

Monthly Utility Tips

From your hometown utilities

ENVIR-O-NEWS

April, 2012

City Wide Clean Up and River Sweep This May

Annual Citywide Clean Up event will be held on May 5, 2012. Area volunteer sites include Bailey Square, North End Ball Field, Roosevelt School, Presbyterian Church, Partners in Prime, German Village Carriage House, Old Van Buren School and Heaven Sent. No Freon appliances or hazardous waste will be accepted. Limit 4 tires per household. To volunteer to



help with this event contact the City Volunteer Coordinator at 844-8050. All other questions call 785-7229.

The Great Miami River Clean Sweep will be held on May 5, 2012. The two volunteer sites are located at Joyce Park and the Hamilton Dam Overlook. To volunteer call 785-7211.



City of Hamilton
Utilities

2012 Volunteer and Recycling Programs

Adopt a Stream—If you are interested in adopting a local stream the City would like to hear from you! Adoption of a stream includes removing litter from stream banks, reporting unusual flows to the river such as strong odors, colored water or oily wastes. To participate please contact the Storm Water Coordinator at 785-7280.

Storm Drain Labeling—Hamilton has over 6000 storm drains. As part of the storm water management program Hamilton needs to label each one of these drains—your help is needed—called 785-7280 to volunteer.

Butler County Solid Waste District (513) 887-3653 is hosting several events this year:
Household Hazardous Waste Collection—

Environmental Enterprises will accept household hazardous waste from Butler County residents at 10163 Cincinnati—Dayton Road.



Freon Appliance Collection—Freon appliances to be collected, recycled, and Freon removed by a certified technician. The program is open to all Butler County residents at no cost. There is a limit of (2) like appliances per household. Call Unwanted Appliances at 1-888-886-9268 to schedule a pick-up

Computer and Television Recycling—Drop off program runs April through September on the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the County

Engineers Office 1921 Fairgrove Ave. Items accepted include CPUs, hard drives, monitors, televisions (all formats - cathode ray tubes, LCD, plasma, etc.), desktop printers, scanners, fax machines, cell phones, cordless phones, VCRs, DVD players and compact discs

Cohen Scrap Metal, 105 Black Street also accepts CPU,s Circuit Boards, Power Supplies, floppy drives and other computer components (No TV's or Monitors); Laptops, Main Frames, Cell phones without batteries, Lithium Ion Batteries, Ni-Cad Batteries and Ni-MH Batteries. Call 863-3474 or visit www.cohenusa.com for details. Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 8:00—5:00 and Saturday 8:00—Noon.



At Work for You!

345 High Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

City Garage/Emergency
Phone: 785-7550

Customer Service
Phone: 785-7100

Stream Bank Erosion Management

Many homeowners enjoy having creeks on their property for the scenery and the wildlife. Having a creek can also bring issues such as erosion of stream banks. Vast quantities of rain water are directed into our creeks from hard surfaces such as parking lots, roofs, and roadways, leading to erosion problems. Sometimes homeowners even add to the problem by mowing up to the edge of the creek and removing trees. This makes banks more vulnerable due to the absence of roots which bind the soil in place.

Some stream bank erosion is natural. But bare, vertical banks, or undercut banks are indicators of serious erosion

problems. One of the simplest ways to stabilize soils and slow erosion is to establish vegetation on stream banks. Where erosion is not severe, the banks can be seeded with vegetation. Remember, **don't mow up to the edge**. Live tree cuttings, such as willows, can be inserted in the ground to give greater bank protection over a longer period of time.

For larger streams, or more aggressive erosion, engineered methods may be required. Many traditional methods such as rock riprap or rock filled baskets can be expensive to install and maintain. These methods are best used in addition to vegetating the banks.

Before you start to haul in the heavy equipment, know the law. Any in-stream work requires permission including permits from the US Army Corp of Engineers and Ohio EPA, etc. The Ohio Stream Management Guide has a wealth of information on the laws and stream bank erosion control methods. It is available www.dnr.state.oh.us/water



If you are experiencing erosion problems, you can contact the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District for recommendations at 513-887-3720 or www.butlerswcd.org

Recycling News

In general, the following types of materials are acceptable in Rumpke Residential Recycling program:

Paper—white, envelopes, cardboard, cereal, etc. **NO** paper towels, text books or candy wrappers.

Plastic Bottles— labeled with numbers 1-7, coffee tubs. **NO** plastic bags, butter tubs, or containers.

Glass—clear, brown, blue or green—no lids. **NO** glass panes, drinking glasses or fish tanks

Cans—steel or aluminum (including aerosol cans). **NO** scrap metal, pots and pans or coat hangers. For more information visit www.rumpkerecycling.com.

Natural Gas Safety

It's important for you to do your part to make a safe fuel even safer.

DO:

- Use your nose. If you ever detect even a small amount of the odor of natural gas in the air, don't stay—leave the building. Then, contact City of Hamilton Gas Department at 785-7550 or call 911.

- Look for the blue flame. If pilot lights and burners have a steady, blue flame, they are operating correctly.

- Keep the areas around all appliances and equipment clean and unblocked to allow for proper air flow.

DON'T:

- Ever let small children play with or near natural gas appliances or pipes, even the knobs on the oven or cook top.

- Use your stove or oven for anything other than cooking (for instance, to heat your home, under any circumstances.)

- Move or install a gas appliance or change the connector in any way without professional assistance.

- Ever store household chemicals or combustible materials near gas appliances.

- Above all, don't forget to learn what to do if you ever smell natural gas in the air: **SMELL GAS? ACT FAST!**

Down Spouts, Foundation Drains and Sump Pumps Oh My!

What do down spouts, foundation drains and sump pumps all have in common? They are considered clean water sources and by city ordinance are illegal to connect to the sanitary sewer system. When these pipes are connected to the sanitary sewer system instead of the storm sewer or natural drainage ar-

reas, this water takes up "space" in the sanitary sewer lines potentially causing backups into downstream homes or sewer overflows into area creeks. The City of Hamilton is under a court order or Consent Decree to mitigate all sanitary sewer overflows by 2014. You can do your part to help with this effort by sur-

veying your downspouts and sump pumps to make sure they are draining to the correct system. For assistance in determining if your clean water connections are draining to the proper location call 785-7211.

What is a Backflow Prevention Device and Why do I have to have one?

A backflow prevention device is installed on water lines at the water meter and sometimes inside to isolate a piece of equipment from the rest of the water in a building. A backflow prevention device is required to protect the drinking water supply from any chemicals or other materials that may be used inside a commercial building or residential sprinkler system. A backflow can

occur when the water piping loses pressure, such as when a fire hydrant is flushed or a water line breaks. When this occurs, water inside a building can backflow or flow backwards into the water main in the street which could cause a health threat to other customers.

The backflow prevention device prevents this backward flow from occurring. All commercial facilities in

Hamilton are required to have a backflow prevention device installed at the water meter. Residential customers are required to have the device if they have inground sprinkler systems. To ensure each device is working properly Hamilton requires that all devices be tested annually.

