

Berrien County hosts recycling day

Residents can purge hazardous waste and e-waste

By **SCOTT AIKEN**
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Spring cleaning time is at hand and an upcoming recycling event offers an opportunity to rid your basement or garage of unwanted electronics, appliances, and household hazardous waste.

The fifth annual Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Day, sponsored by Berrien County, is scheduled for 3-7 p.m. April 9 in the parking lot at Lake Michigan College on Napier Avenue.

LMC staff and students volunteer to help people unload recyclable material

from their vehicles.

The material can range from an old range that's been taking up space in the garage for years to automotive chemicals, home medical waste, batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

County residents can also drop off computers, televisions, printers or anything else with a cord or that runs on a battery.

Hard foam, shoes, eyeglasses, and bicycles will be accepted, and free document shredding will be available.

This event is not open to businesses.

Jill Adams, environmental property manager for the county, said the program will run essentially the same as in 2013, with some tweaking.

"We definitely are trying

to keep the flow of traffic going quicker this year," she said.

The event is the first of seven county-sponsored recycling drop-off events scheduled for the year. But in years past it has been the most popular because of the wide range of material accepted.

Last year, residents dropped off just under 16,500 pounds of household hazardous material, and 24,000 pounds of consumer electronics and appliances.

The electronics and appliance tonnage is down for last year, Adams said, but for a good reason.

"There are other recycling options now, and I think people are catching on and using those drop-off points," she said.

Many of those drop-off

options weren't available when the first Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Day was held in 2010.

Material collected for the first four recycle days tallied about 60,500 pounds of household hazardous waste, and 151,224 pounds of e-waste and appliances — roughly 76 tons.

Bicycles that are dropped off will go to Cycle-Re-Cycle in Benton Harbor, a nonprofit organization that refurbishes them for sale at affordable prices.

Cycle-Re-Cycle has received 117 bikes dropped off at recycle day events.

Adams said a licensed hazardous waste transport and disposal company will handle the household hazardous materials.

Everything else is un-

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loaded and sorted by the 60-100 volunteers, who are lined up for the work by Pam McVay, director of Student Life at the LMC campus on Napier Avenue.

Other companies and organizations donating services for the event are: Green Earth Electronics Recycling, Mosaic Resale Shop & Resource Center, Republic Services, Cycle-Re-Cycle,

Kent Record Management Inc., Southeast Berrien County Landfill Recycle

Center, Gateway, Lions Club, and the Berrien County Road Commission.

Most material can be dropped off free, but \$5 will be charged for each computer monitor and \$10 per television. Payment must be made in cash or check at the event.

More information can be obtained at the county website, www.berriencounty.org/recycle, or by contacting Jill Adams by email, jadams@berriencounty.org.

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