

Waste day sets record

Staff Report

A record 505 cars dropped off hazardous materials from an estimated 675 households during Otsego County's 11th annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day last Saturday at the County Highway Building in Cooperstown.

Hazardous wastes commonly found from around the home were collected throughout the day. Liquid and solid wastes such as pesticides, lubricants, paint, cleaning chemicals and solvents were collected.

A significant amount of flammable liquids, corrosive materials and solid pesticide materials was collected. The materials were received and packaged by Care Environmental, Inc. of Landing, New Jersey, the county's contracted vendor for the collection event.

Other specialty items were also collected for local processing. This was the first year electronics were collected free of charge.

Edison Computers of Oneonta estimated 40,000 pounds of home electronics was received during the day. The local company de-manufactures electronic equipment and recycles recoverable materials from these devices.

Approximately 130 automotive batteries were collected and will be delivered to Otsego Auto Crushers in Oneonta.

Approximately 80 obsolete propane tank cylinders will be disposed by Suburban Energy Services.

A team of local volunteers diverted latex paint from the waste stream and poured 1,300 gallons into bulk containers, which will be remixed by Golden Artist Colors of Chenango County for eventual re-distribution to local not-for-profit agencies. Agencies interested in obtaining the recycled paint can call the County Planning Department at 547-4225. More information about the availability of the re-mixed latex paint will be available soon, according to the county planning department which oversees the Hazardous Waste Day.

“The success of the collection day can be credited to a large turnout of dedicated volunteers who assisted in many aspects of the day's duties and the efficiency of the Care Environmental staff,” said County Planning Director Terry Bliss..

According to Bliss, the hazardous waste collection day is an annual public service provided by the Otsego County Board of Representatives. Funds to cover the costs of this event come from the county's Solid Waste User Fee, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), MOSA and the Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA).