

Pipelines

SPRING 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/

Program to benefit local streams

When Greene County constructs planned improvements to the Sugarcreek Water Resource Reclamation Facility, it will benefit several Greene County streams as well as users of the wastewater plant.

As part of the improvements to the Sugarcreek plant, Greene County is participating in the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP). Under this program, if the County borrows money from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, they can sponsor other

watershed improvement projects within the region.

Greene County submitted nine possible projects for funding. Three were approved in full and two additional projects are eligible for partial funding. The state has set aside \$15 million per year for the sponsorship program; for 2007, Greene County will receive \$7.2 million of those funds, and may receive another \$1.2 million.

The program works through the interest paid on loans the County takes out to pay for facil-

ity improvements. For example, if the County borrows \$40 million to pay for the wastewater plant improvements, they will pay back the loan plus interest over a 20-year period. Normally, the interest would return to the state revolving loan fund. But under the sponsorship program, some of that interest is used to fund watershed improvements in the state. The state uses a competitive process to choose which projects to fund and the partners must meet grant requirements. Greene

Continued on page 2

Combined collection event helps environment

Success with several programs in 2005 has prompted the Greene County Solid Waste Management District to offer a combined monthly drop-off program for Household Hazardous Waste, Appliances, Scrap Metal and Electronics in 2006.

In the past, the County

has offered Hazardous Waste Collection events on a periodic basis. This coming year it will be combined with the monthly appliance/scrap metal collection.

The County is also expanding the Collection event to accept appliances containing Freon or other refrigerant. In the past, residents had to

find a private contractor to remove the gas and certify the appliance. The County recently purchased equipment to remove the material from appliances and staff members were trained in the process, enabling the County to expand that service to residents.

An electronics collec-

Continued on Page 2

Protect your drinking water

Many people don't realize that they can directly affect the quality of their drinking water and the cost of treating it.

"Whatever you can do to reduce the amount of pollutants running off your yard or property can help to protect a drinking water source - your own or someone else's," according to Mike Baker of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Baker offers these tips for helping to keep water clean:

- ◆ Properly dispose of cleaning products, paints and other products containing harmful materials.
- ◆ Don't over water your yard and garden. The water that runs off may contain fertilizers, pesticides, soil and debris.
- ◆ Make sure your septic system is working properly.
- ◆ Sweep your street. If you live in an area with curbs and storm drains, it will reduce the amount of pollutants, debris and dead vegetation entering waterways.

"The cleaner the source water, the less the water system - and its customers - have to pay to treat the water," Baker said.

Program benefits--

(Continued from page 1)

County simply serves as a sponsor.

In addition, by having a project chosen as part of the sponsorship program, Greene County's interest rate will drop a tenth of a percentage point when the loan is approved. The loan rate is currently 3.25 percent, so the County would pay 3.15 percent interest. The actual amount will be determined by the interest rate at the time of the loan approval.

The three projects that were approved for sponsorships all involve purchasing land or obtaining preservation easements to preserve or restore stream areas. Two were submitted by Little Miami, Inc., for land purchase and other activities along the Little Miami River while the other one was submitted by the Greene County Sanitary Engineering Department for stream restoration on the north fork of Massie's Creek. All of these projects involve measures that are intended to improve water quality in the watershed.

The two projects eligible for partial funding include stream restoration along the Little Beaver Creek

requested by the Greene County Parks District; and acquisition of land along the Beaver Creek by the Beaver Creek Wetlands Association.

"This is a win-win program for everyone," said County Sanitary Engineer Jeff Hissong. There is no cost to the County to participate, so there is no added cost to the rate-payers, but the program "keeps the money in the community."

The County is still working with a consultant on final plans for improvements to the Sugar-creek Water Resource Reclamation Facility in order to determine the actual cost of construction. Current estimates are in the \$40 to \$50 million range.

To help fund the construction, the County has requested support from the Dayton Development Coalition for federal funds. Because the plant improvements involve Greene, Montgomery, and Warren Counties, they requested \$10 million in assistance. The Dayton Development Coalition put the request at the top of their list of priorities.

Combined--

(Continued from page 1)

tion program that was started in 2005 was so successful, it will be included in the monthly drop-off event in 2006.

The dates for the event will be: April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 18 and December 9.

Open only to Greene County residents, the drop-off events will be held at the Greene County Environmental Services Building, 2145 Greene Way Boulevard, Xenia, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Household hazardous waste includes such items as solvents, cleanser, paint thinner and other hazardous materials. No explosives of any kind are accepted. The County also does not accept paint or motor oil, but residents can call the office to find out alternatives for these items.

The electronics event accepts all kinds of electronics, but television screens and monitors should be no more than 19 inches.

No rate increases in 2006

In keeping with a promise by the Greene County Commissioners, the Greene County Sanitary Engineering

Department will not have a rate increase for water or sewer in 2006.

The last water rate increase

was a one percent increase in 2002. The last sewer rate increase was a two percent increase in 2003.