



Spring 2016 Newsletter | Volume 25 | No. 1

Loathe Litter? Cleanup on Earth Day!

Register your group at OCRRA.org for the community's April 22 and 23 event

Cheri Zajac, Typist

Snow may not have piled up much this year, but litter is a different story... Why not get a spring in your step and help clean up Onondaga County in honor of Earth Day?

Gather your co-workers for a lunchtime cleanup on Friday, April 22, or get your family, friends and neighbors together on Saturday, April 23. You could even do both!

Litter in our community must not be allowed to compete with the spring flowers. Not only is litter unsightly, it reflects poorly on our community. The good news here is that there are thousands of awesome residents, like you, who care enough to make a difference in our community.

OCRRA's 2015 Earth Day Litter Cleanup saw more than 7,000 residents scouring the roadsides, streets, parks and ditches to collect over 101,000 pounds of ick (that's more than the weight of 34 Prius cars). More than 2,262,800 pounds of litter have been collected since OCRRA's first cleanup 24 years ago!

HOW TO REGISTER:

Visit OCRRA.org, mail in the form at right or call 453-2866, ext. 202. Groups will receive trash bag stickers to attach to their litter bags and instructions on where to take the filled bags for free disposal.

According to the international Earth Day Network, the dedicated and tireless volunteers, along with the hard work of our local highway crews, has made



Members of the Bayberry Community Association pause during their 2015 cleanup for a group photo. Join groups like this for the 2016 Earth Day Litter Cleanup happening April 22 and 23. Help beautify Onondaga County! The registration deadline is April 15. Register online or by filling out the form below.

OCRRA's Earth Day Litter Cleanup one of the largest cleanup events in the nation! Let's step up and step out to continue to make Onondaga County cleaner and greener!

Cheri Zajac can be reached at czajac@ocrra.org.



WHEN: Friday, April 22, and / or Saturday, April 23.

WHERE: Any public area in Onondaga County – you pick!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, April 15.

2016 Earth Day Litter Cleanup Registration Form



Name of Group: _____
 Number of Workers: _____
 Name of Contact Person (one name only): _____
 Address of Contact (where information/stickers are to be sent):
 Street: _____
 City: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone #: (W) _____ (H) _____ (Fax) _____
 E-Mail: _____

Day(s) Your Group Will Be Cleaning:
 Friday, April 22 Saturday, April 23 Both

You will receive two trash bag stickers per worker. Please indicate if you will need more. →

Number of ADDITIONAL Stickers

Remember, **NO** chemical waste, paint cans, furniture, appliances, yard waste or gas tanks are acceptable. **OCRRA encourages groups to recycle any bottles and cans they find.**

Municipality (city/town/village) where you are cleaning. This info used to provide instructions on litter drop off.

What area are you cleaning? (You may choose any public space in the county. Be as specific as possible to avoid cleanup overlap):

Registration DEADLINE APRIL 15

Cleanup supplies are your group's responsibility. OCRRA provides the stickers for free disposal through the municipality. Any questions, please call OCRRA at 453-2866, ext. 202.

Register Online at OCRRA.org
 OR RETURN REGISTRATION VIA FAX 453-2872
 OR MAIL TO: OCRRA
 100 Elwood Davis Road
 North Syracuse, NY 13212



TV RECYCLING.....PG 2

Find out where you can recycle your old TVs and other electronic waste.



BLUE RIBBON RECYCLERPG 2

Tessy earns business recycling distinction from OCRRA.



COMPOST PASSES...PG 4

Find out about OCRRA's three new compost site pass options available to residents in 2016.



DIY DISPOSALPG 6

Bring your home renovation debris to one of OCRRA's convenient Drop-Off Sites.



SHRED-O-RAMA ...PG 7

Confidential paper shredding event hits NBT Bank Stadium on Saturday, May 7.

TVs are Banned from the Trash

So what can you do with them?

Ann Fordock, Recycling Specialist

As part of the New York State Electronics Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act, households are prohibited from throwing certain electronic waste, including TVs, into the trash. Putting a TV out to the curb may result in a fine, and it definitely is not going to get picked up by your trash hauler.

TVs and some computer monitors contain leaded glass (known as cathode ray tubes, or “CRTs”) and other hard to recycle components that make them costly to properly recycle. As a result, more places, including Best Buy, are charging for TV and computer monitor recycling. However, other electronic waste remains free per the new electronics recycling law.

