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FEATURED

RecycleMania draws hundreds to Athens County Fairgrounds

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Though one might not guess it, disposal of paint was among the most popular services offered at RecycleMania. Those who had cans of paint to be rid of paid \$2 per can to defray costs. The paint is taken to a plant in Michigan where it is recycled into – paint.

It might not quite have been a mania, but there sure was a lot of recycling at the Athens County Fairgrounds Saturday.

“RecycleMania,” as it was called, gave residents the opportunity to rid themselves of items and products that can be difficult to be rid of in a responsible fashion. And the organizations there to aid in the effort included but were not limited to the ones you might expect.

ReUse Industries and Habitat for Humanity were both there, of course, accepting household items and the materials needed to build houses around those items, respectively. But the Athens County Sheriff’s Department was there, too, collecting for disposal expired and excess pharmaceutical products and prescription pills.

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A steady stream of cars, vans, and trucks brought tons of materials for recycling to the event, despite gray skies, cold winds, and occasional rain.

Among the most popular stops was the latex paint recycling area, where several large tubs were filled with cans of paint, despite the \$2 charge per can. The paint would ultimately be taken to a factory in Michigan, where it was to be sorted by color, treated, and turned back into new paint, which will ultimately be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

(Most recycling was free of charge, but paint, old tube-style televisions [\$25] and tube-style computer monitors [\$5] carried a charge related to the costs involved in disposing of them or recycling them as the case may be.)

A truck-sized shredder turned office and personal documents into confetti which in turn will be sold to paper mills to be turned back into blank paper.

Electronic items of all sorts, from digital cameras to outmoded or broken game consoles to computers, were collected by a Columbus company, for refurbishment and resale, harvesting of parts, or condemnation to the dead electronics graveyard.

The 2015 RecycleMania event loaded 16 tons of material for recycling; the total from Saturday's event wasn't immediately available.