



Department
of
Neighborhood
Services

-MEDIA ADVISORY-

Residents Encouraged to Lend a Hand During Spring Clean-up!

Time: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 11:00 A.M.

Location: Milwaukee Public Schools' La Escuela Fratney, 3255 N. Fratney St., Milwaukee, WI 53212

Jack Frost still holds much of Milwaukee in his frozen grip. But his grip will melt shortly revealing a hidden mess. Soon the "frozen TV dinners" will be waiting for nasty animals and Milwaukee needs to prepare. Mayor Tom Barrett will be joining some departmental officials to encourage the community to help clean up winter's wrath of litter and debris.

To make the point, the Mayor, other City officials will be visiting some youth at Milwaukee Public Schools' La Escuela Fratney 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 recycling and garbage cart 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. A clean yard helps owners to 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 286-2489 (CITY) 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 attract animals and feed them.
- 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. Be smart. Do your part! Put it in the CART!

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 (DNS) 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 2013 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 questions about garbage and recycling collection schedules, carts, or vacant lots call 286-CITY (2489)

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

Sanitation Self Help Centers drop off stations:

6660 N. Industrial Road
3879 W. Lincoln Avenue

Self Help hours of operation - **WINTER:**
November 25, 2013 through April 5, 2014
Tuesday - Saturday 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Self Help hours of operations - **SUMMER:**
April 6, 2014 through November 22, 2014
Tuesday - Sunday 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Closed on Mondays & Closed on Good Friday

Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (KGMB)

Joe Wilson, Executive Director
414-272-5462 Ext. 103

Department of Public Works (DPW)

Sandy Rusch Walton, Communications Manager
(414) 286-3261

For more information on the web go to: KGMB at <http://www.kgmb.org/>
DNS at www.milwaukee.gov/DNS
DPW at <http://city.milwaukee.gov/mpw>

Questions?

Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS)

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