

Health Dept. holds second annual contest for America Recycles Day

Plastic film is everywhere. Dry cleaning bags and store carry-out sacks are made of it. Paper towels and beverage cases are shrink-wrapped in it. Newspapers are delivered curbside in it and unfortunately most is not recycled.

The Putnam County De-

partment of Health is trying to change that. Nov. 15 is America Recycles Day, and building on the success of last year's "Caught-in-the-Act" contest, the department is expanding it to three days in the same week.

On Tuesday, Nov. 14; Thurs-

day, Nov. 16, and Friday, Nov. 17—from noon to 2 p.m. each day—the recycling coordinator from the health department will look for residents who recycle and reward them with a free reusable shopping bag, and social media recognition for their ef-

forts. Tuesday's event will take place in Cold Spring at Foodtown, 49 Chestnut St. and Route 9D. The remaining two events will take place at Acme Markets: on Thursday in Mahopac at 149 Route 6, and Friday in Brewster at 1511 Route 22.

"Many people don't know you can recycle these plastic film items," said County Executive MaryEllen Odell, "because curbside recycling does not include them. Instead, they must

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be brought to a drop-off location found in many of the larger stores we shop in every day. It's the right thing to do—for yourself, your

family and for your community."

Interim Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat said the number of unrecycled plastic bags is staggering—less than 1 percent get recycled.

"It takes a bit of extra effort to

start doing it, but it becomes routine," he said. "The positive impact on our environment would be immense if everyone would do their part and make the effort. We need to continue to bring awareness to this endeavor."

The health department works with stores in the county that are required by law to accept plastic films. All large retail stores, or chains with more than five smaller stores, must participate. Currently there are 24 drop-off locations

in Putnam County, including Home Depot, Acme, and Kohl's in Brewster, and at Foodtown in Cold Spring. A complete list is posted online at the county health department website—www.putnamcountyny.com.

MAHOPAC NEWS

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PUTNAM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Vicki DiLonardo, health department recycling coordinator, explains how common plastic film is and the importance of properly recycling it to a Putnam County resident.