Efforts are underway to change the current law to ensure year-round, convenient, free disposal of TVs, computer monitors, and other electronics for all residents. Recycle TVs and other electronics here:

BATTERY WORLD (Syracuse)

Accepts tube TVs or monitors at a fee. Accepts other electronics and projection and flat screen TVs for free. **Call 437-1404 for details.**

BEST BUY (Various Locations)

Takes smaller electronics for free. Now charging \$25 per TV. Will not accept tube TVs or monitors that are greater than 32”, nor flat panel TVs (this includes LCD, plasma and LED screens) larger than 50”. **Call 1-888-BESTBUY for details and restrictions.**

BRUIN COMPUTER (Liverpool)

Accepts electronics, but not TVs. **Call 410-0050 for more details.**

SALVATION ARMY (Various Locations)

Takes TVs and electronics. Working and non-working TVs of all sizes are accepted; however, TVs and monitors cannot be physically broken in any way.

Pickup services may be available. **Call 445-0520 prior to dropping off any electronic waste.**

There will be at least three e-waste collection events in 2016 sponsored by local elected officials. While these are not OCRRA events, the Agency is pleased to share the dates for these upcoming free collections:

- **June 4**, sponsored by Senator Valesky,
- **July 30**, sponsored by Assemblyman Magnarelli,
- **August 6**, sponsored by Senator DeFrancisco.

Times and locations for these events are to be announced, so sign up for OCRRA’s e-mail newsletter at **OCRRA.org** to be advised as soon as details are finalized.

Ann Fordock can be reached at afordock@ocrra.org.

Save the world a little each day.



Televisions can no longer be thrown in the trash per a NYS Law that has helped keep more than 400 million pounds of electronic waste out of the trash since 2011. Most electronic waste can be recycled for free, but, due to the leaded glass found in TVs and CRT monitors, some locations are now charging to recycle them. Efforts are underway to amend the existing law to eliminate this concern.

Items considered Electronic Waste (E-Waste)

- **Televisions**
- **Computers**
- **Computer Peripherals** (monitors, keyboards, mice, facsimile machines, scanners, printers)
- **Small Electronic Equipment** (tablets, VCRs, DVRs, portable digital music players, DVD players, digital converter boxes, cable or satellite receivers, video game consoles, etc.)



Go Green ~ Become Blue...



Become a Blue Ribbon Recycler
Apply for certification at:
blueribbonrecycler.com



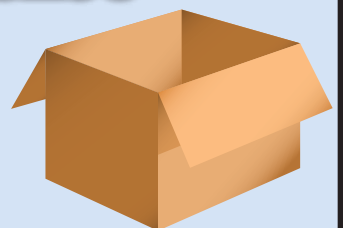
Sean Rowley, Labor Supervisor at the Tessy North Plant, stands at a kiosk where he can recycle paper (in the OCRRA provided deskside container at his feet) and labels (in the plastic bin behind him).

Tessy bales shrink wrap and collects other scrap manufacturing plastic and sends it to Rochester Recycling.

Tessy also has convenient collection stations throughout their facilities for paper and containers; a battery collection station; and responsible programs for managing e-waste and spent fluorescent lightbulbs. To become a Blue Ribbon Recycler like Tessy, visit **OCRRA.org** and fill out an application today.

Bash Your Boxes

Did You Know?
Cardboard boxes must be flattened before placing them out for recycling.



Spring 2016 • Volume 25 • No. 1

This quarterly publication is brought to you by

OCRRA

100 Elwood Davis Road, North Syracuse, NY
13212-4312

KRISTEN LAWTON
Public Information Officer

Printed on Recycled Paper

OCRRA’s waste reduction, reuse and recycling program efforts (including this newsletter) are partially financed by a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.



The Garden GURU

Terry Ettinger
Instructional Support Specialist, SUNY - ESF

No matter what kind of weather Mother Nature brings, spring simply will not be denied. The days are getting longer and warmer...

This means it probably won't be long before you start your annual spring garden and landscape clean-up. In fact, you may already have started raking last year's leaves from your landscape beds, picking up twigs and pruning some of those overgrown shrubs. Soon you may be hauling the debris to one of the OCRRA Compost Sites.

