

Clean Up Green Up hits Hanson

Written by Meaghan Glassett

Hanson Express, Wednesday, 31 March 2010 16:01

Several residents are preparing to spruce up the town in the first ever Clean Up Green Up, which will take place on April 10.

Resident Sue Gaspar has reached out to Green Hanson in an effort to clean up the town. Gaspar came up with the idea of organizing the event because she often came across trash during walks or while cycling.

"We decided to start small and we hope to make this an annual event," Gaspar said.

Those participating in Clean Up Green Up will be meeting at the Town Hall on Liberty Street at 9 a.m. The volunteers will then break into groups and clean the litter from County Road up W. Washington Street past the Town Hall and into the Indian Head School area, Gaspar said.

Volunteers will then be invited back to the Town Hall where refreshments will be served, Gaspar said, adding state representative candidate Josh Cutler will be sponsoring the refreshments.

Those who can't make it to the event, can pick up their yards and streets to make the town look a little nicer, Gaspar said.

Volunteers are asked to bring their gardening gloves and wear bright colored clothes. Garbage bags will be provided.

"I'm hoping that [Clean Up Green Up] will be contagious throughout the town, and that people will take pride and clean up when they see any trash," Gaspar said.

Clean Up Green Up was chosen for the spring because it is close to Earth Day, she said.

"If we waited until the fall everything is grown in, which makes it harder to see the trash and the trash is not as accessible to grab," Gaspar said.

Green Hanson is looking for feedback on locations residents feel need some clean up. To send in a response visit greenhanson.org.

Gaspar said many groups in the community will be volunteering their time including Boy Scouts and the high school Student Environmental Awareness Club.

Gaspar said that students will most likely be focusing on the school fields and some will be helping on the streets.

The Hanson Recycling Committee will also be involved and will be helping sort the trash for recycling at the transfer station.

Transfer Station Coordinator Chris Callahan said there will be different colored bags for the trash and recycling.

"As they gather debris they will sort the recyclables into one bag and the trash into a different colored bag," he said.

Callahan said that it is good that the waste that will be gathered will be recycled.

"I'm hoping the fun is seeing the finished product," Gaspar said. "They should feel good because they have done something."

Green Hanson envisions a community where residents can take advantage of sidewalks, bike paths, town meeting places, farmers markets, and a walk-able downtown, according to Green Hanson's Web site.

Green Hanson hopes residents incorporate environmentally sustainable practices into their daily lives and feel invested in Hanson's many community and natural resources.

On May 1, Green Hanson will be host their Third Annual Earth Day Festival on the Town Hall Green.