
Proper disposal of wastes improves

More paint, car oil going the right way

By FELICIA KITZMILLER
felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com

Education, convenience and recycling are keys to Spartanburg County Solid Waste Department's strategy for responsible disposal of waste.

Recent events highlight a successful campaign to encourage residents to dispose of their trash in ways that cause the least harm to the environment, County Recycling Coordinator Jes Swanson said.

At the sixth annual household hazardous waste collection event on March 29, 426 participants disposed of about 33 tons of paint, 2.7 tons of solid materials and 9 tons of liquids, including 440 pounds of antifreeze, 770 pounds of motor oil, 210 pounds of old fire extinguishers and 522 pounds of propane tanks, Swanson said.

This exceeded last year's participation, during which 20 tons of materials were collected. Materials dropped off at the hazardous waste collection event are eligible for traditional disposal in the landfill but have the potential to contaminate ground water and consume landfill space, Swanson said. Products collected at the event were recycled or incinerated and few were destined for the landfill, she said.

The county also hosted an expanded community clean-up event in Woodruff earlier this month. The county collected more than 33 tons of construction and yard debris, 7 tons of metal, more than 2 tons of tires and a 30-yard roll-off container of electronics.

"We're trying to offer an opportunity to residents to dispose of

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certain materials in a convenient way. We only accept tires, construction and demolition materials, and

yard debris at the Wellford Landfill facility, which is a long drive for many county residents, so the clean-ups make it easier for residents to properly dispose of these items," Swanson said.

Previous clean-up events at collection stations around the county were limited to construction and yard debris, but by adding metal, tire and electronics collection, Swanson said the event grew considerably.

"We are extremely pleased with the results of this year's event," Swanson said. "Considering the large amount of material we collected and positive feedback from residents who

attended, as well as the support we receive from all our community partners ... this event was definitely a success, and we will continue to hold them on an annual basis."

Swanson and the Solid Waste Department will continue to encourage conservation with two upcoming events.

In celebration of Earth Day on Tuesday, the department will partner with Spartanburg County Public Libraries and the League of Women Voters for "Mother Earth Takes Over the Library" at the Church Street Headquarters branch. Information and activities will be available from a variety of ecology and conservation organizations.

The annual Discover Your Watershed event will be April 26 at Lake Cooley. Information will be available about water quality and the importance of protecting the watershed, along with free kayaking and canoeing.