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Levy County tire amnesty succeeds



Some of the tires are seen here on Saturday. There is a semi-trailer in the background that by noonish was packed full of tires. Levy County Spotter-Operator Terry Dukes directed vehicles into the area to deliver their tires. He said there was a non-stop flow of vehicles from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The dump accepted tires up until 5 p.m. on Saturday

Story, Photos and Video

By Jeff M. Hardison © April 23, 2018 at 1:08 a.m.

LEVY COUNTY – From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday (April 21), vehicles and trailers loaded with discarded tires rolled into and out of the tire disposal area of the Levy County Solid Waste Transfer Station between Bronson and Williston.



Don Lindsey brings tires to the site on Saturday. He was one of the many people delivering tires for the free drop-off.

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<https://youtu.be/w7WrOEdpIP8>

In this video, the Levy County machine used to move and pack tires into the back of a semi is seen in action.

The effort to reduce mosquito breeding grounds, as well as and other biological and environmental hazards from tires improperly disposed of or stored in Levy County showed phenomenal success.

Levy County Commission Chairman John Meeks is the leader who initiated the venture when on April 3 he suggested to the County Commission that they provide the people of Levy County with an amnesty from fees for discarded tires. Chairman Meeks on that day found unanimous agreement by the County Commission members present at the outset of the meeting to award Levy County residents a fee-free day to drop off old car tires.

County Commissioner Lilly Rooks made the motion, seconded by County Commissioner Matt Brooks to approve Tire Amnesty Day. Chairman Meeks, Rooks, Brooks and Commissioner Rock Meeks voted in favor of it. County Commissioner Mike Joyner did not arrive until after that vote that morning, although he learned about the approval when he arrived.

Levy County residents very heartily utilized the Tire Amnesty Day (Saturday, April 21) from 8 a.m., to 5 p.m. at the Levy County Solid Waste Transfer Site, 12051 N.E. 69th Lane (between Bronson and Williston) to bring in car tires.

Of the \$22 million collected by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection last year for old tire disposal fees, \$8 million is earmarked for the Small Counties' Solid Waste Grant in the state, Chairman Meeks said, and Levy County is among the counties eligible for that funding.

During a conference call Meeks was involved with, he asked the DEP and the Florida Department of Health what could be done to help Levy County clean up some of the tires that people have disposed of improperly – causing a mosquito-breeding ground.

The DEP said it would cover the cost of tire disposal in Levy County on Tire Amnesty Day (April 21), Meeks said.

Normally in Levy County, it costs \$2 per car tire to drop tires at the Solid Waste Transfer Station. Therefore, Levy County residents can save \$2-per-tire on that Saturday.

Beyond saving money, Levy County residents who use this amnesty will be helping reduce the potential for mosquito-breeding places because rainwater in discarded tires is a prime location for breeding those blood-sucking, disease-spreading insects.