

Earth Day Cleanup

Round Top, NY

Saturday, April 21

(Rain date 4/28)

9AM-1PM

**This a grass roots effort to clean up our
beautiful community.**

622-0890

Helpers welcome!!

**Meet at Round Top Fire
House**

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NEWS

Sprucing up the hamlet for a green day ***Cleanup in Round Top to mark Earth Day***

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By Doron Tyler Antrim
Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

Published: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 2:08 AM EDT

ROUND TOP — Earth Day is Sunday, and Gail Walker of Round Top has organized a local cleanup effort to mark the environmental observance.

On Saturday, volunteers will be picking up garbage along roads in Round Top.

"This is such a beautiful place," said Walker, who bought a condo in the hamlet almost 10 years ago, making it her year-round home in 2009 after retiring and selling her house in Addleboro, Mass.

She said she has noticed significant amounts of trash along the roads in Round Top, and wanted to do something about it. "I wanted to get more involved in the community," she said.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A rain date has been set for the following Saturday, April 28.

The staging area will be the Round Top firehouse; the fire department will provide lunch for participants, while water bottles and deserts will be provided by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Stewart Shops has donated gift certificates for ice cream, and local resorts donated money for T-shirts for volunteers, Walker said. The National Bank of Coxsackie has donated work gloves.

Volunteers of all ages will pick up trash along 11 different routes, ranging from one to nearly two miles. The trash will be put in bags and picked up on Monday by Town of Cairo Highway Department crews.

Crews have went through other parts of town to pick up litter, but purposefully avoided Round Top so not to make the Earth Day event purposeless.

The volunteers will include parents with their children and local Boy and Girl Scouts, Walker said.

Those interested in volunteering should call Walker at 518-622-0890.

Participants should wear long pants and shoes or boots that can get dirty.

To reach reporter Doron Tyler Antrim call 518-943-2100 ext. 3323 or email dantrim@thedailymail.net.

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Citizens band together to clean mountain roads

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By W. T. Eckert

Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

Published: Sunday, April 22, 2012 2:07 AM EDT

ROUND TOP — Don't kick it, pick it up.

That's what Gail Walker is hoping the future holds for her local Round Top cleanup effort that took place Saturday morning.

Starting at 9 a.m., more than 70 volunteers, from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and 4H groups to high school students who belong to Partners in Government and the Interact Group — a community service group — gathered at the Round Top firehouse to take part in Walker's effort to keep Round Top clean and to observe Earth Day.



Volunteers, organized by Round Top resident Gail Walker, walked the roads of the town Saturday collecting garbage and debris as a part of the observance of Earth Day. (W. T. Eckert/Hudson-Catskill Newspapers)

The Volunteers stayed within the Round Top Fire District, 11 different routes reaching nearly two miles, using the map from the fire district.

"We mapped out all the routes," Walker said, "and assigned people routes to do and they kept coming back saying, 'We need more bags. We need more bags.'"

Walker said her Round Top home was bought in 2003 and while enjoying the beauty of the view of the mountain, trash littered the roadsides where she said it remained until Cairo Highway Department Supervisor Bob Hempstead came aboard.

"A lot of people who are naysayers about this said to me, 'but we pay taxes. This is supposed to be done by our town and county highway departments.'"

In response, Walker said youth involvement can change that perspective by raising awareness and changing behavior.

Additionally, Walker said suggestions of having inmates clean the roads had to be combated by a certain kind of logic.

"Prisoners don't drive around on our roads," Walker said. "They're not throwing stuff out of their window. If we can change behavior, then maybe we can curb some of this."

Cairo Highway Superintendent Bob Hempstead said he was glad to provide any and all resources he could for the effort.

"It's amazing," Hempstead said at noon time. "I can't believe how much garbage they have gotten already."

Hepstead said that when Walker first talked about organizing the cleanup, he got together with her to

talk about how his department could help.

"I told her I would be happy to provide her with whatever she needed," Hempstead said. "I gave her our garbage pickers and bags and on Monday we will pick it all up, weigh it all, to give her a total tally of what they picked up."