While at the Amboy or Jamesville Compost Site, you may decide to pick up some mulch and / or compost. **Do you know the difference between compost and mulch and how to best use each product?**

Mulch is any material that

can be spread over soil to accomplish three things: reduce soil water loss, suppress weeds and protect against temperature extremes. Not only does OCRRA's wood mulch meet the definition of a mulch (no surprise there), but so does their compost, as it too can be spread over soil to reduce water loss, suppress weeds and protect against temperature extremes.

Using compost as mulch can be more expensive than using wood mulch, as compost decomposes faster.

Compost is best used as a soil amendment, or even a soil replacement – especially in vegetable and annual flower gardens as its quick decomposition floods soil with nutrients that helps plants grow.

A 2016 Compost Site "Plus" Pass (read more

about OCRRA's new pass options on page 4) entitles you to three cubic yards of compost – enough to cover roughly a one hundred square foot garden to a depth of nine inches, a two hundred square foot garden to a depth of six inches, or a three hundred square foot garden to a depth of three inches.

Digging compost into a heavy clay soil will help to "loosen" it by gluing the microscopic clay particles into larger aggregates; this reduces soil compaction, which allows for more water infiltration and root growth. Dug into a sandy soil, compost will act as a sponge, holding water and nutrients in a form readily taken up by plant roots.

Using OCRRA mulch and compost correctly will enhance the vigor of your landscape, vegetable and flower gardens far into the future!

Terry Ettinger can be reached at tlettinger@esf.edu.

Should You Use Mulch, Compost or Both?



Using mulch or compost in your landscaping and garden projects is a great way to reduce water loss, suppress weeds and protect against temperature extremes. Learn how to get compost and mulch using one of OCRRA's new Compost Site Pass options, details are available on page 4.

Order a 2016 Compost Site Pass online today:
www.tinyurl.com/CompostPasses



Recycling Rhoda

Talks Trash – and Recycling!

Rethinking What
"Best By" Dates Really Mean

Dear Rhoda,

My cousin Laverne buys food at a discount store that sells expired food. She calls it "recycling." I think it's disgusting and irresponsible. I won't eat at her house in the event she is trying to pawn off her "bargains." Please back me up on this, because my husband says I should try shopping there too, if it saves money...

Careful Cathy

Well Cathy, I have some bad news for you. I agree with Cousin Laverne, and your husband. First off, the dates on the food she is buying are **not actually**

expiration dates. They are "best by," "use by" or "sell by" dates. In 2013, the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Defense Council released a report stating that these dates are not federally regulated, are not related to food safety and contribute to America's food waste epidemic.

So, in other words, until there is some federally regulated set of food dating regulations, cousin Laverne has it right. The dates on her products don't indicate food safety, but rather how long the manufacturer claims the

food will taste its best. So, she (and frankly, you too) can purchase with minimal risk, especially because food scientists state that "not a single food safety outbreak in the U.S. has been traced to a food being consumed past date."

What are outbreaks traced to? Generally, to pathogens that may have contaminated the food during processing, or to 'temperature abuse' such as leaving raw chicken in a hot car, or to air exposure that encourages mold.**

Now, I'm not saying that manufacturers put these

dates on items because it makes grocery stores and individuals throw out pretty darn good food and go buy new stuff. Well, maybe I am. But, I'm also saying, use your best judgment, and consider saving some money and reducing food waste at the same time!

There are several close out/discount food stores in Syracuse where you can buy food that either didn't sell in a store or is past its "best by" date. I've found scores of expensive health food and gluten free products for as little as \$3; high-end gelato for \$1; frozen food that

is still good because it hasn't ever been unfrozen; almond milk, bacon, loose leaf teas and all kinds of other things that I wouldn't otherwise have been able to afford, at these stores.

But, at the end of the day, do what works for you. If you do the research and still choose not to shop at the discount stores, that's fine – more for me and Cousin Laverne anyway.

Recycling
Rhoda

*www.tinyurl.com/LAtimes-foodwaste

OCRRA Unveils New Compost Site Pass Options

Get a jump on the April 1 season opener – buy your pass online today

Kristen Lawton, Public Information Officer

On April 1, OCRRA's Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites will both be open to serve residents' yard waste, food scrap, compost and mulch needs. So, how do you take advantage of this great service? As a resident, you can simply purchase a site pass to get in on all the action.

New in 2016, OCRRA is offering three different pass options to meet resident needs.

