Dates set for recycling collections

Staff report

There will be several special recycling collections available for Lake County residents again this year.

Collections are done in collaboration with the Lake County Department of Utilities Solid Waste District, county commissioners, and Ohio State University Extension in Lake County; and are specifically for residential customers. Items will not be accepted from commercial, business or industrial customers.

The first collection is for old computers from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 30 at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Painesville Township.

Acceptable items include home computer equipment, including CPUs and monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, modems and speakers. Cell phones are also accepted. No televisions, microwave ovens, typewriters, DVD players, cameras or VCRs will be accepted.

Last year, 594 vehicles brought a total of 22.68 tons of material, according to a news release from the Lake County Department of Utilities.

A scrap tire collection will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 21 at the fairgrounds. The timing of this collection allows customers to discard old tires, but also serves as a health benefit, according to the news release.

"The main vector of the West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases likes to breed in old tires that collect rainwater; as a result, getting rid of old tires that may potentially collect rainwater early in the season is a smart move to avoid a breeding ground for mosquitoes," Lake County Health Department Mosquito Control Supervisor Bert Mechenbier said in a statement.

There is no cost to bring up to six tires with no rims attached, and every additional tire with no rims is $2 each, according to the release. For each tire with rims, there is a $4 charge and there is a $10 charge for oversize tires like those on farm tractors. Last year, 439 vehicles brought 40.98 tons of tires.

Two hazardous waste collections also will be held at the fairgrounds. The first is June 4 and the second is Sept. 24. Both will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Acceptable items include household cleaners and solvents, thinners, kerosene, turpentine, lighter fluid, strippers, used motor oil, diesel fuel, gasoline, coolants, antifreeze, grease, oil-based paints, varnish, shellacs, stains, aerosols, polyurethanes, primers, grout, liquid/solid pool lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides, weed killers, spray insecticides, batteries (all sizes and including lead acid and household), fluorescent bulbs (all sizes), photography chemicals, "hobby" chemicals, mercury, empty propane tanks, roofing tars and drive sealers.

No water-based paints, radioactive (smoke alarms), ammunition, explosives or medical waste will be accepted.

"Last year, we had a combined total of 3,198 cars that came through for these two collections," Solid Waste District Coordinator Tim Gourley said. "Of those, we brought in about 124 tons of items. Out of all those materials, usually greater than 50 percent is recycled. The rest is neutralized or incinerated."

For more information about the special collections, visit http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/utilities/Divisions/SolidWaste/SpecialCollections.aspx.

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