

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NO GASOLINE REQUIRED

In the race to "Give Water a Hand", local vehicle service takes the checkered flag!

SYLVANIA TOWNSHIP, Ohio, July 10, 2006 – Participation from vehicle service businesses outnumbered other types of business 3 to 1 in the effort to save time, money and reach out to environmentally conscious consumers while making strides to protect our waterways. Through the efforts of *Give Water a Hand*, a year-long clean water initiative sponsored by local communities, Maumee RAP (Remedial Action Plan) and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), vehicle service establishments are leading the pack by example.

The *Give Water a Hand* business campaign is designed to educate businesses on how they impact waterways, and how to save money, time, and resources while protecting our area's rivers and streams. Through use of a FREE guidebook with tips pertaining specifically to vehicle service establishments, completion of the self-assessment form and a complimentary site visit by a local *Give Water a Hand* partner, businesses are encouraged to implement money saving and water protection practices. In the vehicle service sector, the program's tips and guidelines are especially important, because the large amount of chemicals and potential contaminants used in the average service operation can make a huge negative impact on our waterways when handled improperly.

Ronnie Singer, president of Northtown Auto Parts, is one business owner who believes in protecting area waterways. "We wanted to do more than we were already doing to protect the environment, especially the local waterways. We like to keep our operation as clean as possible and in a responsible manner. Participating in the *Give Water a Hand* campaign makes it simple."

(more)

Give Water a Hand is a cooperative education effort among the following:

Maumee RAP (419-241-9155)
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council
of Governments (419-241-9155)
Lucas County (419-213-4500)
City of Northwood (419-693-9327)
City of Oregon (419-698-7047)

Village of Haskins (419-823-1911)
Village of Holland (419-865-7104)
Village of Millbury (419-836-9671)
Village of Ottawa Hills (419-536-1111)
Village of Waterville (419-878-8100)
Village of Whitehouse (419-877-5383)

Township of Jerusalem (419-836-8921)
Township of Monclova (419-865-7862)
Township of Spencer (419-865-2883)
Township of Springfield (419-865-0239)
Township of Sylvania (419-882-0031)
Township of Washington (419-726-6621)

Township of Waterville (419-878-5176)
Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Jaguar LandRover Toledo also supports the *Give Water a Hand* campaign. Service director Gary Hall is an avid boater and personally adamant about keeping our water supply clean and safe for future generations. “Everyone, not just businesses, needs to do their part to protect our waterways. It should be a number one priority for the future of our environment.” Hall states. He explains how Jaguar LandRover Toledo puts forth the extra effort and added expense of purchasing biodegradable antifreeze, the best soaps for detailing and by practicing proper oil containment and disposal. “Our customers really appreciate the effort. When they see our *Give Water a Hand* window sticker they always give us the ‘thumbs up’ to show their mutual support!”

Vehicle service businesses concentrate on a variety of areas in which they can make a difference in protecting our waterways, other tips include: diverting the flow of contaminants away from storm drains, properly cleaning greasy parts and tools, dumpster and loading dock maintenance, and appropriate handling/disposal of grease, paint and chemicals of all types.

In addition to helping keep waterways healthy, vehicle service businesses benefit from the promotional material provided by *Give Water a Hand*, including a window cling that promotes the location’s participation – an important signal to environmentally conscious customers who want to support businesses sensitive to the environment.

The *Give Water a Hand: You Can Make a Difference* campaign is a cooperative educational effort focused on educating residents and business owners of Northwest Ohio about storm water and other water quality issues. The average citizen and business owner does impact water quality and can make a positive difference. The Maumee RAP (Remedial Action Plan) and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) are partnering with local cities, villages, and townships to educate the region about improving water quality and managing water quantity. The following jurisdictions are participating in the program: Lucas County, Cities of Toledo, Northwood and Oregon; Villages of Haskins, Holland, Millbury, Waterville; Townships of Monclova, Springfield, Sylvania and Washington.

Vehicle service businesses located in participating areas are still eligible to become a *Give Water a Hand* partner. For more information on the *Give Water a Hand* program, please call 419-241-9155 or visit us at www.MaumeeRAP.org.

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