- If you only want to drop-off yard waste and / or food scraps, you will want to purchase the **"Basic Pass"** for \$20.
- If you want to drop-off yard waste and / or food scraps **and** also want to **self-load** up to 6 cubic yards of mulch OR 3 cubic yards of compost, you will want to purchase the **"Plus Pass"** for \$35.
- If you want to drop-off yard waste and / or food scraps **and** want **OCRRA to load your vehicle** with up to 6 cubic yards of mulch OR 3 cubic yards of compost, you will want to purchase

the **"Premium Pass"** for \$50.

The 2016 Pass System is tailored to individual needs. Don't need any compost or mulch? Then go with the \$20 Basic Pass. Want to drop-off and load your own material? Select the \$35 Plus Pass. Don't want to self-load materials? Opt for the \$50 Premium Pass! OCRRA has you covered no matter what.

Both the Plus and Premium Pass options allow residents to take away either 3 cubic yards of compost or 6 cubic yards of mulch; depending on where you buy materials from, this has a retail value between \$75 and \$100.

All around, a great deal for high-quality, US Composting Council (USCC) Certified Mulch and Compost. Purchasing USCC certified materials means you are getting consistent materials from batch-to-batch. OCRRA is the only location in CNY where you can purchase these products, which are tested quarterly by a third-party laboratory and consistently

meet stringent USCC, NYS DEC and US EPA criteria.

OCRRA's composting process generates enough heat to make virtually weed-free, seed-free and plant born pathogen-free compost. View our USCC test results at OCRRA.org.

So, how do you get a compost site pass? It's easy. Simply visit www.tinyurl.com/CompostPasses, where you can select the pass that best suits your needs and order it right online! You will receive your pass in the mail, but can begin using it right away (after April 1) by simply showing your confirmation email in hard copy or on your mobile device.

Or, you can purchase a pass in person during normal hours of operation at the following locations:

- **OCRRA's Main Office**, 100 Elwood Davis Road, North Syracuse, 13212. (Mon. – Fri.; 8:00 am – 5:00 pm)
- **Amboy Compost Site**, 6296 Airport Road, Camillus, 13209. (After April 1, Mon. – Sat., 7:30 am – 4:00 pm)



New in 2016, OCRRA is offering three different site pass options ranging from \$20 to \$50 in value. Site users now have the ability to drop-off yard and food waste only; drop-off and self-load compost or mulch; or drop-off and have OCRRA load their vehicle with compost or mulch. You choose what works best for your needs!

- **Jamesville Compost Site**, 4370 Route 91, Jamesville, 13078. (After April 1, Mon. – Sat., 7:30 am – 4:00 pm)

Not sure you want to buy a pass? Residents always have the option to buy materials in bulk (loaded by OCRRA) without a pass, or they can buy OCRRA's 1/4" Premium Compost by the bag. See the list of local retailers that carry our USCC Certified product, by the bag, below.

A note about OCRRA's compost fees: OCRRA is a public benefit corporation cre-

ated by the NY State Legislature, and receives no direct tax support for the recycling, composting and waste management services it provides to the residents and businesses of Onondaga County.

OCRRA charges fees to residential, municipal and commercial users of its compost sites to ensure that yard waste and food scraps are managed in an environmentally sound way. The fees also ensure that OCRRA generates high-quality mulch and superior compost products.

Kristen Lawton can be reached at klawton@ocrra.org.

Local Retailers Selling OCRRA's Bagged Compost:

- Ace Village Hardware: Baldwinsville, Fayetteville, Weedsport
- Aspinall's Tree Nursery & Landscaping, Chittenango
- Ballantyne Gardens, Liverpool
- Buyea's True Value, Cazenovia
- B'ville Supply, Baldwinsville
- Carol Watson Greenhouse, Lafayette
- CountryMax Stores: Cicero, Dewitt, Cortland, Norwich, Seneca Falls
- Deaton's Agway, Pulaski
- EverGreen Landscaping & Garden Center, Syracuse
- Green Acres Garden Center, Liverpool
- Green Hills Farms, Syracuse
- Greenscapes, Jamesville
- Lan's Flower Farm, Clay
- Lee's Feed Store, Syracuse
- Maldonado Gardens, Elbridge
- Manlius True Value Hardware, Manlius
- Oliver B. Paine Greenhouses, Fulton
- Skaneateles Town Square Ace Hardware, Skaneateles
- T.J.'s Lawns Plus, Phoenix
- Vollmer Farms & Farm Market, East Syracuse
- Wagner Farms, Rome
- Watson Farms, Lafayette
- Westvale Gardens, Syracuse
- Zerrillo Gardens, East Syracuse



USCC Certified Compost Grows Healthy Plants

How do you know you are buying certified compost?

