

Turn in hazardous waste at Jamestown Eco-Depot

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation's Eco-Depot program will travel to Jamestown for a special East Bay collection on Saturday, June 6.

Residents can drop off their household hazardous waste at the Melrose School parking lot at 76 Melrose Ave. between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., but appointments are necessary to reduce wait times.

Jamestowners may also drop off their unwanted electronic waste at Saturday's Eco-Depot. The Town of Jamestown will accept old computers, printers, routers, cell phones, alarm clocks and other e-waste. Televisions will also be accepted, but a small fee will be charged for the disposal, town officials said.

Eco-Depot is a free household hazardous waste collection program for Rhode Islanders. To schedule an appointment, go to www.rirrc.org and click on the Eco-Depot logo on the right hand side of the page, or call 942-1430 x241.

"Please don't mix regular trash with household hazardous waste," said Mike OConnell, executive director of Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation. "It may cause unintentional harm to you and anyone who touches your trash cans. The correct and safest way to dispose of hazardous waste

is through the Eco-Depot program. To make it convenient, Resource Recovery regularly schedules collections at sites throughout the state."

Eco-Depot collects millions of pounds of unwanted household hazardous items annually including fluorescent light bulbs, automotive fluids, oil-based paints and stains, varnish, turpentine and thinner, propane gas tanks and pesticides, weed killers and fertilizers.

Household hazardous waste contains chemicals that are toxic, corrosive, and can easily catch on fire or explode when mixed with other substances. Most homes have numerous hazardous products stored in the basement, garage, kitchen, bathroom, and shed. The unused contents of these products are known as "household hazardous waste."

To find out which products might be hazardous, look for caution instructions on the label. Usually, if a product has a caution label, it's hazardous. If not disposed of properly, these products pose a threat to human health and to the environment, can harm septic systems, leach into drinking-water wells, and even degrade the quality of Rhode Island's shoreline.

For more information about household hazardous waste and to review a longer list of accepted

items, go to rirrc.org.

Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation is the quasi-state environmental agency dedicated to providing the public with environmentally sound programs and facilities to manage waste. The agency helps fund and promote the state's recycling program, and owns and operates the Materials Recycling Facility and Central Landfill in Johnston.

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Yacht school graduates showcase works

At most graduation ceremonies, students take diplomas in hand. At the International Yacht Restoration School, they pick up tillers and go sailing.

On Saturday, June 6, IYRS students will mark their graduation from the school's two full-time programs by showcasing their work and launching the boats they spent the past year restoring. After the launching, students have their first opportunity to sea-trial their boats and test their workmanship on the water.

Graduation ceremonies for students from the two-year Boatbuilding and Restoration program and the one-year Marine Systems program begin at the IYRS Newport campus at 10:30 a.m. inside Restoration Hall. The launching immediately follows at the IYRS docks. The public is welcome to the ceremony and the launching.

Boats launched this year include: a fleet of 12-foot Beetle Cats, an iconic New England catboat design that dates to 1921; the 35-foot motor launch Corsair, originally launched in 1939 for yachtsman and financier J.P. Morgan; a Herreshoff 12 1/2 designed by the "Wizard of Bristol," Nathanael Herreshoff; and a 15-foot replica of a 19th-century Whitehall rowing boat.

The International Yacht Restoration School is located at 449 Thames St. in Newport. For more information, visit www.iyrs.org.

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