

Conservation News



Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne
Public Works & Utilities Department ~ Environmental Community Outreach Division

Bring your pooch to Paws in the Park on Dec. 6

The upcoming cooler weather will bring a "terrific" event that will be held at Wickham Park in Melbourne on December 6.

Pooches and their owners can plan on having a "dog-gone" good time at the event that will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Look for the City's display where free "Bags on Board" will be given away. These are containers of baggies that attach to dogs leashes for easy poop pickup. By using these bags residents can do tremen-

dous good in keeping waste from entering the stormwater system and ultimately, the Indian River Lagoon.

Paws in the Park will feature contests to select the best dog costume, best dog trick, dog/owner look-alike, dog/owner least alike, and pictures with Santa Paws.

For more information and to obtain a required entry form, contact the county's South Area Parks and Recreation Department at 321-255-4400 or the Central Brevard Humane Society at 321-636-3343, ext.



204. Proof of current vaccinations and tags are required and dogs must be on a leash at the event.

Florida sets new goal of 75 percent recycling

Staff from the City's ECO Division participated in the recent public meeting to garner input on innovative ways to achieve Florida's new 75 percent recycling goal. The 2008 Energy Bill, signed by Governor Crist, establishes this new statewide goal to be achieved by 2020.

On September 22, 175 people attended the public meeting in Orlando, which was sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Participants provided varied suggestions and comments.

In addition to public meetings, the FDEP has set up a Web forum to enable Floridians to submit their recycling ideas and to join on-line discussion forums on this important topic.



"As Florida continues to grow, the sheer volume of waste requires more comprehensive and innovative measures to increase the state's recycling rate," said Mary Jean Yon, Director of FDEP's Division of Waste Management.

The new Web forum serves as a discussion site for citizens, interest groups, local government and the recycling industry to share ideas, research and experiences in increasing recycling and diverting more waste from landfills. The Web forum

can be accessed by visiting FDEP's web site at www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/recyclinggoal75. After registering to activate membership in the forum, members can begin posting messages and participating in discussions. Forum topics include the 75 percent recycling goal, recyclable materials, purchasing practices, education, technical assistance, recognition programs, financial assistance, local government programs, and others.

The FDEP will be hosting a second public meeting on the 75 percent recycling goal on December 2 in Tallahassee. To be added to the e-mail list for this meeting, send a message to Recycling.Goal@dep.state.fl.us. Public comments can be submitted by e-mail, the Web site, or in person at the meeting.



City of Melbourne
Public Works & Utilities Dept./
Environmental Community
Outreach Division
2885 Harper Road
Melbourne, FL 32904
Phone: (321) 953-6302
Fax: (321) 674-5765
E-mail: utilitiesconserve@melbourneflorida.org
Web: www.melbourneflorida.org

Read your meter to detect water leaks

Learning to read your water meter could payoff towards reducing your water bill if you notice it seems higher than normal. It is possible there is an undetected leak in your home that could be causing the unexpected increase.

To use your water meter as a leak detection device, you will need to first turn off all the water in your home or business. This even includes your automatic ice maker or any other less-obvious water users.

Then check your water meter. If the flow indicator gauge (a small red triangle or diamond) is not moving, you do not have a serious leak. To check for slow leaks, note the position of the sweep



hand and record the numbers. Read the meter again after an hour or two. If the sweep hand hasn't moved and the numbers haven't changed while no water has been used in the home, you have no leaks. If they have changed, it's time to search for the cause.

Some areas to check include toilets, faucets, malfunctioning water softeners, swimming pools, hot water heaters and faulty irrigation valves. Other leaks are harder to find, such as underground leaks, foundation leaks and leaks behind walls.

Repairs of leaks on the property owner's side of the water meter are the owner's responsibility. If you discover you have a leak, once you have it repaired, you may qualify for a credit for the sewer portion of your bill. For more information on sewer credits, visit the City's web site at:

www.melbourneflorida.org/utilbill/sewer_credit.htm or call the City's Utility Billing Office at 321-953-6390.

Bits & Pieces from the ECO Division

Need recycling bins?

Single-family residents are provided with a set of two large recycling bins free of charge. Recycling items do not need to be sorted and can be mixed together in the bins. Items that can be recycled in the curbside bins in Melbourne include:

- Paper products: newspapers, magazines, phone books, junk mail and envelopes, paper bags, milk and juice cartons, and paperboard boxes (not cardboard) such as the type of box a 12-pack of soda or cereal would come in.
- Bottles: glass and plastic
- Cans: aluminum, steel and tin

To request a set of bins, in Melbourne, please call the ECO Division at 321-953-6302. Outside of Melbourne, call your city or town, or if you live in an unincorporated area, call Brevard County Solid Waste at 321-633-2043. Or, you can call Waste Management customer service at 321-723-4455.

While you wait for your bins to be delivered, you can still recycle. Simply use an open-top cardboard or plastic box to set out your recycling for collection.

Don't miss the truck!

Make sure to place your recycling and your garbage or yard trash at the curb between 5 p.m. the day before collection and 6:30 a.m. on the day of collection. Place bins and cans within four feet of the curb or edge of the street on collection day. Make sure not to block the sidewalk.

Refrigerant items and other "white" goods

Refrigerators, freezer, air conditioning units, water coolers, and similar items must be collected separately from household trash and all doors must be removed. Other "white" goods, such as washers, dryers, water heaters, and other appliances, also require a special collection. If you are in the City limits of Melbourne, call 321-953-6302 to schedule a pickup. If you are outside the City, call Waste Management customer service at 321-723-4455.

Treated wood for disposal

If you need to dispose of treated wood, such as fencing, wooden play equipment, yard timbers, etc., these must be

cut to four-foot lengths or less. Place the cut wood for collection on your regular garbage service day. If you have a large quantity, call the City at 321-953-6302 to schedule the collection. If you live outside the City, call Waste Management at 321-723-4455.

What to do with compact fluorescent bulbs

More and more people are switching their regular light bulbs to compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs to save energy and help the environment. These bulbs use



75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. The catch, however, has been with their disposal since they contain a

tiny amount of mercury. Home Depot now accepts these CFL bulbs. When you need to dispose of them you can bring unbroken bulbs to the service desk and they will take them at no cost. Home Depot will recycle the bulbs through an environmental management firm.

Alternatively, you can bring CFL bulbs and regular fluorescent bulbs to the Sarno Landfill Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. These items are accepted on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like more information, please call the landfill at 321-255-4365.

Drop and Swap

There is also a Drop and Swap program that operates at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center at the Sarno Landfill on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents can drop off or browse and pickup products including usable household cleaning products, automotive fluids, and paint products — all free of charge.

These usable products would otherwise be disposed of through the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

Call the Sarno Landfill at 321-255-4365 for more information.