Greg Gelewski, Recycling Operations Manager

Most gardeners are keenly aware of the benefits of using compost in their gardens and landscapes. For example, compost:

- Promotes plant and root growth / survival,
- Retains moisture, which reduces the amount of watering necessary,
- Increases water permeation, which reduces stormwater runoff,
- Costs less than many engineered soil amendments.

But, how do you know you are using a quality compost if you do not make it yourself? You have to know what you are buying and the only way to know is to purchase **certified** compost. Did you know, OCRRA is the only CNY organization that produces U.S. Composting Council (USCC) Certified Compost? To achieve USCC Certified Compost

status, a compost producer like OCRRA must participate in the USCC's Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program.

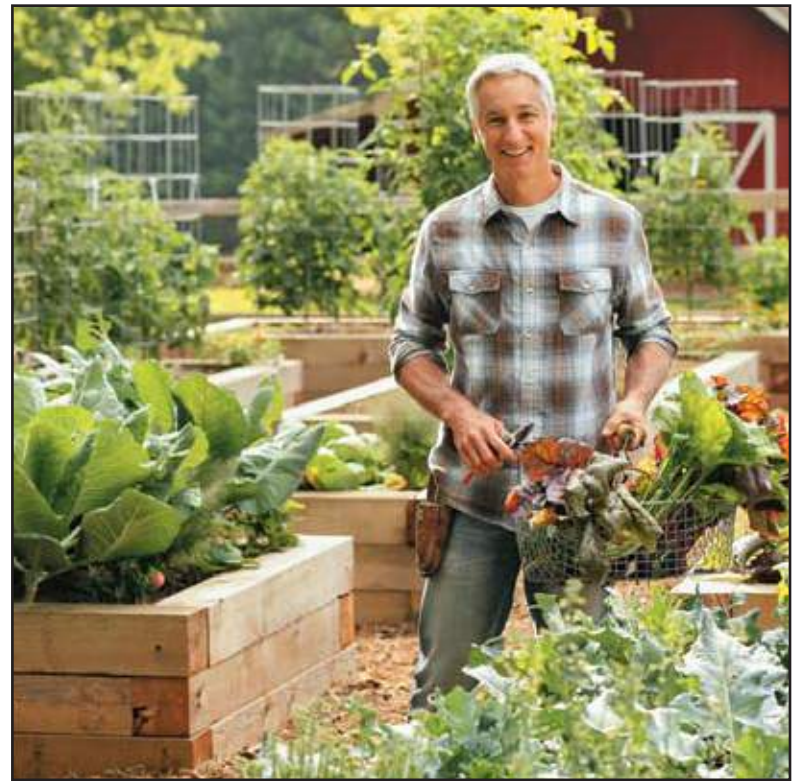
The STA program is a compost testing, labeling and information disclosure program designed to give consumers the information needed to compare and choose the right compost product for their needs. There is no other compost testing program like it and it has become the industry standard in the U.S. and Canada.

Only compost that meets the STA program's rigid standards can display the certified compost logo on its packaging. Look for the USCC Certified Compost label to know you are buying quality compost that will help your plants thrive.

In an effort to educate gardeners about the importance of certified compost

use, the USCC has formed a partnership with PBS's "Growing a Greener World" host, Joe Lamp'l. Lamp'l is one of the country's most trusted gardening personalities; his passion for environmentally responsible gardening makes him a perfect advocate for the use of high-quality compost certified by the USCC's STA program.

To learn more about why certified compost is important, read Lamp'l's blog "ComPost Confidential" at www.growingagreenerworld.com/compost-safety or watch his video that explains the USCC STA testing process here: www.tinyurl.com/STAtesting. To find where you can buy USCC STA Certified Compost or to calculate just how much you should buy for your gardening needs, check out the USCC's website here:



Joe Lamp'l from the PBS television show "Growing a Greener World" demonstrates how using US Composting Council Certified compost helps sustain our environment and grow healthy plants. USCC Certified Compost can be purchased at OCRRA's Amboy and Jamesville Compost Site as well as at over 20 local retailers; see page 4 for a list of participating retailers.

www.certifiedcompost.com OCRRA's USCC STA Certified Compost is available in bulk and by the bag at OCRRA's Amboy and Jamesville Compost Sites.

