CENTER RD.
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OH 44118

JOSEPH SCHULGASSER
(216) 321-3399

ALSO: COMPLETE ADULT SERVICE

Think Local.
Shop University Heights.