

Local

Jackson is gearing up for Saturday's cleanup

By JOHN SPINA
JACKSON HOLE DAILY

If there's a bustle in your hedgerow, don't be alarmed now, it's just a spring clean for the May Queen.

That's right, even rock legends like Led Zeppelin get excited about the annual spring cleanup tradition.

For Jackson, Spring Clean Up Week is a tradition that stretches back to 1969.

Its 49th year began this week, much like the previous 48, with the town and county providing free yard-waste bags and curbside pickup for homeowners. It culminates with a community cleanup of streets and pathways right before the annual Eco-Fair, hosted by Energy Conservation Works.

"It's very much a community event," said Bob Norton, the event's coordinator. "It's not a commercial venture, it's simply a bunch of community-minded people getting together to make their community look nice."

This week, free yard-waste bags are available at Town Hall and the Recycling Center through Friday during regular business hours, and at the Eco-Fair at Phil Baux Park at the base of Snow King on Saturday.

Jackson Public Works employees will pick up any yard waste left in compostable yard-waste bags or reusable containers at 8 a.m. Monday. Larger tree limbs do not need to be bagged or bundled, just placed next to the yard-waste bags. No household trash will be accepted.

County residents can drop off yard waste at the trash transfer station from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. During Spring Clean Up Week there will be no fee.

Last year 164,000 pounds of yard waste was collected and composted locally by Terra Firma. Waste that is thrown in the trash instead of composted is transported 100 miles to a dump in Idaho Falls, where it releases green-

house gases such as methane, carbon dioxide, nitrogen and hydrogen sulfide as it decays.

"Yard waste is estimated to make up over 13 percent of Teton County's waste stream, or more than 5,000 annual tons," said Mari Allan Hanna, the waste diversion and outreach coordinator for Teton County Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling.

"Events like Spring Clean Up are intended to encourage the community to divert this material from the landfill and recover these resources locally through composting. As we proceed on the Road to Zero Waste, organics — including yard and food waste — are early targets among the strategies identified to achieve the goal of 60 percent waste diversion from landfill by 2030."

On Saturday the cleanup will move from private yards to public streets.

Organized by the Jackson Hole Rotary Lunch Club, about 300 volunteers from Jackson

Hole nonprofit organizations, businesses, Wyoming Adopt-A-Highway agencies, service groups and private citizens will come together to scour streets and pathways of the debris left behind as the winter snow melts.

"It makes the roads and everything look nice," Norton said. "It's a feeling of doing something for the community that you can see the real results of your efforts in."

Volunteers will meet at Phil Baux Park, Hoback Market or the Old Wilson Schoolhouse Community Center at 9 a.m. for a free breakfast and road assignments before setting out. Trucks provided by Teton County, the town of Jackson and volunteer groups will collect bags of roadside trash left by the volunteers.

A free lunch will be served to volunteers beginning at noon at Phil Baux Park.

"It's great fun. Sometimes people find some very interesting things," Norton said. "Two years ago a lady found a \$100 bill."

**"It's very much
a community event."
— Clean Up Organizer BOB NORTON**

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Glumb. In lieu of flowers the family