It can also be purchased by the bag at over 20 local retailers (see list on page 4). Greg Gelewski can be reached at ggelewski@ocrra.org.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE...

CONQUERED BY:

Eileen McGrath of Syracuse

McGrath is OCRRA's Spring Household Hazardous Waste appointment raffle winner. McGrath won a basket full of green cleaning products. Get rid of your household toxics, safely at OCRRA's year-round drop-off; make an appointment at OCRRA.org.

OCRRA's 2015 Achievements

- Collected more than 15,000 **mercury containing fluorescent lamps** (4 tons+) in partnership with local Ace, TrueValue and Valu Home Center hardware stores.

Over 77,000 fluorescent lamps collected / recycled since 2007.
- Improved or **established recycling programs at over 80 apartment complexes, 100 schools and 250 local businesses.**
- Organized more than 7,400 volunteers who collected over 100,000 pounds of litter as part of OCRRA's annual **Earth Day Cleanup program.**

Over 2 million pounds of litter collected since 1994!
- Received **Interactive Media Association Award** and the **Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's Leader in Sustainability Award.**
- Composted over 3,000 tons of food scraps; sold over 7,500 cubic yards of **compost and mulch**; generated revenue exceeding \$493,000; a 32% increase over 2014.

OCRRA's Amboy Compost Site is the largest municipal food scrap recycling facility in New York State.

TODAY'S RECYCLING

WASTE-TO-ENERGY | COMPOSTING | RECYCLING

TOMORROW'S RESOURCES

See how at OCRRA.org

FACT: Oil-based paint is accepted at OCRRA's year-round Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off. Latex paint is not.



A word from the Executive Director...

Contractors and DIY Gurus: OCRRA helps you Cleanup

Mark Donnelly, Executive Director

Are you a do-it-yourselfer? Well, if you are, OCRRA's Drop-Off Sites are here to help you once you are in clean up mode. Whether you took on a simple bedroom remodel and have sheetrock and carpet to dispose of, or you embarked on a major bathroom remodel that included floor, vanity and fixture removal, OCRRA's Drop-Off Sites can handle all those wastes for you.

If you are a contractor, you may already be using our sites, but did you know that we handle everything from concrete blocks to roofing? Paneling to sheetrock? Floor boards to windows? (See list on page 7 for more examples of acceptable items.)

OCRRA's Drop-Off Sites also make it easy to recycle your cardboard and other containers that are generated on the jobsite.

Location, location, location.

OCRRA's Rock Cut Road Drop-Off Site is conveniently situated off

Routes 481 and 81 in Jamesville; this site services residential vehicles (pick-ups, vans, SUVs, mini-vans and single-axle trailers) and charges a flat fee based on vehicle type / load.

Our Ley Creek Drop-Off Site is just off the 7th North Street exit of Route 81 in Liverpool and services residential and commercial vehicles (large trucks, dual-axle trailers, etc.). Residential vehicles are charged a flat fee based on vehicle type / load, while commercial vehicles are charged based on weight and material type.

If you are a contractor, you can also take advantage of our permit system, which saves you \$15 per ton on general trash disposal and also eliminates the \$25 per load surcharge assessed to all non-permitted commercial users who visit the Ley Creek Drop-Off Site.

Permitted or not, your trash and C&D will be properly disposed of at OCRRA. Most of it will be convert-

ed to electricity at the local Waste-to-Energy Facility (where ferrous and non-ferrous metal is also recovered and recycled – to the tune of 9,000 tons a year!). A small portion of the materials you bring in, such as PVC pipe, concrete and drywall will go to a permitted landfill designed to properly handle those items.

Please note: the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation requires that **all open loads being delivered must be covered or tarped**. This prevents litter and keeps our community clean. When visiting OCRRA, please tarp your loads to avoid a \$25 untarped load fee.

OCRRA's drop-off sites offer easy access, friendly staff to assist you and competitive disposal prices. So stop on by! For details on our locations, hours, fees and permit applications, visit www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAdropOffSites

Mark Donnelly can be reached at mdonnelly@ocrra.org.



Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer with a few household projects to complete or a contractor with lots of jobs, OCRRA can help you manage your waste and construction debris! OCRRA's Drop-Off Sites make it easy and convenient to get rid of sheetrock, floor boards, paneling, windows, fixtures, roofing, concrete blocks and more.

