

**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!**

Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2017

## Why Waste Newsletter

*The City of Blue Springs Waste Reduction Newsletter*

### Household Hazardous Waste Event

**Saturday, April 22, 2017  
from 8 AM to Noon.**

**Pink Hill Park, 2715 NW  
Park Drive, Blue Springs,  
MO**

Items that can be dropped off include: **automotive fluids, antifreeze, batteries, CFL bulbs, fertilizers, flammables, fuels, hazardous cleaners, hazardous liquids, household cleaners, lawn and garden products, paint, pesticides, photographic chemicals, pool chemicals, solvents, thinners, and used oils.** The event is limited to the first 300 vehicles, or until the truck is full! This event is for residential/household waste only. Business waste will not be accepted, including waste from nonprofits, churches, home-based businesses, and rental property owners. Prescription drugs, explosives, yard waste, pressurized gas cylinders, items containing asbestos, tires, and appliances will not be accepted at any mobile event or year-round drop-off facility.

If you cannot make the Blue Springs event, you have several other options to safely dispose of hazardous waste, including:

Independence mobile event: Saturday, April 1, 2017 (9 AM—1 PM) at Walnut and Liberty Street.

Jackson County/Grain Valley mobile event: Saturday, October 7, 2017 (8 AM—Noon) at Jackson County Public Works (34900 E. Old 40 Highway, Oak Grove)

You can also drop-off hazardous waste year-round at the following locations:

Kansas City, 4707 Deramus Ave., 816-513-8400, Open Thurs. & Fri. 9 AM to 6 PM; & Sat. 9 AM to 4 PM. No appointment required.

Summit Waste Systems (Lee's Summit), 2101 SE Hamblen Rd., 816-623-3066, Open first Sat. each month, 7 AM to Noon, and third Wed. of each month, 2-6:30 PM (paint only). Appointment required at the Summit Waste Systems facility!

No fees apply to residents of Blue Springs for mobile events or year-round drop-off locations. **Proof of residency is required at all events and facilities.** The City of Blue Springs is a member of the Regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program. Other communities covered under the program include: Grain Valley, Lake Lotawana, Lake Tapawingo, and unincorporated Jackson County.

If you have any question about the event or are interested in volunteering, please call 816-220-4504. All volunteers must be 18 years or older!



### Prescription Drug Take-Back Event

**Saturday, April 29, 2017  
from 10 AM to 2 PM**

**Blue Springs Police Dept.,  
1100 SW Smith St.**

**Cosentino's Price Chopper  
locations at 1100 SW 7  
Hwy. and 1305 NW 7 Hwy.**

**Turn in your unused or  
expired medications for  
safe disposal.**

The Blue Springs Police Department has partnered with both Cosentino's Price Chopper locations in Blue Springs to give residents an opportunity to rid their homes of potentially dangerous prescription drugs. Drop off any expired and unused drugs at either Cosentino's Price Chopper locations in Blue Springs or the Blue Springs Police Department. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Due to the

drop-off nature of this program, no needles will be accepted. Discarding prescription drugs improperly poses potential health and safety hazards. For more information, call the Blue Springs Police Department at 816-228-0164.



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#### Spring Events Calendar

- Wed. March 15th: Pink Hill Park Recycling Center begins summer hours on Wednesdays (10 AM to 6 PM).
- Sat. March 18th: Burr Oak Woods Nature Center (1401 NW Park Rd.) Native Plant Sale (1-3:30 PM).
- Sat. April 1st: Eastern Jackson County Yard Waste Facility opens for the season (8 AM to 4 PM).
- Sat. April 22nd: Earth Day (Various events held around the metro area).
- Sat. April 22nd: Blue Springs Household Hazardous Waste Event at Pink Hill Park (8 AM to Noon).
- Sat. April 29th: Prescription Drug Take-Back Event at Blue Springs' Cosentino's Price Choppers and Blue Springs Police Department (10 AM to 2 PM).



City of Blue Springs  
 903 W. Main St.  
 Blue Springs, Missouri 64015  
 816-220-4504  
[www.bluespringsgov.com/recycling](http://www.bluespringsgov.com/recycling)

Regional Recycling Info:  
 816-474-TEAM or  
[www.recyclespot.org](http://www.recyclespot.org)



Interested in receiving the Why Waste Newsletter via email? Email Matt at [mwright@bluespringsgov.com](mailto:mwright@bluespringsgov.com)

## Pink Hill Park Recycling Center Update

Drop-off recycling is simple and free at the Pink Hill Park Recycling Center located at 2725 NW Park Drive. Items accepted include:

- Paper, shredded paper, newspapers & magazines
- Cardboard, paperboard & brown paper bags
- **Plastics #1-7 (bottles and containers)\***
- Aluminum cans
- Steel/tin food cans
- Glass jars & bottles

A staff member is always at the center to help with any questions or assist with sorting the materials into collection bins.

