

## PASCO COUNTY RECYCLING AND EDUCATION

727-856-4539

rgdobbs@pascocountyfl.net

# Recycling Update

APRIL 2015

### TIPS

- Tune-ups, clean air filters, regular oil changes, and properly inflated tires will help you use less gas and pollute less.
- Reuse plastic tubs as perfect leftover storage boxes instead of buying expensive containers.
- Using an egg timer can help you be aware of shower length and encourage shorter showers.
- If you have an electric water heater, consider installing a timer. That way, you'll have hot water when you need it, and save energy when you don't.
- Buy rechargeable batteries instead of disposable models.
- Look beyond the kitchen for recyclable containers. Many products in bathrooms and laundry rooms can be recycled!

## The Art of Recycling

The wildly popular Art of Recycling exhibit was a great success again this year. The show featured art created by high school students from all across the county, who competed for a chance to win many cash prizes, and even a scholarship. In its 19th year, the Art of Recycling required its participants to use only discarded environmentally themed



Chang Zhang won the Art of Recycling Committee Award with *Take Flight, "Recycle"!*

art. From a steampunk styled guitar to soda can flowers, this show had a little something for everyone. All pieces were at the West Pasco Government Center during the month of February, and the winners were shown at the School Board offices in Land O' Lakes through March. The artistry and environmental awareness shown by Pasco high school students was

inspiring. Check out the Newspaper in Education insert in the Tampa Bay Times on April 26, 2015 for more pictures and valuable recycling information.



Natale Marlee won Best Environmental Concept with *What You Don't See*

## Earth Day

Pasco's Earth Day is always held on the 4th Saturday of April. This year, it's April 25th in Crews Lake Park from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. All concession proceeds benefit Mary Giella Elementary School. For more event information, call Lottie at 727-856-2917. Events include...

- ◇ Children's crafts
- ◇ Educational displays
- ◇ Water Ventures Learning Lab
- ◇ Ladybug releases
- ◇ Croc encounters
- ◇ Electronics Recycling
- ◇ Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- ◇ Rain Water Harvesting Workshop (pre-registration required)
- ◇ Composting Workshop (pre-registration required)
- ◇ Document Shredding by Shred 360
- ◇ Pill take-back program
- ◇ Mercury Bounty
- ◇ Native Plant Sale
- ◇ Central Pasco & Gulf Railroad Train Rides

## Since You Asked....

Several recycling drop-off locations were recently closed due to excessive illegal dumping, including hazardous and biomedical hazardous waste. Replacement alternatives are being considered, but drop offs are still open at:

West Pasco Resource Recovery  
14606 Hays Road, Springhill  
Mon - Sat 7a.m. to 4p.m.

Pasco Recycling South  
9150 Gall Blvd, Zephyrhills  
Mon - Fri 8a.m. to 4:30p.m.  
Sat 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

East Pasco Transfer Station  
9626 Handcart Road, Dade City  
Mon - Sat 7a.m. to 4p.m.

Land O Lakes Senior Center  
6801 Wisteria Loop, Land O Lakes  
Mon - Fri 7a.m. to 5p.m.

# Recycling Goes Hollywood

In recent years, many celebrities have embraced and promoted more eco-friendly lifestyles. Woody Harrelson, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Leonardo DiCaprio are just a few A-list celebrities that promote environmental causes, from veganism to electric cars and reduced carbon footprints.

However, a backlash has emerged that points out the hypocrisy of

praising environmental awareness while still flying around in a private jet. Does it matter that celebrities are not walking-the-walk as much as they could?

Perhaps a better way to look at any kind of eco-lifestyle change is in shades of green, rather than black and white. After all, it isn't one person doing everything that counts, but everyone

doing something. Small changes on a big scale can bring about societal shifts that change how people interact with their world.

As celebrities bring more attention to environmental causes, people might take their own initiative to start recycling at home or bringing a reusable water bottle to work.

## Don't put all your fruit in one basket

As any recycler can tell you, the first R in the reduce-reuse-recycle triad is often overlooked. Why not reduce your waste by taking a look at your kitchen? Knowing how to store your fruits and vegetables can make a big difference in when yesterday's lunch becomes tomorrow's trash. Some vegetables and fruits give off ethylene, a ripening agent. By keeping ethylene producers away from sensitive fruits and vegetables, you'll extend the life of your food.

## Keep them separated

### Producers

- Apricots
- Avocados
- Bananas
- Kiwis
- Mangoes
- Nectarines
- Peaches
- Pears
- Plums
- Tomatoes

### Sensitive

- Apples
- Asparagus
- Broccoli
- Carrots
- Cucumbers
- Eggplants
- Greens
- Potatoes
- Squash
- Watermelon

## Great American Cleanup

The Great American Cleanup is coming to Pasco again on Saturday, April 18th, from 8 a.m. until noon. Pasco County residents will join hundreds of thousands of others across the U.S. in their environmental awareness and stewardship for their country and their communities. A mainstay in Pasco since 1992, the Great American Cleanup is spearheaded locally by Keep Pasco Beautiful, an affiliate of the national organization Keep America Beautiful, and the Recycling and Education Department of

Pasco County. Cleanup teams are located in Dade City, Holiday, Hudson, Lacochee, New Port Richey, Port Richey, Spring Hill, and Wesley Chapel. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Recycling Department at 727-856-4539 to be paired with a nearby cleanup team.