Drop-Off Site: HOURS

ROCK CUT ROAD

5808 ROCK CUT ROAD, JAMESVILLE, 13078

- **RESIDENTIAL USERS:**
Tuesday – Saturday: 7:00 AM to 2:30 PM

LEY CREEK

5158 LEY CREEK DRIVE, LIVERPOOL, 13088

- **RESIDENTIAL USERS:**
Second and fourth Saturday of each month: 8:00 AM to noon
- **COMMERCIAL AND PERMITTED USERS:**
Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Second and fourth Saturday of each month: 8:00 AM to noon

Both sites are closed on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Drop-Off Site: FEES

FLAT RATE FEES (both sites):

- Cars, mini-vans, sport utility vehicles (SUVs) **\$12**
- Pickup trucks, vans, single-axle trailers **\$25**
(Loads may be assessed an additional fee, depending on vehicle modifications or load size)

SCALE FEES (Ley Creek only):

- Trash (MSW) per ton
(for business users with an OCRRA permit) **\$84 / ton**
- Trash (MSW) per ton
(for users without an OCRRA permit) **\$99 / ton**
- Construction debris **\$46 / ton**
- Roofing material **\$37 / ton**
- Clean wood **\$35 / ton**
- Minimum scale charge **\$10**



Safeguard Your Identity With Help From OCRRA

Residents invited to shred confidential documents for free at May 7 event at NBT Bank Stadium

Dave Nettle, Recycling Specialist

Shredding paper records such as medical documents, bank information, tax documents and other items containing personal account numbers is one way to combat identity theft.

In 2016, OCRRA brings you two opportunities to safeguard your identity by shredding your confidential documents, at no charge! Mark your calendar to attend either or both events.

The first event happens Saturday, May 7, from 8 am to noon at NBT Bank Stadium. No reservations are required to attend.

OCRRA asks residents to bring **no more than five banker size boxes per vehicle** and to:

- Pack confidential documents, loosely, in durable boxes, containers or paper bags.
- Avoid bringing items in plastic bags as they slow down the shredding process.
- Remove binders or other non-paper contaminants (plastic – bags, binders,

folders; spiral notebooks; laminated items; electronic media including computer disks, CDs, etc.). Staples and tape are fine.

Please note the event is **FREE** and open to **household residents** in Onondaga County only. Business materials will not be accepted. If your workplace needs shredding services, visit **OCRRA.org** for details or contact a shredding service.

Attendees must enter the event from the Grant Boulevard / Hiawatha Boulevard intersection. Since OCRRA started hosting Shred-O-Rama in 2004, more than 485 tons of personal papers have been safely shredded and recycled.

The Food Bank of Central New York, whose vision is to wipe out hunger in our community, will have representatives on hand collecting voluntary cash and nonperishable food donations to benefit their organization.

Many thanks go to:

- Onondaga County Parks and the Syracuse Chief's



Louis Whitehurst with Shred Solvers empties confidential documents in preparation for shredding at OCRRA's May 2015 Shred-O-Rama event. Gather your confidential materials and bring them to the 2016 event at NBT Bank Stadium on Saturday, May 7. OCRRA partners with Confidata and Shred Solvers for the event, which accepts household materials only. No reservations are needed and the event is free; voluntary donations to the Food Bank of Central New York (monetary or non-perishable food) will be gladly accepted.

Management who allow OCRRA the use of the stadium's spacious parking lot, which makes for a convenient and safe event.

- Confidata / SMR Fibre and Shred Solvers who

provide a generous donation of staff time and mobile shredding vehicles.

Not able to make the event in May? Stop by the Saturday, September 24 event from 8 am to noon, also at NBT Bank Stadium.

Interested in reducing the amount of confidential documents you amass? Consider signing up for e-statements with your bank, utilities, etc.

Dave Nettle can be reached at dnette@ocrra.org.