**Center hours beginning March 12, 2017 will be 8 AM to 4 PM on Saturdays and Sundays and 10 AM to 6 PM on Wednesdays. The center will be closed on Sunday, April 15th (Easter).**

The City receives a percentage of funds from the sale of materials collected at the center. This helps to fund maintenance and operations of the recycling center. Since opening in summer 2010, more than **3 million pounds** of recyclable materials have been diverted from the landfill!

As drop-offs continue to increase, the recycling center can be very busy at times. You can help keep traffic moving

smoothly by sorting your recyclables before you arrive. **\*In an effort to better accommodate increased usage, plastics are no longer required to be sorted into 3 different bins by type. All #1-7 plastics may be thrown in a single plastic bin.** Please remember to breakdown all cardboard and paperboard to make sure we maximize bin capacity! Shredded paper can be recycled in the paper bin. Please bag shredded paper in a paper bag or a tied #2 plastic grocery bag. Thank you for recycling at Pink Hill Park!

### Eastern Jackson County Yard Waste Collection Center

The Eastern Jackson County Yard Waste Collection Center will reopen on Saturday, April 1, 2017! The Center serves Eastern Jackson County communities, including Blue Springs, Grain Valley, and Oak Grove. Proof of residency is required. The facility is located at 37910 E. Pink Hill Road in Oak Grove. Grass clippings, leaves, and limbs are accepted. Fees apply. Cash and credit/debit cards are accepted. Hours are 8 AM to 4 PM on Saturdays (April through November). For more information, call 816-847-7050 or visit [jacksongov.org/yardwaste](http://jacksongov.org/yardwaste) for a list of fees.



### All About Plastics!

Most plastics can be recycled in your curbside bin or at Pink Hill Park! However, not all plastics can be recycled in our region. Knowing the differences in plastics can help you make informed recycling decisions. RecycleSpot.org has made it easier to identify plastics with their new "Plastics Recycling" page at [www.recyclespot.org/Recycle-More/Plastics](http://www.recyclespot.org/Recycle-More/Plastics). The webpage provides images of common household plastics and where they can be recycled. Although Pink Hill Park takes most #1-#7 plastics, bags and film stamped with a #2 or #4 are not accepted, but may be taken to a local grocery store. Some white Styrofoam blocks, sheets, and peanuts can be recycled at ACH Foam Technologies at 1400 N. 3rd Street in Kansas City, KS (913-321-4114). Rigid plastics, including outdoor furniture and toys, may be accepted at Habitat ReStore for reuse, but there are currently no recycling facilities in our area that accept these items.

## Community Spotlight: Mattress Recycling

Old mattresses can be one of the most challenging items to recycle due to their size and weight! Fortunately, we have several locations in Jackson County where you can drop-off your old mattresses for recycling. The following facilities accept mattresses for recycling:

- Resource Recovery Park: 2101 SE Hamblen Rd., Lee's Summit, 816-623-3066
- Courtney Ridge Landfill: 1701 N. 291 Hwy., Sugar Creek, 816-257-2185 x. 25
- Avenue of Life: 5117 E. 31st St., Kansas City, 816-787-6101

All mattresses dropped off at the Resource Recovery Park and Courtney Ridge Landfill eventually end up at Avenue of Life for deconstruction and recycling. Avenue of Life was started in 2013 as a partnership with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Solid Waste Management District and the City of Kansas City, MO to recycle used mattresses and box springs that were becoming a problem in area landfills. The Avenue of Life provides a much needed service in the metro area, as well as employment opportunities for low-income individuals and families. Employees deconstruct mattresses for recycling and sell salvaged materials to be re-

used for new products. Since opening in November 2014, over 3,000 tons of mattresses have been recycled! Mattresses can be dropped off for a fee at Avenue of Life on Mondays through Fridays between 8 AM and 4 PM. Since most Blue Springs residents are within 30 miles of Avenue of Life's Business Training Center at 5117 E. 31st Street, residents may qualify for mattress pick-up for an additional fee. If you have mattresses to recycle, please contact any of the facilities listed to the left for drop-off hours and fees. Avenue of Life does not accept mattresses or box springs that are wet, moldy, or bed bug infested.