



# Cedar Lake Newsletter: Spring Cleaning Edition



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**In Brief:**

- **Town-Wide Cleanup April 16-19**
- **Town awarded IDEM grant to purchase leaf vacuum and street sweeper**
- **Cedar Lake issues \$2.6M bond for street/drainage improvements.**
- **Information about efficient yard waste practices, and proper fertilization.**

## *Town-Wide Clean Up April 16-19*

The annual Cedar Lake Spring Cleaning will take place from April 16-19. We encourage everyone to participate in the clean-up. This year we will focus on removing litter and recycling.

Last year's clean-up was a huge success. The citizens disposed of several tons of garbage and recycled several more tons. We hope to continue this tradition year after year.

Beginning April 16th, dumpsters will be placed around town for residents to use. As always, the Public Works Department will take recyclable materials at the garage located at 8550 Lake Shore Drive.

The Public Works Garage will be open from 7:00am until 5:30pm, Wednesday through Friday, April 16-18.

### **Town-Wide Cleanup**

Saturday April 19, is the Town-wide Clean Up. The Public Works Garage will be open from 7:00am until 5:00pm. Citizens can drop off recyclables, large items, and white goods for disposal.

The day's events will also include Ward Clean-Up with Town Council members and citizens cleaning in their respective wards.

Town employees will be cleaning roadsides and ditches.



*The second annual Town-Wide Clean Up will take place April 16-19th.*

The clean-up us with the opportunity to work to together to beautify our properties, our neighborhoods, and our community. Let's get cleaning!

## *Recycling-An Investment in the Environment and Our Community*

When you recycle goods at the Public Works Garage, 8550 Lake Shore Drive, you are making an investment in the Town.

The Lake County Solid Waste District contributes a portion of the revenue from local recycling

to the Department of Public Works.

Your recycling pays a portion of employee salaries, equipment, and supplies. Last year the Town received about \$75,000 and a great deal was due to the value of the com-

munity's recycled materials .

With this program, your recycling not only saves the environment-it saves tax dollars.

Common Lawn Care Myths:

- “Leaving grass clippings on the lawn will cause thatch to form.”
- “I should use fertilizer instead of grass clippings.”
- “Compost Piles are unsightly and odorous.”

TO SEE THESE AND OTHER LAWN CARE MYTHS DISPELLED VISIT:

<http://www.in.gov/idem/who/media/factsheets/yardwaste.html>

## Don't Let Your Yard Waste Go To Waste

Yard Waste (leaves, grass, and trimmings) makes up the second largest component of municipal solid waste. 90% of this waste comes from households.

The majority of these biodegradable materials end up in landfills where their true potential cannot be reached.

Leaving grass clippings on your lawn to decompose instead of collecting, bagging and throwing them away reduces the amount of work needed to maintain an attractive lawn and

reduces the amount of garbage in landfills. By using a lawn-mower designed to mulch grass clippings, the clippings break down quickly and fertilize your lawn.

Small amounts of leaves can also be left to fertilize lawns. Some lawn mowers can be modified to mulch leaves, but large amounts of leaves left on lawns can mat down and smother grass. Excess leaves should be composted, not burned. Burning leaves creates

pollution, a risk of fire, and is illegal in Cedar Lake.

Because leaves and grass clippings decompose and give the lawn nutrients, less fertilizer is necessary for a healthy lawn. Proper application of fertilizer (during late summer and early fall) promotes root growth while mowing at the correct time

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## How to: Dispose of Large Items and White Goods

Allied Waste will pick up one large item per week. Large items typically consist of furniture, mattresses, etc. However, Allied does not pick up large metal household items, often referred to as “white goods.”

### Large Item Drop-Off

Large items can also be disposed of at the Department of

Public Works Garage 8550 Lake Shore Drive.

### White Goods Pickup and Drop-Off

White goods and large scrap metal items are also accepted. Call the Department of Public Works for pickup information. Items must be outside of the house for pickup.

### White Goods Pickup Information

For more information about pickup and disposal of large metal items, contact the Department of Public Works at 219-374-7478.

## Cedar Lake Receives Environmental Grant



This spring the Town begins vacuuming leaves and sweeping streets.

The Town was the recent recipient of a grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to purchase a Leaf-Vacuum/Street-Sweeper Combination.

The Department of Public Works will begin sweeping streets and vacuuming leaves

this spring.

### Spring Leaf Pickup

From April 14-May 2, the Department of Public Works will be picking up leaves that were not picked up during last year's leaf collection period.

Residents have the option of

either raking the leaves to the edge of the property or bringing the leaves to the Department of Public Works Garage, 8550 Lake Shore Drive, for disposal. The yard waste and tree trimmings the Town processes are available as mulch to citizens at no charge. Contact the DPW at 219-374-7478.

## Prevent Water Pollution with Proper Fertilization

*Improperly* fertilizing a lawn by using too much product or fertilizing too often contributes to water pollution.

