



ASK JEFF

Lake Ecology

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Happy New Year and Happy “Early Spring”. Since I have nothing to report about the Lake, I would like to discuss some household activities that could save you money and help the environment. Some of these things you probably already do, so please do not be offended and bear with me as I explain.

The first is reducing the amount of solid waste that we put out for trash pickup during the week. We all generate it, and our goal should be to reduce it as much as we can to save space in our landfills where our garbage ends up. If you are not aware, our trash first goes to a transfer station (large garage looking building) where it is dumped on the floor. Very large front end loaders scoop it up and load huge tractor trailer dump trucks which drive about 3 hours to landfills in Pennsylvania. When PA has no more room or just will not accept waste from another state, it is anybody’s guess when PA says, “NO MORE”. That is why we need to find ways to reduce our solid waste.

Jefferson Twp.’s great recycling program reduces about half of the household waste we generate. We can add another 10% at least if we compost. All your fruit and vegetable waste, eggshells and coffee grinds can be recycled once they decompose and then returned to the earth to add nutrients to vegetable gardens and planted flowers. Yes, it takes a little time and energy but whatever small thing we do makes a difference. Not sure what to do, please call me and I will help you get started.

The 2nd household activity is clothes washing. With most detergents now, cold water washes come out great. Hot water costs a lot to heat and using cold water saves energy. This is something many of you probably do already, so thank you. Next, how do we dry those clothes? Most people throw them in the dryer. In the spring, summer and fall perhaps hang them outside, either on a clothesline (if you have the room in your yard) or on a rack on your deck. This also takes more time, but clothes that are dried outside in the fresh air feel & smell so good. In the winter just put the racks inside one of your extra bedrooms or in the room that is used the least. You save energy and money and as a bonus you put moisture back in your house to replace what the heat in your house takes out. It’s a win win.

I may be preaching to the choir with some of these suggestions, but if you don’t do these things, perhaps give it a try. My wife and I have put into practice these energy & money saving ideas for the 44 years we have lived in Lake Shawnee. Yes, it is a commitment, but we both truly believe everyone must do their part. Thank you for doing your part, and as I always say, “it takes a village”!

By the time you read this, you may be taking care of those leaves in your yard. Just a reminder to try to get those leaves early so they don’t wind up in the catch basins and eventually in the lake. Next month, I will discuss leaves and safe fertilizers.

Thank you again. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to give me a call or email.

Jeff