

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2nd Annual RNC Recycling Fair June 5 at Fremont Lake Park

Fair features the fun in Recycling

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Besides saving the planet, what's the best thing about recycling, asks Recycling for Newaygo County (RNC) Executive Director Linda Ritz White.

"Fun, of course," is her short answer. "Sure, the things we recycle become goods like toilet tissue, cereal boxes, toys, and insulation; save natural resources; and reduce landfills and harmful emissions; no small benefits," said Ritz White.

"But come on down to our 2nd Annual RNC Recycling Fair, and we'll show you what fun we're talking about!"

The 2016 Recycling Fair takes place Sunday, June 5 from 12-3 pm, once again at Fremont Lake Park.

After a successful test run last year, RNC is expanding the fair this year, featuring several new activities for all ages. There will be pony rides by Autumn Andrews of Fremont, live frog races—bring your own or one provided—and a thrilling obstacle course challenge for the tots.

Returning in 2016 are The Duck Race down Daisy Brook Creek serenaded by youthful tin can drummers, and a craft pavilion where visitors learn to make assorted creative crafts out of recyclable materials.

"We are enjoying teaching kids how to use materials like water bottles, old magazines, and plastic bags to make simple creations like flowers, jewelry, and jump ropes. We do flowers out of water bottles with kids at local fairs and expos, and our table is always full. They love it," said Ritz White.

She said the goal with games is to "take the electronics out of gaming and show kids what fun can be had in active play." The director noted there will be many more games testing a range of skills including agility, speed, balance, and aim, all designed out of recycled items. Prizes will be awarded.

Also new this year are "Raffle Dazzle" and "The Great Recycling Benefit Auction".

Raffle Dazzle features 22 drawings for a bevy of prizes donated by local merchants, total value almost \$1,500. Every ticket is eligible to win every prize, and in fact, winning tickets are returned to the drum. Tickets for the raffle as well as the duck race are available in advance at RNC's booth at the Arts & Crafts Festival held over the three-day Memorial Day weekend at Brooks Park in downtown Newaygo. Any remaining duck race or raffle tickets will be available for purchase during the event.

The Great Recycling Benefit Auction affirms the "one man's junk is another man's treasure" idiom, said Ritz White.

"We all have so many wonderful, still very serviceable items around our homes that we no longer use and are really just clutter to us. But there are others who could and would be delighted to pick up these items for a deal and save money and landfill space."

RNC will continue to accept donations of good used items for the auction up until it is over. There are three options. Bring them to The Recycling Center at 490 Quarterline Street in Newaygo during public hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-5 pm and Wednesdays 12-7 pm. Call the center at 231-924-5822 for pickup. Or bring them directly to Fremont Lake Park by 12 pm on the day of the Fair.

The auction will be live, with all items paid for and collected during the event. Cash or check only as RNC has no means of accepting credit cards.

RNC's own superhero, Recycle Man, aka Mat Emerick, will be returning to dazzle kids with his juggling and other hijinks, and will also be calling the auction for added fun.

As a bonus, the Fremont Fire Department is sending over a fire truck and firemen will be on hand to show kids around the truck and talk about fire safety.

Lunch and snack items will be available for sale. Games featuring prizes have a small entry fee—4 tickets for \$1, 1 ticket per game).

It is no coincidence that The Recycling Fair is scheduled on June 5 this year. The date is World Environment Day. Ritz White said that while the event is a fundraiser to help support RNC's local recycling efforts, the event is serving double duty as a teaching tool. There will be an education booth and literature and RNC membership information. The organization will also be signing up youths and volunteers for "Earth Brigade", a new kind of environmental youth group kicking off this fall.

Earth Brigade invites youths to attend scheduled volunteer-led educational and fun gatherings, and participate in a range of organized "good earth"

endeavors. The director explains the idea is to create in local youths an interest and enthusiasm for preserving natural resources, with emphasis on the 3 Rs—Reduce Reuse Recycle.

The schedule is: fun, crafts, and games for all, 12-3 pm; auction 1 pm; duck race 2 pm; raffle drawings following the duck race.

Recycling for Newaygo County

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