Phosphorous in fertilizers causes algae to grow, which competes for oxygen that fish and other biotic life need. If you apply fertilizer just before a rainstorm, much of it will be washed into the storm sewers and from there to the nearest stream, river or Cedar Lake.

If you allow fertilizer to sit on the sidewalk or paved driveway/street, you might as well dump it directly in the nearest creek, stream or river. That's where it's going to end up.

### What You Can Do

Use fertilizers sparingly.

Lawns and many plants do not need as much fertilizer or need it as often as you might think. Test your soil to be sure what it needs.

Consider using organic fertilizers, which release nutrients more slowly.

Don't fertilize before a rainstorm.

Use commercially available compost, or make your own using garden/yard waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use.

Commercial compost and soil amendments may be available from your local Solid Waste Management District or wastewater utility, as well as your local garden store.

Don't bag the grass! Use a mulching lawn mower to cut one-third of the blade length each week and naturally fertilize your lawn with grass clippings.

Wash your spreader and equipment on a pervious or penetrable vegetated area like the lawn, not on the driveway. This allows for the natural absorp-

tion of excess fertilizer.

Maintain a buffer strip of unmowed natural vegetation, such as wildflowers and native grasses, bordering watercourses and ponds. This traps the runoff of excess fertilizers and sediment from lawns/gardens.

### For Additional Information

For more information, contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management at (317) 232-8172. For a list of Indiana's Solid Waste Management Districts, visit <http://www.in.gov/recycle/topics/swmd/index.html>. For information on fertilizing alternatives and composting, call your local Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Local phone numbers may be found at [www.ces.purdue.edu/counties/html](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/counties/html).

### Top 10 Ways You Can Protect Ground Water

1. Dispose of chemicals properly. Do not pour chemicals down drains!
2. Take used motor oil to a recycling center.
3. Limit the amount of fertilizer and pesticides used on gardens and lawns.
4. Properly abandon unused wells or cisterns.
5. Dispose of household hazardous waste properly.
6. Remove abandoned fuel oil and gasoline tanks properly.
7. Keep septic systems well maintained.
8. Report illegal dumping.
9. Minimize the use of deicers.
10. Get involved in water educational programs.

Source: **Indiana Department of Environmental Management:**

[http://www.in.gov/idem/your\\_environment/water\\_quality/index.html](http://www.in.gov/idem/your_environment/water_quality/index.html)

## Major Road and Drainage Projects in the Pipeline.

The Town recently issued \$6.1M in Bonds for road and drainage projects. The stormwater user fees will be used to pay back \$2.6M worth of stormwater drainage improvements.

The \$2.6M bond will be used in conjunction with a previously-approved \$3.5M bond

through the Redevelopment Authority for road work.

The plan includes everything from repaving and reconstructing several roads to installing and replacing storm drainage systems throughout the Town.

In addition, the Utopia Drainage Project has begun and is

slated for completion in Fall of 2008. The project will alleviate flooding in the Utopia Subdivision and was developed with the Army Corps of Engineers.

For information about these or any projects, contact the Town Hall at 219-374-7400.

**"The Stormwater User Fees will be used to pay back \$2.6M of stormwater drainage improvements."**

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This publication was printed on paper made of at least 30% post-consumer recycled materials.

The Town of Cedar Lake encourages all citizens to utilize materials with at least 30% post-consumer recycled content.

## Recycling Facts

- By recycling one ton of paper, we save: 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, and enough energy to heat an average size home for six months.
- Manufacturers can make one extra-large T-shirt out of only five recycled two-liter plastic soda bottles.
- Americans throw away enough aluminum every 3 months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.
- When one ton of steel is recycled, 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone are conserved.
- Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy required to make aluminum cans from scratch.
- The amount of aluminum recycled in 1995 could have built 14 aircraft carriers.

*(The above facts came from "The Quest for Less," published in November 2000 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)*

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## Yard Waste-(Continued From Pg. 2)

(every 4 or 5 days in the spring, less often in the summer) keeps the lawn from accumulating too many clippings. Adding too much fertilizer in the spring promotes excess blade and leaf growth and creates the need for even more lawn maintenance.

### Wood Waste

Woody yard waste can be composted, but it takes longer to decompose and can be better used as wood chips. A wood chipper can create different sizes of chips for mulch.

Wood mulch can be placed

around trees and shrubs or used to soften garden paths. Christmas trees take up large amounts of landfill space, but they can easily be collected for chipping during late December and early January. The slightly acidic mulch of Christmas trees is especially useful for acid-loving plants, such as other evergreens and rhododendrons. Contact the Department of Public Works for information about recycling Christmas trees.

Recycled mulch will be available to residents after April 1st.

### Additional Information

For more information, contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance at (800) 988-7901 or visit our IDEM Web page at: <http://www.recycle.IN.gov>.

As always, you can contact the Department of Public Works at 219-374-7478