



# Shop 'Til You Drop...Not!

## What nationwide effort happens the third week in September (17 – 23 in 2001)?

**It's Pollution Prevention Week!** During this week, government, businesses, and others team up by holding events to promote pollution prevention opportunities.

**"Shop for a Better Environment"** was chosen for this year's theme because an important way to prevent pollution is for everyone to be environmentally aware when considering purchases.



**You Are What You Eat!** Support area farmers – buy local. Select domestically produced certified organic food. Buy in bulk – avoid excess packaging.



**Shop Smart for your Home and Car!** Choose a fuel efficient and lowemission vehicle. Look for non-toxic household cleaning supplies and lawn and garden products. Buy compact fluorescent lamps to replace incandescent bulbs. Purchase clothing that does not require dry cleaning.



**Planning to Renovate, Remodel, or Build?** Reuse existing materials, furniture, and appliances as much as possible. Buy energy efficient and water conserving appliances, such as lighting, showerheads, air conditioners, and refrigerators. Choose low-VOC paints, water-based floor sealers, and wood products from certified sustainable forests.



**Go Green at the Office!** Purchase post-consumer recycled paper products. Buy computer equipment from manufacturers with take-back programs. Use rechargeable toner cartridges for photocopiers and laser printers.



**The Best Purchasing Decision is No Purchase at All!** Ask yourself – do you need it or want it? Even environmentally friendly products require resources, use up energy and create wastes when they are made and when recycled. Too often, we buy things for all the wrong reasons such as media or peer pressure, quick gratification, ego boost, or boredom. **So save yourself time and money, and help the environment, by only purchasing items that you truly need.**

*(continued inside)*

## DID YOU KNOW?

In order to encourage state agencies to use products that conserve energy, protect natural resources, avoid toxic ingredients, and safeguard health, the **Connecticut DEP and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)** have teamed up to create an **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program**. The program promotes environmentally preferable products (EPPs) by researching products and services, adding environmental language to contracts, and educating purchasers about the benefits of EPPs. The DAS provides contracting services that are available to all state agencies and municipal governments. **This process allows the purchasers to obtain favorable pricing for a broad scope of products and services, from copier paper and computers, to motor oil and cleaning supplies.** For more information, please contact Carlos Velez, DAS, at (860) 713-5092.

## I N S I D E



# Students Join With Neighborhood to Dig In The Dirt!

**Students and community groups are sweeping up and digging in the dirt at the community garden and natural area known as the Chestnut and Edwards Street Project. Just across from Quirk Middle School in Hartford, property resurrected from dumped tires, lead contamination and tree stumps has sprouted vegetables, flowers and raspberries due to the successful efforts of the Project coalition.**

Wendi diCorcia of Quirk Middle School has involved many students and teachers in the Project. "I was always taught to leave a place better than when you came in. This gardening project gives our students ownership in this neighborhood. This is where their school is. This is their garden. It gives them a sense of pride."

In addition to Quirk Middle School Garden Club the coalition includes the CT DEP, the House of Bread soup kitchen, Knox Parks Foundation, Trinity College, City of Hartford Brownfield Program and Dept. of Public Works, UCONN Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, USDA Farm Services Agency, CT Agricultural Experiment Station, Sunrise Rotary Club, Leadership Greater Hartford 2001, SAND and ONE/CHANE. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New England region has also provided funding for the Project.

"As recently as 1996 this was a wasteland of dumped appliances, drums, and car parts," said Sister Theresa Fonti of the House of Bread. Patrons of the soup kitchen, which is located next to the site, now can enjoy fresh produce from the gardens.

"The state Department of Environmental Protection and the City's Clean Cities Program cleaned up the lot," said Clay/Arsenal resident Kelvin LoveJoy. "But we needed a long term solution for this lot, something that would benefit children and families so it wouldn't continue to be dumped on."

The CT DEP facilitated meetings with residents through its Hartford Neighborhood Environmental Project and contacted Knox Parks Foundation in 1996 to get a community garden started. Knox became the licensee of the lot in 1998. The City Brownfield Pilot Program paid for a study of the property in 1998 and found lead contamination.