Drop-Off Sites: Acceptable Material

ACCEPTABLE WASTE (C&D)

- Bricks, concrete and masonry (size restrictions apply)
- Electrical wiring
- Glass
- Metal (small quantities)
- Non-asbestos insulation
- Paint cans (must be empty and dry. lids must be off)
- Plumbing fixtures
- Roofing shingles
- Siding
- Wall covering, drywall, plaster, etc.
- Wood, untreated (including pallets – size restrictions apply)

ACCEPTABLE WASTE (Trash)

- Carpeting
- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Metal (no large machinery)
- Microwaves (surcharge applies)
- Tires (surcharge applies. Less than ten only, no tires by the ton; off road tires are not acceptable)
- White goods (surcharge for items with refrigerants)
- Wood, treated (size restrictions apply)

The acceptable materials listed here can be received at either of our Drop-Off Sites. This list is not all-inclusive. Please contact us if you have a question about waste not listed here.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Asbestos-contaminated material, including transite
- Electronic waste including computers and televisions
- Explosives
- Liquid wastes
- Propane tanks and compressed gas cylinders
- Radioactive materials, including smoke detectors
- Sharps and syringes
- Yardwaste



OCRRA's New Digital Education Series Makes the Grade

Theresa Mandery, Recycling Specialist

Since the unveiling of OCRRA's interactive on-line education program last spring, students in over 50 classrooms throughout the county have engaged in digital lessons that increase their knowledge of recycling, waste reduction, composting and the waste-to-energy process – all with the click of a button.

Aimed at elementary-aged students, this web-based education program includes a series of professionally-produced videos, interactive games and curriculum-aligned classroom worksheets and activities that are accessible via OCRRA's website, www.OCRRA.org.

The online approach yields many benefits, including flexibility in the classroom as students have the option to participate on their own with individual computers, tablets or mobile devices, or they can work together on classroom Smartboards. Additionally, the content adheres to New York State curriculum requirements, ensuring that

teachers are able to use these tools as part of their regular lessons, rather than something extra to squeeze in at the end of the year.

As an added bonus for educators, all topics include a list of vocabulary words with full definitions to review, as well as pre- and post-test questions to evaluate student knowledge.

The program's early popularity is evident by the initial feedback of both students and teachers:

"It was fun to learn about where you put garbage. I look forward to playing the games at home," – **Cameron, 5th grade student at Nate Perry Elementary School in Liverpool.**

"Students in Family and Consumer Sciences classes thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Smartboard games on the OCRRA website. The games were relevant, challenging and fun," – **Robin Brenner, teacher at Eagle Hill Middle School in Manlius.**

"You did such a wonderful job with this; the website looks amazing!" – **Maria Healy, teacher in**



Illagah Brown, a student at Hughes Elementary School, shows her recycling knowledge while playing one of OCRRA's interactive video games on her classroom's Smartboard. To download the entire video series, games, tests and curriculum-aligned class activities, visit www.OCRRA.org/educational_resources.

the Marcellus Central School District.

Good recycling education programs both inform and motivate people to recycle, and such education is needed to influence behaviors and grow overall community recycling rates. Developing this fresh on-line approach has helped OCRRA bring recycling education into the digital

age, nurturing a new, more technology-minded, generation of environmental champions.

To check this program out for yourself, visit www.OCRRA.org/educational_resources. Let us know on Facebook which video / game you liked best!

This program complements OCRRA's overall education efforts which

also include in-person classroom presentations. To schedule a classroom presentation or to learn more about the school education video series, contact Theresa at tmandery@ocrra.org or 315-453-2866, ext. 210.

Theresa Mandery can be reached at tmandery@ocrra.org.

Facebook Question of the Quarter

Q: Where can I recycle old books?

A: If they are softcover, you can put them right in your blue bin, as any softcover book is recyclable in your bin!

However, if they are hardcover, they must be thrown in the trash as their cover and binding renders them difficult and costly to recycle; at this time OCRRA is unaware of any recycling outlet for hardcover books in New York State.

PLASTIC BAGS:

Cannot go in the blue bin – recycle them at big box stores.

Mark Your Calendar

COMPOST SITES OPEN
APRIL 1
BUY A COMPOST SITE PASS
See Page 4 for Details

EARTH DAY
APRIL 22 & 23

Register at OCRRA.org by April 15

SHRED-O-RAMA
MAY 7
NBT BANK STADIUM
8:00 am – 12:00 noon
Enter from Grant Boulevard

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
YEAR-ROUND
AT VARIOUS LOCAL BUSINESSES
See Page 2 for Details

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF
Year-Round by Appointment
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES
6:30 am – 6:00 pm
Register at OCRRA.org

Search our disposal database

FACT: Many teachers are using OCRRA's curriculum-aligned video series to teach about recycling. Download it: www.tinyurl.com/OCRRAvids