

TEMPO NEWS
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Youth Advisory Board Help Cleanup Newtown

SARASOTA - The City of Sarasota Youth Advisory Board joined thousands of volunteers throughout the nation on Sat., April 1, 2006 for the Great American Cleanup, ridding the environment of unsightly and harmful litter. The teenagers collected trash in a ten block area around the Newtown Community Center. "It's disgusting. People just throw this stuff into the street, and it stays there," said Youth Advisory Board Member Allie Levitch. "They need to recycle. And properly dispose of all these cigarette butts."

Cigarette butts, glass bottles, aluminum cans, and fast food wrappers were the most common pieces of litter collected. A twisted lead pipe, shredded garden hose and old car battery were the most unusual items found in the public right-of-way within the neighborhood. "I guess some people don't know you shouldn't litter," said Youth Advisory Board Member Alex Vasiloff.

The Board Members filled seven large trash bags with litter. Glass and plastics were separated, to be recycled. "It's really important to have kids involved in an event like this, because they're the ones who are tomorrow.

They carry the message and teach their parents. We want people to break the old habit of littering and change their behavioral patterns," said Keep Sarasota County Beautiful manager Sandra Washington.

About one thousand volunteers picked up litter throughout Sarasota County during the Great American Cleanup. The Youth Advisory Board members specifically selected Newtown to clean, after making Newtown issues a priority seven months ago, when the Board was first established.