



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Elaine Moebius  
Toledo Metropolitan Area  
Council of Governments  
419-241-9155 ext. 139  
[moebius@tmacog.org](mailto:moebius@tmacog.org)

Lynnette Werning  
Vice President  
Sheroian Associates, Inc.  
734-854-5501  
[lynnette@sheroian.com](mailto:lynnette@sheroian.com)

PO Box 9508  
Toledo, Ohio 43697-9508  
(419) 241-9155

**THIS OLD WATERWAY ...**

**MAKE IMPROVEMENTS NOW, ENJOY THE BENEFITS LATER!**

***Local Home Improvement Businesses Paint a Brighter Future for a Clean Water Supply***

NORTHWEST OHIO, Ohio, April 11, 2006 – A freshly painted house, newly-sealed black top driveway and artfully-placed landscaping flora. Good housekeeping stems from pride and commitment to the maintenance of a homeowner’s largest investment. Home repair, remodeling and improvement service businesses can pave the way for pride in a clean, tidy environment as well. The protection of storm drains and sewers, proper cleaning of tools and parts, dumpster and loading dock maintenance, appropriate paint and chemical handling/disposal, grinding & finishing product storage/disposal, and landscaping & garden maintenance procedures are all vital components for defending a clean water supply and can potentially save home maintenance businesses time and money.

Through a collaborative partnership, the *Give Water a Hand* program for home maintenance, remodeling and repair business owners of Northwest Ohio is about water conservation, proper site maintenance and waste disposal procedures that ultimately protect our streams, rivers and lakes. “Literally hundreds of home improvement service establishments utilize dozens of products that contain harmful ingredients proving hazardous to our environment if not handled properly.” says Kurt Erichsen, *Give Water a Hand* project manager. “If every leftover gallon of paint and bag of glass clippings was poured down a storm drain, imagine the condition of our water supply!”

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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

The *Give Water a Hand* business campaign is the first water quality education program in our region to focus entirely on helping businesses save money, time and resources while protecting our area's lakes, rivers and streams. This voluntary program provides business owners and managers information and assistance to help them save money and prevent pollution. Through use of a FREE guidebook with tips pertaining specifically to vehicle service businesses, 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.

Some benefits to participating businesses include: saving time and money, FREE recognition for participation through window static sticker, Web sites, news articles and paid advertisements provided by the program, FREE technical assistance to identify opportunities for preventing pollution, and possible storm water tax credit depending on your community. Not to mention the personal satisfaction that your business is doing something to help protect 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.

Home maintenance, remodeling and repair businesses located in participating areas are eligible to become a *Give Water a Hand* partner. For more information about the *Give Water a Hand* program, please call 419-241-9155 or visit us at [www.MaumeeRAP.org](http://www.MaumeeRAP.org).

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