

Leaf burning wreaks havoc on environment

Comet staff report

Children jumping into freshly raked piles of leaves is a hallmark fall tradition, but what happens to those leaves once the fun is over can affect the environment.

Historically, many Hoosiers have been quick to

reach for their matches to rid their yards of fallen leaves and other yard wastes, such as grass clippings, branches and weeds. While burning gets rid of the wastes, the smoke from these fires affects air quality, so setting fire to yard debris is not advised. Smoke from all fires releases carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, fine particles and ozone-forming chemicals and can cause a number of negative impacts for Hoosiers and our environment. Unlike dry, seasoned fire wood, fallen leaves have high moisture content and tend to smolder, releasing thick, unhealthy smoke that can affect family members, neighbors and our environment.

Anyone can be affected from the unhealthy smoke from burning piles of leaves. Elderly, young children and individuals with respiratory or heart ailments are particularly vulnerable to ill health effects from fine particle emissions. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) revised the threshold for both particulate matter and ozone, holding all communities accountable for ensuring concentrations lower than ever before. As a result, all of us should work together to prevent unhealthy emissions from unnecessary open burning of leaves and other yard waste.

The good news is there are simple things everyone can do to improve air quality, starting with the disposal of yard debris. The best way to get rid of leaves, branches and other yard wastes is by composting, chipping and mulching. These options can be done in your own yard or through a program set up with the

city/town, township or county. Composting returns nutrients to the soil instead of releasing harmful chemicals into the air. Chipped wood can be used around trees and in flowerbeds to retain soil moisture and control weeds. Mulching leaves on the lawn with a lawn mower returns nutrients to the grass, fertilizing your yard. Raking leaves into a pile and composting them over the winter creates a fertile soil amendment that can be used for flowerbeds, gardens and potted plants in the spring. Food scraps can be added to an active compost pile year-round to reduce the amount of kitchen waste being sent to landfills.

To learn more about ways to dispose of yard debris, visit IDEM's Web site at www.idem.IN.gov/4525.htm.

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Business Briefs

FAIRYTAIL FARM of Camden is one of 14 Hoosier businesses, nonprofit agencies and municipalities who were awarded \$300,000 in Alternative Power and Energy grants through the Indiana Office of Energy & Defense Development. The funding will help offset the cost of the purchase and installation of alternative energy systems utilizing renewable technologies such as solar, wind and Combined Heat and Power.

The Alternative Power and Energy (APE) grants are competitive grants that provide up to \$25,000 in matching funds for the purchase and installation of renewable energy technology, including solar electricity, solar hot water, small wind, and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) for municipal wastewater treatment plants. The grants are competitively awarded based on a number of criteria including the educational value of the project, and how much traditional electricity/energy is offset by the project.

Fairytail Farm will receive \$17,100 for wind energy. Projects must be completed by May, 2009 to utilize the grant money.

Effective Dec. 1, **CARROLL COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER** will join the Logansport Memorial Hospital (LMH) family. As a full-time primary care physician, Dr. Mark Meyer will continue practicing at Carroll County Medical Center in Flora but will have full access for his patients to the wide array of outpatient and inpatient services provided by LMH.

Dr. Brian D. Wagoner and the dental team of **DRS. WAGONER AND WAGONER, PC**, Flora, recently participated in a one-day dental seminar in Indianapolis sponsored by the Madow Group. The focus of the day was a combination of providing a challenging, fulfilling workplace for the team while at the same time insuring the most current, conscientious and optimal choices for patient care.

CATHY TURNER has been a personal assistant for ten years and is now making this service available to everyone through a new business, "Ideal Concierge." The goal is to make life "ideal" by removing the burden of running personal errands for busy individuals.



Turner

During her 19 years of house cleaning, Turner assisted clients with personal errands giving them more time for family and friends. This is the basis of "Ideal Concierge" which was started in November of 2007. The business expanded services to include laundry, making beds, ironing, transporting to doctor appointments and managing repairs for individuals.

Turner, a resident of rural Carroll County since she was age five, graduated from Delphi Community High School and earned an Associate degree in office administration from Ivy Tech.

For information, contact Turner at (765) 564-9845.

BARBARA CHAPMAN
FOR
RECORDER
Paid for by Barbara Chapman

Senior Reminder

For those of you age 65+, please remember that the annual Medicare Open Enrollment period begins November 15th and runs through December 31st.

If you need a Medicare Supplement, Medicare Advantage C plan, or Medicare D plan, please stop by our office or phone us at 967-4770 or 800-242-0466.

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