

Tree recycling proves popular in Oakland

Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree . . . residents have decided to recycle thee.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation estimates 8,000 to 10,000 trees were dropped off this year at its nine recycling sites — including the one at Glen Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills. Waste Management of Michigan Detroit North was still counting the number of yule trees collected during a special curbside pickup last week in Farmington and Farmington Hills. Both programs concluded last week.

The disposed trees are fed through a shredder and the wood chips are turned into compost, mulch or, in the county parks case, used on nature trails. "It's been exceptionally well received," said Dan Stencil, chief

'This is a good opportunity to educate the public about the environment and be stewards of the land.'

Dan Stencil
Chief of Park Operations

of park operations. "This is a good opportunity to educate the public about the environment and be stewards of the land."

Those who brought their trees into Glen Oaks to be recycled were rewarded.

Recyclers received a coupon good for car entry into the Earth Fair April 24 at Independence Oaks Nature Center.

They also received a coupon for

a free pine seedling and their names were entered into a drawing for entertainment passbooks.

This year, wreaths and ropes were also accepted at the county park sites. According to Stencil, people came from all over the area to drop off trees.

Some 100 trees left over from the holidays were brought from the Capuchian Kitchen in Detroit.

In the Farmington area, residents could simply leave their trees out on the curb. Those that are left out this week will be collected during regular trash pickup.

"It's just an added burden," said Farmington Hills Public Services Director Thomas Blasell. "Then it just gets compacted in with the rest of the trash."



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pine idea: John Findlay, a Farmington Hills businessman and resident, drops off his family's Christmas tree Thursday to be recycled at Glen Oaks Golf Course. The recycling site was one of nine operated by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Air bag gets the credit for saving life of man in crash

An air bag is credited with saving the life of a Davisburg man who failed to stop for a red light and slammed into a stake truck Saturday morning on southbound Orchard Lake Road at the I-696 eastbound exit ramp.

Aleksey Beylin, 30, suffered multiple fractures and was trapped inside his 1992 Chrysler

LeBaron after it had slammed into the side of the 1978 Chevy stake truck driven by James Arlington, 62, of Romulus.

Firefighters had to use equipment to remove Beylin from his car, which had had its top sheared off by the impact. He was transported to Botsford Hospital where his condition has been upgraded

to guarded from critical, police said.

Arlington, who was wearing a seat belt, escaped without injury.

Traffic specialist Sgt. Ray Cranston of the Farmington Hills Police said Beylin's air bag inflated at impact.

"It probably saved his life," Cranston said.

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