

OCTOBER 2021



RECYCLING MATTERS

FOR A WASTE-FREE COLLAR CITY



WHAT'S INSIDE OUR NEWSLETTER:

FALL CLEANUP SEASON

CANDY WRAPPER RECYCLING

PUMPKIN CARVING TIPS

UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

COMMUNITY NEWS

Happy October!

Happy Fall, and happy almost Halloween to those who celebrate! Fall means three things: leaf piles, pumpkins and candy wrappers.

To get ready for the season, let's look at leaf cleanup season, candy wrapper recycling, and how you can put your old carved pumpkins to good use.

Also, learn more about how mushrooms can positively affect our environment from an interview from the owner of Collar City Mushrooms!

Fall Cleanup Season

TO ALL TROY RESIDENTS WITH MUNICIPAL COLLECTION SERVICES: your leaf bags are still being picked up on your regular recycling and trash collection day. **If you have brush and branches you'd like collected, please schedule a pickup with our DPW Dispatcher: (518) 270-4579.**

Handling yard materials

- Place leaves and lawn clippings in brown paper bags
- Make sure everything is easily visible for collection
- Branches and brush should be trimmed to 4-5 feet in length and bundled
- Plastic bags **will NOT** be accepted
- Please keep trash out of yard bags!
- **Do NOT** put your bags or bundles in the street or on the sidewalk



Pictured: fall foliage and autumnal berries.

Are candy wrappers recyclable?

Unlike glass bottles, tin and aluminum cans, and film plastics, candy wrappers are not only super-thin, but are made from more than one material. The outside of a candy wrapper is made from a kind of plastic, but the inner, shiny part is made from metals. Candy wrappers are harder to recycle compared to single stream recyclables, since the wrappers' parts need to be separated before they can all be recycled. The process of separating them is challenging and expensive, so recycling them is not as easy as putting your single stream recyclables in your recycling bin.

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Terracycle and special recycling

Don't lose hope - although candy wrappers are not recycled in a mainstream way (yet), there are still ways to keep them out of your garbage!



Pictured: Terracycle Zero Waste Box logo.

[Terracycle.com](https://www.terracycle.com) makes recycling odds and ends like empty cosmetics containers, pens and even kitchenware, easier. **Companies can partner with Terracycle in their free recycling programs, covering the cost of it completely - all you have to do is sign-up and mail it back with the pre-paid shipping label.**

If you don't see the product you'd like recycled in the free programs, Terracycle also offers zero-waste boxes for different items, one of which is for candy wrappers. **When you purchase a zero-waste box, fill up your chosen size with the product or item and then mail it in.** Terracycle will handle it for you. While expensive, consider going in on a box with friends, family or coworkers to keep the cost low and get more people involved!

Tips for Long-lasting Carved Pumpkins

If you're into buying pumpkins during Fall, or carving your own Jack-o-lantern, it definitely stinks (in more ways than one) when your pumpkin starts to go bad. Here are some suggestions to make the most of your pumpkin creations:

- If you aren't already, when carving your pumpkin, **keep the seeds and roast them** so they aren't wasted! Find different recipes online to switch up the flavor batch to batch
- **Give your pumpkin a bath in water and peppermint soap** to keep mold at bay for a longer-lasting masterpiece
- **Rub lemon juice or olive oil on carved areas** to keep them looking more fresh (similar to lemon juice on avocados)
- When your pumpkin creation starts to rot, keep it out of your garbage and **bring it to the Farmer's Market to be composted instead!**

Household Hazardous Waste Event: Saturday, October 30

Thank you to all who attended our last household hazardous waste event in August! With your help, the town of East Greenbush and Bethlehem and the city of Troy kept many household hazardous items out of the garbage so they could be properly (and safely) handled.

Our last household hazardous waste event of 2021 will be **Saturday, October 30, 8 AM to 2 PM**. This event will be at the Troy Resource Management Facility, formerly known as the "Alamo," at 3000 Main St, Troy. **This service is free for Troy residents, but you MUST register in advance.**

To participate in the event, **please register in advance** on East Greenbush's website: www.BETHhw.org. **If this is your first HHW event, please make an account, then fill out the separate form to officially register for the event.**

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Community News

Collar City Mushrooms



While the term 'farm' usually brings a red barn and corn field to mind for most people, the mushroom 'farm' at **Collar City Mushrooms, located on Second Avenue, is a mixture of futuristic grow-rooms, a basement laboratory, and a collection of mushroom-related artwork and products for viewing and sale.**

Owner Avery Stempel grew up with mushrooms, like most other people, "out of a can and on pizzas." But, Avery also grew up on a saw mill, with the opportunity to explore the area around him. Wandering through the forest with his parents, he loved noticing the pop of color from mushrooms. **Collar City Mushrooms highlights how versatile and sustainable the organism can be.**



Pictured: oyster mushrooms grown by Avery and his team.

"Mushrooms are the future," Avery said, explaining how one scientist used oyster mushroom **mycelium**, the part of the mushroom which we can't see, to break down the petroleum in oil spills so they are no longer harmful to our environment.

Avery and his team are dedicated to cutting back on waste wherever possible, and keeping products out of the landfill. Collar City Mushrooms also produces very little waste.

"Packaging is one of the main sources of angst for me," Avery said, laughing. While Avery does use plastic to package most of the mushrooms, repeat customers bring their plastic containers back to reuse them, and new customers can opt to have their mushrooms packed in paper bags instead. Avery also uses biodegradable bags for other purposes.



Pictured: discarded mushroom husks and residue, used for compost at Albany Victory Gardens.

The mushrooms are grown in blocks of grain, and then substrate, or soil. When the mushrooms have finished growing and are ready to be harvested, the blocks are broken up and used as compost in community gardens for the Albany Victory Gardens.

Collar City Mushrooms is open Wednesday through Sunday. To learn more, visit their website at collarcitymushrooms.com.

Please contact newsletter author and Recycling Specialist, Naomi Pitkin, via email at Naomi.Pitkin@troyny.gov or phone at (518) 279-7313 for other Troy businesses and/or organizations to feature. We look forward to hearing from you!

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TO ALL TROY RESIDENTS WITH MUNICIPAL COLLECTION SERVICES: we have an app! Search 'CleanupTroy' in the app store to download it for your iOS or Android device.



*Pictured: logo for CleanupTroy app;
Uncle Sam's hat
with recycling symbol
and the TROY, NY logo.*

Features:

- Enter your address to view your collection calendar
- Sign-up for notifications and know if there are delays or changes to your collection schedule
- Look up items and/or products in our Waste Wizard to see if they should go in the recycling, donation bin, trash or somewhere else
- Use the sorting game to practice sorting items into recycling, compost, bulk pickup and trash
- Looking for resources on all things reuse and recycling? Check out our 'resources' tab for more information

Have you seen our new page yet? Follow us on Facebook to stay in the Reduce, Reuse, Recycling loop! We'll cover our newsletter topics in more depth each month.

Our handle is @CleanupTroy. Help spread the word by sharing our page, or our posts!

Upcoming Events

COMMUNITY-BASED SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF

AT TROY WATERFRONT FARMER'S MARKET
WEEKLY ON SATURDAYS, 9 AM TO 2 PM

'MAKE IT UP STATE' MARKETPLACE

WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS, 9 AM TO 2 PM

RECYCLING AND RESOURCES MGMT. DEPT AT FARMER'S MARKET

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 9 AM TO 2 PM

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY - REGISTER HERE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 8 AM TO 2 PM

TROY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FACILITY/ALAMO

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