



Department
of
Neighborhood
Services

-MEDIA ADVISORY-

Mayor asks citizens to help pitch in!

Waiting for thaw and time to plan to pick it up

Time: Wednesday March 20, 2013 10:00 A.M.

Location: Next Door Foundation, 2545 N 29th St., Milwaukee, WI 53210 (414) 562-2929 ext. 240

Last year the thermometer hit the 80's, this year our yards are locked in ice. Once the ice melts the "frozen TV dinners" will be waiting for nasty animals and Milwaukee needs to prepare. Mayor Tom Barrett will be calling on all Milwaukeeans to get ready to clean their neighborhoods in the weeks ahead. "Nuisances like broken bags of garbage are real public health hazards," said Mayor Barrett. "Any information we can give residents, is an opportunity to keep neighborhoods clean and safe -- and an opportunity to avoid expensive citations. When the public pitches in, it saves the limited City resources for more urgent needs," said Barrett, "Everyone wins with a clean city."

To make the point, the Mayor, other City officials will be joining some youth at the Next Door Foundation to kick-off Milwaukee's community-wide clean-up. Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (KGMB) will again this year be helping residents coordinate their neighborhood cleanups. KGMB can provide cleaning supplies and tools like rakes and shovels. In return, volunteers will be rewarded with coupons for discounted admission to a number of Milwaukee County Park attractions. There are new recycling rules from DPW on getting rid of certain items. Learn where to take them and what to expect.

The Mayor will be encouraging the public to register for many of the local clean-ups scheduled and take advantage of free tools and garbage bags. There are also new efforts to help owners spruce up their homes. Tired of looking at litter? Then do something about it and spring into action today!

Here are some smart action-steps people can take to prevent a potential garbage problem:

- 1. Save the space in your garbage cart for food scraps and edible waste.** This is potential food for rodents. Deny the rodent or raccoon his dinner and he won't be back for breakfast. Garbage first, everything else, second in the cart.
- 2. Keep the lid shut.** Deny rodents access to food. Properly wrap waste to prevent animals from accessing it. If there are significant chew holes in the green cart or damage, call 286-8282 for a replacement.
- 3. Flush the food.** Rinse food containers and flush small semi-solids and liquid waste down the toilet. Minimize the food waste in the garbage that can become food for animals. The smell of food attracts animals.
- 4. Paper and plastic.** Put cardboard and plastic in blue Recycle cart. If no room, place them on top of the cart on recycle collection day. All other garbage should be put in your green garbage cart.
- 5. Make it smaller.** Crush and compress large containers to maximize space in the cart.

6. If it's in YOUR yard, it's YOUR problem. Regardless of where the garbage or litter came from or whose turn it is to clean up, the yard has to be clean. Landlords will have to pay the cleanup charge and tenants can face possible eviction for creating a nuisance on the property.

7. Help a neighbor. If you are angry about the mess, think what the neighborhood will look like in summer. Set a good example. A simple act of picking it up will improve the situation and your outlook on the neighborhood. Lend a hand and help yourself to a clean neighborhood. Pick it up and clean it up. Call KGMB if you need help

Department of Neighborhood Services will be writing citations for those who fail to clean their yards. The DNS Hotline is taking complaints at 286-2268. Orders will be issued to the property owner. If no action is taken, the City will hire a contractor to clean up the debris and the cost will be added to the tax bill. (That average cost in 2008 was nearly \$300.) DNS would rather people call Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, who has other ideas and suggestions for keeping Milwaukee litter free and clean. By joining one of their cleanups, you will help make Milwaukee clean! It is cheaper if everyone lends a hand. Fifteen minutes of time to clean up could save hundreds of dollars in the long run. Please do your part in keeping the city clean!

City Contact Numbers:

For problems with Garbage Collection or Garbage Carts, call the Department of Public Works Sanitation Section 286-CITY (2489)
For Vacant City Lots 286-CITY (2489)

For problems with spilled garbage debris in private yards, call the **Department of Neighborhood Services** 286-2268

Sanitation Self Help garbage drop off stations:

6660 N. Industrial Road
3879 W. Lincoln Avenue

Self Help hours of operation - **WINTER:**
November 25, 2012 through April 6, 2013
Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Closed on Good Friday and Sundays and Mondays.

Self Help hours of operations - **SUMMER:**
April 7, 2013 through November 23, 2013
Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri., Sat, Sun 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Closed on Mondays

Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful

Joe Wilson, GAC Coordinator
414-272-5462 Ext. 103

Safe and Sound Neighborhood Group

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Questions?
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