

Hazardous waste recycling day organized for towns

By Karen Mann
JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

On September 30, Townsend and Ashby will take place in a hazardous waste and bulky recycling collection day at the Lunenburg Department of Public Works.

The event gives residents a way to dispose of any hazardous items or recyclables they have in their homes.

"It is a good way to clean out stuff from the summer that you didn't get a chance to use," said Irene Congdon, the town's Recycling Committee chairman.

This is the second year Townsend will participate in the event, which is sponsored by the North Central Regional Solid Waste Cooperative (NCRSWC). The cooperative, which is composed of 11 local towns, provides its members with assistance in areas of solid waste handling — a procedure governed by state and federal regulations.

According to the NCRSWC Web site, the average household throws away 15.5 pounds of hazardous waste with their regular trash.

"It is a health issue," said Congdon. "There are alternatives out there that people need to use."

The most common hazardous items collected are oil-based paints and pesticides, said Congdon. She stressed the importance of bringing any items containing mercury, which should not be thrown away in regular trash disposal.

Other items people usually don't think to bring includes cleaning products, flea control products, pool chemicals, fluorescent bulbs and alkaline batteries, she said.

"The biggest misconception are bulbs and batteries," she said, because people are unaware that they have to be disposed of separately.

While there is no fine for throwing away items deemed hazardous with other trash,

Congdon said it is unsafe to do.

"It is dangerous. We don't know the health effects [of mixing certain items] yet," she said.

She added that it is a liability for a town to have dump trucks driving around with these items mixing in the back of the truck.

There is a fee of up to \$50 for hazardous items.

There is no charge for bringing items considered "bulky" such as books, cell phones, clothing, printer cartridges and clean clothing and rags. Larger appliances and electronics will be accepted but also for a fee of up to \$50. Congdon said the fee is simply to cover disposal of the item, no profit is made from the event.

Residents interested in bringing items do not have to live in town; the only requirement is that they pre-register. The event is also open to small businesses that do not have large quantities of materials to dispose of.

One of the alternatives is the recycling center in Townsend, which is also open to non-residents, accepts many items for free. Others can be dropped off for a fee.

Another option is the Web site, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Groton-FreeStuff/>. On this Web site people can post items they have that they would like to get rid of. This is also free.

To register for the collection day, or for a complete list of items being accepted, and the fee, contact the director of NCRSWC, Tessa David at (978) 448-8936 or visit the Web site www.masstoss.com

Karen Mann is a 2006 graduate of Emerson College, in Boston, where she studied journalism. She resides in Townsend with her parents.

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— IRENE CONGDON
RECYCLING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Remembering...



Residents Ashley Cotter and Jeff Cormier stand along Main Street on the Town Common on Monday, Sept. 11. They held signs and candles in memory of those who were killed in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

JOURNAL PHOTO/
CAITLYN KELLEHER

In brief

Continued from previous pages

Vendors/crafters sought for flea market

The Townsend Business Association will hold its first annual flea market, to be held on the Townsend Common, Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (setup and breakdown before and after). Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 15, from 1 to 5 p.m. (setup and breakdown before and after). Booths are available for \$25 (\$5 to Parks and Cemetery and \$20 towards scholarship). Crafters are welcome along with any town organization (ie: bake table). Food vendors will be on hand. Space must be reserved/pre-paid by Saturday, Oct. 7. Please send checks payable to: TBA, P.O. Box 542, Townsend, MA 01469. For more

information, call Cal Robbins at (978) 808-1733 or Kathleen Ballos at (978) 597-6040.

Public Library to hold quilt raffle

Get your chance to win a wonderful quilt! Tickets may be purchased for \$1 each or six for \$5. In addition to being available at the Townsend Public Library, tickets may be purchased at special demonstrations at selected locations. The drawing will be held on April 21, 2007. This machine-pieced, hand quilted friendship sampler was created as a fund raiser for the Friends of the Townsend Public Library by the "Quiltteas": Lucille Forest, Beverly Johnson, Joan Landry, Mae Larson, Lillian Martin, Nancy Martin, and Irene Nicholson.

There's a lot going on at GFA and you should know about it!

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Yuliya Ostrerov M.D. has recently joined Heywood Pediatrics and the medical staff at Heywood Hospital. Dr. Ostrerov received her medical degree at Tver State Medical Academy in Tver, Russia. She recently completed her residency in pediatrics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in Jersey City, NJ.

Dr. Ostrerov has also worked at Pediatric Health Care in Newton, MA. Dr. Ostrerov is fluent in both English and Russian.

Dr. Ostrerov is now accepting new patients and most insurances including Medicaid and Medicare. Her office can be reached by calling 978-630-5030.