Walker said she also reached out to an art teacher at the high school who is having her students make posters that will be laminated and put up in the resorts and some of the more conspicuous places in town to try to try to raise awareness about littering.

"I called this, 'the first annual,'" Walker said, "and I spoke to [Cairo Legislator] Harry Lennon about writing grants and generating some money to put this together."

Walker said she would like to see this kind of effort extend throughout the other parts of town, but starting at home is a good start at that.

"I live in Round Top, the resorts are in Round Top," Walker said, "and I thought that the resort owners would certainly have it be in their best interest to have their guests arrive, in the summer, to a clean environment, as clean as we can make it."

Although Walker said it was obvious to her that the roads will be littered again before summer settles in, she is confident that her effort Saturday is one that marks the start of something.

"In the aftermath, this has been a total success," Walker said, "and the numbers will tell the real story. Everybody that came in, came in with positive feed back about the amount of trash they collected."

To reach reporter W. T. Eckert, call 518-943-2100, ext. 3325, or e-mail wteckert@thedailymail.net. To comment directly to this story, go to www.thedailymail.net

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NEWS

Round Top lighter by a ton

Earth Day cleanup nets 2,000 pounds of trash

By Doron Tyler Antrim

Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

Published: Thursday, April 26, 2012 2:08 AM EDT

CAIRO — Last weekend's Earth Day cleanup in Round Top generated almost 2,000 pounds of trash, it was reported Wednesday.

The Cairo Highway Department supplied almost 75 volunteers Saturday with orange bags and pickers, and later collected and weighed the trash.

Tires and metals were separated from the ordinary trash.

"When people do the right thing, it makes them feel good," organizer Gail Walker said about the event during the Cairo Town Board meeting Wednesday.

Cairo Town Supervisor Ted Banta thanked Walker for her effort in a letter.

"Your direction and service is a testament to the Town of Cairo," Banta wrote. "Once again, thank you for your service and commitment to our town."

Those who volunteered for the cleanup included local Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H and Cairo-Durham High School Interact Club members.

"Furthermore, I commend the volunteers who earnestly spent their Saturday to make the event a resounding success," Banta wrote.

"We want to thank all participants who helped make this possible with their contributions of labor and donations," said Linda Mascari, vice president of the Round Top Ladies Auxiliary.

The staging area for the cleanup was the Round Top firehouse; the fire department provided lunch for participants, while the Ladies Auxiliary supplied deserts as well as water bottles.

The area's resorts donated money to buy T-shirts, which were made by Mountain T-Shirts in Catskill. The National Bank of Coxsackie donated work gloves.

Also from Wednesday's meeting:

— Phil Jackson of Project Hope, a crisis counseling program offered by the Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties in collaboration with the New York state Office of Mental Health, addressed the town board about establishing a support group in Cairo for victims of Tropical Storm Irene. Groups already exist in Lexington, Prattsville, Hunter and Windham. For more information, call 518-641-8734 or

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Round Top's Earth Day cleanup attracted about 75 people to help sweep the neighborhood of roadside debris. Above, a group including Erika Gerstberger, Brianna Calcavecchia, Heather Maassmaann, Madeline Sharkey, Grace Sharkey, Jenna Paulson, Gala West, Isabella Weingerger and Matt Weinberger take a break from their duties. Members of Cairo Boy Scouts Troop 43 (inset) included Seth Ripple, John True, Hunter Sprague, Ryan Mattice and Troop leader Chris Algozzine. Photo by Claude Haton

518-265-4663.

— The town board approved a revised fee schedule, which includes minor adjustments to building permit fees and the addition of site plan application and special use permit fees for cell and broadcast towers.

— Donald Gibson Sr. was appointed chairman of the town Board of Ethics. The position is unpaid.

— The town board voted to authorize Bob Hempstead to enter Bowery Creek at points on Bogardus Road in Acra to remove debris left by Tropical Storm Irene.

The town board is scheduled to review the draft zoning law on April 30 at 5 p.m. at town hall.

To reach reporter Doron Tyler Antrim call 518-943-2100 ext. 3323 or email dantrim@thedailymail.net.

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