

Centiva Inspires Green Team Partnership

By Audrey Lindsey
for the Courier Journal



Centiva President, Thomas Trissl, right, addresses Florence City officials and community members in attendance regarding the Green Team Program. Pictured are Florence City Council members, from left, Dick Jordan, James Barnhart, Herman Graham, Barry Morris, and Andy Betterton. photos by Audrey Lindsey Consumers across America are adopting a new stance on global responsibility. Television commercials are advertising “green” cleaning products, cars are becoming more eco-friendly and consumers around the country are responding to this rise in environmental awareness.

The Florence Solid Waste and Recycling Department recently hosted a Litter Critter Contest for local 3rd and 4th graders to help bring awareness to our littlest recyclers. The 5th through 9th graders in Florence and Lauderdale County schools took part in a tshirt design contest, the winne



Mayor Bobby Irons honors a winnerr of which will have his-or-her design placed on t-shirts to help promote recycling. All of the work of these citizens not yet old enough to drive begs a question: couldn't we all learn from these junior environmental activists?

This is the question that the new Florence Green Team Partnership Program aims to answer. Inspired by Thomas Trissl, this program aspires to make the Florence area more environmentally aware and responsible. Local businesses are encouraged to sign up and make changes that will help to protect natural resources and improve the local environment. These changes may require a few minor adjustments, such as using less electricity and adjusting thermostats a couple of



degrees. However, they are more than worth it. winner!

Another

“It doesn’t matter what we say,” Trissl said at the Florence City Council meeting April 20. “It only matters what we do.”

Trissl is the President of Centiva, a flooring company that has put into action environmentally responsible business practices for over twelve years. Centiva has planted trees in the Florence area, held Earth Day activities for students, and participated in the Adopt-a-Street Program. They also participated in the City’s Clean Up Day, in which 333 bags of litter, 32 tires and 13 pieces of furniture were cleared from Florence roadways.

“We are very grateful to Centiva and to Thomas Trissl for the motivation and encouragement to get this program started,” Florence Mayor Bobby Irons said before presenting Trissl with a



plaque

Thomas Trissl addresses the audience honoring his commendable impact on the area. “I cannot say enough about what a tremendous asset Thomas and the Centiva employees have been to our city.”

The councilmen seemed to echo the Mayor’s sentiments, speaking in turn about the effects that the program, with the cooperation of the local businesses, could have in Florence. “Recycling is something that is first and foremost on our minds,” district 3 Chairman Hermon Graham said. “We’re always on the lookout for ways to make the city more efficient,” district 4 Chairman Barry Morris agreed.

With all of the hard work of the junior recyclers and the hopeful success of the new program, green is the new favorite color for many Florence residents.

“I think that this has been a long time coming,” said UNA student Matthew Gibson. “It’s a great idea. I don’t have a business, but I’m definitely on board with this.”



On display at the Florence Council meeting were some winning Litter Critter Contest entries l-r, by Centrina Liner from Harlan School; Taylor Barkley from Forest Hills; and Kalista Franklin from Weeden.

Those who do have a business and wish to participate can contact the One Stop Shop Office, 740- 6086 or the Recycling Office, 760-6494 for an application and a decal displaying proof of new environmentally responsible business practices. More information on Centiva and the Centiva way of business can be found at www.centiva.com/thegreenway.

Litter clean-up photos:

www.florenceal.org/City-Wide_Cleanup_Photos/index.html