

Missouri City Green to host Jan. 11 electronics recycling

By Natalie Harms | January 9, 2014 | Updated: January 9, 2014 11:09am

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When
Angie

Missouri City Green planted native flowers at the Missouri City Recreation & Tennis Center in October. They replaced some nonnative plants. Native plants require less maintenance and are easier on the city's budget, said Angie Wierzbicki. Project workers, from left, are Wierzbicki, Penny Johnson, Diane Giltner, Don Johnson, Pam Andrews and Lynn Ellis.

More Information

If you go

What: Electronics Recycling Event

When: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 11

Where: Public Safety Headquarters, 3849 Cartwright Road, Missouri City

Details: 281-403-8637 or

info@missouricitygreen.org

Wierzbicki and her husband, Paul, moved to Missouri City in 2009, she was disappointed by the lack of an environmentally friendly atmosphere.

"We noticed pretty much right away that the Houston area, especially in Missouri City, there's a lot of litter and not a lot of respect for trees," Wierzbicki said. "People didn't know which kind of trees to plant."

Wierzbicki and her husband, an arborist for the city, talked about

the issue a lot and how there seemed to be a lack of an organization for their community like there is in other Houston suburbs, like "Keep Pearland Clean Beautiful," and other campaigns.

She decided to plant the seeds of an eco-friendly organization, and Missouri City Green was born in 2010.

"I held a meeting and invited some people," Wierzbicki said. "I wrote a press release that might have been published in one or two places. And I had about half a dozen people show up and we've been going ever since."

The group is made up of unpaid volunteers completely. Wierzbicki said their "shoestring budget" is made up of small individual donations and funds raised from the community garage sale they have hosted.

Missouri City Green puts on many other events throughout the year, such as tree-planting opportunities and its first electronics recycling drive from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 11 at Public Safety Headquarters, 3849 Cartwright Road.

"We think this is the greatest time to do (the drive) because people are buying new electronics now during the holidays on sale and all that," said **Diane Giltner**, who oversees the group's communication and marketing.

"So, this is the time I'm sure when people are looking around and thinking 'What the heck am I going to do with this old TV and everything else.'"

Missouri City has put on technology drives before, but this is the first time the Green group has taken the reigns.

"A company that does electronic recycling reached out to us and asked if we'd be interested in holding an event. It is not something we could do on our own," Wierzbicki said. "It's very specialized and we need a company to do that."

The group is not new to collaborating with other units to get the job done. Missouri City Green works closely with the city and its parks department.

"In all of our promotions and marketing programs and communications programs, we do try to emphasize the importance of the work that Missouri City Green, and other community organizations do, and so by extension we are able to help get the word out to the community and let them know that they do provide a vital service to the community," said **Stacie Walker**, communications director for Missouri City.

Along with the publicity the city is able to provide, Walker said the parks department is also helpful in providing tools and employee support at any events that are in need of it. Unfortunately, the city isn't able to provide financial support to Missouri City Green or any other similar organizations.

Wierzbicki and the group instead are looking for other income options, such as grants. They received their first grant - \$2,000 - to plant trees, last year.

The group focuses on its community events, but also emphasizes the importance of being green everyday individually.

"With me just being involved a little bit in the last few months I am more conscientious," Giltner said. "When I get a bag or when I get an envelope, it is going in the recycling. It's just amazing that little bit where it just sort of clicks to be cognitive to do that sort of thing. It's so much easier than you would have thought to do all that."

For more information on the group or its upcoming technology drive, visit missouricitygreen.org.