

Pipelines

FALL 2006

Telephone Numbers

**Greene County
Sanitary
Engineering
Department**

**Administration
Building**
562-7450

**Emergency
Number**
562-7450
(after business
hours)

Billing
562-7457

Customer Service
562-7495

Public Relations
562-7679

**Environmental
Services**
562-5925

Web Address:
www.co.greene.oh.us/saneng/

Projects planned for water, wastewater

Wastewater

The County will be awarding bids this month for improvements to the Beaver-creek Water Resource Reclamation Facility. Work is expected to begin in the spring. Improvements include removing phosphorus and changing the way we deal with biosolids at the plant. Bids for improvements to the Sugar-creek Water Resource Reclamation Facility will be sought in Oc-

tober. This will be a major upgrade of the existing plant, including elimination of the pre-treatment facility in Bellbrook and construction of an equalization basin. Work should begin in 2007 and take 30 months to complete.

Water

With the Beaver-creek community continuing to grow, the County is working to ensure everyone has an adequate

water supply. In addition to major improvements planned for the water treatment plant, the County is searching for additional wells.

Work is progressing on the Southwest Regional Wellfield Protection Plan, with an impressive response to the potential contaminant source survey sent to all customers of the wellfield and to anyone within the five year Time-of Travel zone.

New bill format planned; input sought

The Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department is revamping the look of our bills and we would like your input.

The new bills will be on a standard sheet of paper and will allow us to provide more details about your bill. What kind of information do you want to see in-

cluded on your bills? Do you want just the amount due, or do you want detailed information such as usage over the past several months, the kind of meters read, or how the meter was read? Do you have other suggestions about what should be included?

If you would like to

have a say in how your new bills should look, please send an e-mail to san_eng_billing@co.greene.oh.us, or send a letter to Bill survey, Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department, 667 Dayton-Xenia Road, Xenia, OH 45385-2665.

Crushed glass available

Want to mulch your garden with bright colors? Add color and texture to a concrete stepping stone

The Environmental Services Division has the answer for you-crushed glass. The County's glass crusher yields a material that is the equivalent to very coarse sand. The crushed glass is available free to the public at the Recycling Center, 2145 Greene Way Blvd., Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Don't forget the monthly collection days the rest of the year for Household Hazardous Waste, appliances, scrap metal, fluorescent light bulbs, and electronics. The dates are: September 9, October 14, November 18, and December 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Environmental Services Facility. No paint or motor oil is accepted and monitors and TV screens should be no more than 19 inches.

Compost piles easy to make; environmentally friendly
By the staff of The Miami Conservancy District

Mulching grass clippings has become a common way to avoid bagging your grass. But did you know that those clippings – along with other yard debris – could be used to create great compost for your plants?

Leaves, grass, thatch, chipped brush and plant cuttings all can be used in your compost pile – along with certain kitchen scraps like fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells and coffee grounds. And you'll help keep area landfills from filling up faster, too, by not putting these items in the trash.

A compost pile can be started anytime of the year. Of course, the decomposition happens quicker between the spring and fall. The ideal size of a backyard compost pile is a cubic yard. The amount of compost and how fast the

process occurs depends on how much time you want to put into the project. And if you don't want to turn the materials yourself with a pitchfork, there are a variety of compost tumblers on the market that do almost all the work for you.

"Compost piles can be really easy to create," says Cindy Bach, Miami County Solid Waste Coordinator. "With a backyard compost pile, you put a little water on it, turn it and let it go. It can take as little as five minutes a week."

To start your compost pile, you'll need five basic ingredients.

- ☼ Organic material – grass clippings, wood chips, food scraps (but not meat or bones)
- ☼ Decomposers – worms and other organisms naturally will come to the compost pile from the soil
- ☼ Water – just enough so the pile

feels like a wrung out sponge

- ☼ Aeration – the more often you turn the pile, the faster the decomposition
- ☼ Heat – the higher the heat, the faster the decomposition, but over 160 degrees Fahrenheit, the process slows down.

"If you choose to put food scraps in your open compost pile, be sure to cover them at least a foot down in the pile to keep raccoons and other animals from getting to it," Bach says. "But be sure not to put meat or bones into the pile."

A properly made heap will reach temperatures of about 140 degrees Fahrenheit in four or five days. If you notice the pile "settling," that's a good sign.

For more information, contact your local nursery or the Ohio State University Extension Service.

Information for this story also provided by Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet and North Haven Gardens Internet site.