

Composting seminar provides information

By SALI McSHERRY

Orange Village will host a composting seminar at 7:30 p.m. March 16, Councilman Daniel Brown told Village Council last week.

The purpose is to introduce residents to the value of composting, explain the science behind it and teach people how to begin composting at home. Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District representatives and Mr. Brown will lead the seminar.

The district also will have compost bins available and Mr. Brown said he hopes residents will buy them and begin the program this year.

It's the next step in the village's recycling program that began several years

ago in which Orange gave residents containers that can be used to commingle recyclables.

The goal of the composting program is to find new ways to reduce the amount of waste that residents send to a landfill, which will lower the overall waste disposal costs, Mr. Brown said.

"The village has done an incredible job with the recycling containers, which have us recycling about 25 percent of our household waste," he said. "I believe the next largest portion of material that we can divert from the landfill comes from food and other waste that could be effectively turned into compost, instead of being placed in the trash."

According to the solid waste district,

compost is rich in nutrients and used for gardens, landscaping, horticulture and agriculture, and consists of organic materials derived from plants and some animal material that has been decomposed largely through aerobic decomposition, according to officials.

It's a simple process and is beneficial as a soil conditioner, a fertilizer to add vital humus or humic acids, which are major organic constituents of soil, and as a natural pesticide for soil. In ecosystems, compost is useful for erosion control, land and stream reclamation and wetland construction, according to district officials.

Residents can purchase compost bins, including the Wishing Well, a composter, and the Ultimate Dirt

Machine, also known as a digester. Each bin is priced at \$50.

"Initially, we will look to have individuals take part and hope that through word of mouth and other information sessions, we can spread the idea to as many households as possible," Mr. Brown said. "If this program is successful, we may reach the point where we actually recycle more than we send to the landfill, a worthwhile goal for any community."

Depending on turnout and interest, the village may decide to put on some follow-up programs. At this time, there is no plan for Orange to purchase composting bins for the residents like it did for the recycling container program, Mr. Brown said.