A series of clean-up steps were undertaken, including an innovative soil remediation technique by Trinity College students using special mustard plants that take up lead from the soil as they grow. "The soil has been cleaned up enough for residential use," reported Jeanne Webb Chavez, coordinator of the Hartford Brownfields Program, which pays for sampling and remediation plans for polluted properties.

"Right now the gardens on the north side of the property are overflowing with tomatoes, peppers and flowers," said Jack Hale of the Knox Parks Foundation. **Neighborhood residents interested in gardening at Chestnut Street or in another community garden in Hartford should contact Knox Parks at (860) 951-7694.** Volunteers interested in helping with the House of Bread's garden should also call Knox Parks. ■

**The following groups may be contacted for information on environmental programs for youth in Hartford:**

**Youth Opportunity (YO) Hartford**  
April Goff-Brown, (860) 547-0627

**Riverfront Recapture**  
Craig Mergins, (860) 713-3131

**Southwest Boys and Girls Club**  
Jackie Bethea, (860) 951-6416

**Hartford Food System**  
Elizabeth Wheeler, (860) 296-9325

**Knox Park Foundation**  
Tony Spinelli, (860) 951-7694



Volunteers clean-up the lot in Spring 2000.



The "Green Crew" tends the garden this summer.

# Mercury Collection Successful in 2001!

One year ago, DEP Commissioner Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., set a goal to collect 2001 pounds of mercury in Connecticut during 2001. The program has been successful and results indicate that state residents are willing to participate in mercury reduction. A public education campaign on the dangers of mercury brought the message through a television ad to most of the state. Free exchanges of mercury thermometers for digital models have been very popular. Over 50,000 thermometers have been exchanged since last year. Through September 2001, 2001 pounds of mercury have been collected as follows:

| MERCURY PROGRAM COLLECTION TOTALS |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Program                           | Amount of Mercury Recovered |
| Dental Sweep                      | 412 lbs.                    |
| School Clean-outs                 | 283 lbs.                    |
| Thermometer Exchanges             | 57 lbs.                     |
| HHW Collections                   | 1249 lbs.                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>2001 lbs.</b>            |

Household hazardous waste (HHW) collections proved to be the largest source of mercury through this program. These programs accept elemental mercury as well as mercury products from residents. The dental program was also very successful, taking in over 400 pounds of mercury from dental offices.

The school clean-out program was moderately successful but more so than the numbers might indicate. A number of schools conducted clean-outs during this period but did not report any results. While the thermometer exchanges did not bring in a large percentage of the overall amount of mercury collected, they were a practical and effective educational component for the public.

Efforts to reduce the mercury present in Connecticut's environment are continuing. Many thermometer exchanges are scheduled for the fall in cooperation with household hazardous waste days. A list of collection dates for your community is on the DEP website [www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm) or call the DEP Pollution Prevention Office at (860) 424-3297. ■

## Shop 'Til You Drop...Not! continued from cover

### HERE'S A FEW RELATED WEBSITES -

**[www.eco-label.org](http://www.eco-label.org)** What does that label (e.g., organic, green) really mean? Consumers Union provides a free comprehensive guide to the meaning of different environmental labels found on food, wood and other household products.

**[www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org)** Check over the "Green Living" shopping list prepared by the Union of Concerned Scientists so that "before you buy what you want, figure out what you need."

**[www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org)** Hoping to simplify your life, free up time, money, personal energy, and protect the environment? The Center for a New American Dream's "More Fun, Less Stuff" can help you get started.

**[www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)** Are you thinking of buying a car? Compare fuel economy of the models along with emission and crash test results, and local gas price information.

**[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)** Look for products, homes, and businesses with the Energy Star label - it's the easy way to save the money and the environment.

**[www.greenhome.com](http://www.greenhome.com)** Find "green" alternatives to the products you use everyday. Offer consumer products that must pass the "Green Home Product Approval Process" to become a "Green Home Preferred Product."

**[www.coopamerica.org](http://www.coopamerica.org)** Support socially and environmentally responsible businesses by purchasing their products and services. Co-op America lists thousands of green companies in their Green Pages Online.

*The above listing of websites is provided to you as a public service and does not constitute an endorsement by DEP.*

# WHAT'S NEW IN P2?

## Cleaner Motor Boats



The boating marketplace now has **new marine engine technology**. The new outboard engines (also used in personal watercraft) are replacing the conventional carbureted/electronic fuel injection 2-stroke engine technology with new 4-stroke engine technology or direct fuel injection (DFI) 2-stroke engine technology.

These new engines benefit the environment by **lowering emissions 70-85%** and **improving fuel economy 25-30%**. These engines also meet the federal environmental guidelines passed in 1996 which require that marine manufacturers reduce engine hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides emissions in outboard and personal watercraft engines 75% by 2006.

**The new 4-stroke engine is more efficient** because the new engine is closed at the time of injection and does not allow unburned fuel to escape through the exhaust valve. The DFI 2-stroke engine is also efficient because it sprays the fuel into the combustion chamber after the exhaust ports close.

These new engines are unlike the conventional 2-stroke engine that allows some fuel to pass straight through without being burned because the intake exhaust ports are open. Although the new engines are heavier and initially more expensive to purchase, **the benefits of this new technology outweigh the costs**. Not only do the new engines benefit the environment, but also have improved drivability and starting, lower vibration and noise and less of a smoky smell.

# P 2 C A L E N D A R

## P O L L U T I O N P R E V E N T I O N W E E K E V E N T S

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

### Home Tour



Take a Tour of a Hartford-area home under construction that will use geothermal energy. Space for this tour is limited, so please call (860) 424-3297 to make your reservation.

These events are free and open to the public. Please call (860) 424-3297 for additional information.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

### "Shop for a Better Environment"

Mini-fair in Bushnell Park, Hartford  
11 am - 2 pm



Enjoy the park while learning about buying recycled, organic farming, green building/landscape design, energy-efficient appliances, and cleaning your home with alternative products.

Press event with DEP Commissioner Rocque on the conclusion of the mercury collection campaign - to be held in Bushnell Park at 1:30 pm near the mini-fair. Other speakers include representatives from the CT Department of Public Health, NEWMOA, and other organizations, which have helped DEP meet the statewide mercury goal.

Note: In case of rain, the fair will be held on Thursday and the press event will be held on Friday.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

### P2 Lecture Series



**Mercury Monitoring and Emissions Controls in Connecticut and New England.** Speakers include: Robert Carley, Director and Chris Perkins, Associate Director from the University of Connecticut's Environmental Research Institute; Professor David Miller, Pat Bresnahan, Ph.D, and Jesse Bash, Graduate Research Assistant from the University of Connecticut's Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering/Atmospheric Resources Lab. The speakers will present data from the Connecticut Atmospheric Mercury Monitoring Network (1997 - 1999) and discuss modeling efforts that will assist in our understanding of mercury transport.

This is part of DEP's monthly lecture series on pollution prevention topics. Lectures are held from 11:00 a.m. to noon in the Phoenix Auditorium, DEP Building, 79 Elm St., Hartford and are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Lynn Stoddard at (860) 424-3236.

Other upcoming lectures include:

OCTOBER 16

**Phytoremediation of Persistent Organic Pollutants.** Jason White, PhD, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Persistent organic pollutants (e.g., PCBs, DDT, dioxin, and PAHs) are of environmental concern due to their longevity in the environment and potential for significant health impacts. Traditional remediation technologies frequently fail with these types of compounds but preliminary data has indicated substantial bioavailability of two persistent organic pollutants (DDE and chlordane) to certain species of plants. Mr. White will discuss his research on defining the mechanism of uptake by vegetation and assessing the practical significance for a possible phytoremediation technology.

NOVEMBER 14

**Smart Growth through Natural Resource Based Land Use Planning.** Jim Gibbons, Land Use and Natural Resources Program Coordinator, Cooperative Extension System, University of Connecticut. Mr. Gibbons will speak about strategies to guide smart growth at the local level, using a project in the Eight-Mile River Watershed as a case study.

OOPS - The correct website for the UCONN's IPM program is [www.hort.uconn.edu/IPM](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/IPM) (click on the turfgrass section for information on lawn care). It was incorrectly listed in our last issue.



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P2 View is published by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Pollution Prevention. Editor: Judy Prill; Contributors: David Westcott, Nan Peckham, Kim Trella, Mary Sherwin, Lynn Stoddard and Connie Mendolia.

