



# RECYCLING MATTERS

FOR A WASTE-FREE COLLAR CITY

## 12 R's of 2022

Happy October! It's crazy to think we're already on our tenth R of 2022. This issue you'll be getting your thinking cap on as we **reimagine** every day items. We interviewed local metal sculptor Fredda Merzon from Iron Flower Designs, who uses repurposed scrap metals to create botanical garden sculptures. Let's get into it!

### Reimagine

Around 2015, "life hacks" were going viral on social media. You couldn't log into your Facebook, Instagram, or anywhere without seeing a video or article with some crazy use for an every day item.

But what's so crazy about it, really? Just because an item is marketed with a specific use, does it have to be done in that way? When something breaks, do you immediately replace the item with another? Or do you reimagine how it can be used differently? Or fixed?

For a specific example, a member of our department's family accomplished their own life hack involving a magnifying glass, electrical tape, and an oval-shaped bead. Let's see if you can guess where this goes.

The family have a magnifying glass with built in LED lights. To turn half the lights on, click the button once. To turn all of them on, click it twice. Disaster struck, however, when the button mysteriously "disappeared" (a direct quote).

After several conversations about what could have even happened to the button, it was decided a solution must be found! Our department member's husband started searching for an oval-shaped bead. Why, you may ask? To create his own button. The perfect sized bead was located, and was taped, securely, into the button-shaped void.

While this story may seem contrived, it is, quite assuredly, the truth.

The essence of reimaging is to come up with seemingly out-of-the-box solutions to every day problems.

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*Pictured: A silver magnifying glass with black electrical tape on the handle. Photo credit to INH*

# Community News

## Iron Flower Designs

Fredda Merzon, the metal sculptor at Iron Flower Designs, has been working with recycled metals for 15 years. Merzon has always been drawn to rusting metals, and used her love of gardening to fuel her designs. **Her upcoming show, located at 25 Centerview Drive in Troy, will celebrate her lively garden-inspired work.**

"I was interested in making botanical shapes and trying to use metal so it looks soft," Merzon said.

Merzon, who does not have formal training, wants to make artwork more accessible. "One of the things I had trouble with, with formal art, is a lot of it made me feel stupid," Merzon explained. "I wanted my work to be approachable and to make people smile."



Pictured: Merzon's piece, called Liz Taylor's Eyes. Two light purple flowers made from metal on long stems.

Merzon's artistic process is greatly informed by the pieces she's found at the scrap yard.

"I would see something that looked very cool, and I didn't know what it was going to be. That's the other part about using recycled stuff." She said. "It's like brainstorming for me so I can lay things out

and try this and that. Sometimes magic works, and sometimes it doesn't."

Merzon's visits to local scrap yards had her left feeling the impact of scrap metal recovery efforts.

"All this scrap is mostly shipped overseas. So there's a huge amount of scrap metal that could be reused here," she began. "You go to a place like a salvage yard and you see these huge containers, boxes, all this metal, and it seems like such a waste."



Pictured: Merzon's piece, entitled, Shout out to Curly Hair. Depicts a tree whose leaves are curly pieces of metal.

"Repurposing, the whole idea of taking something that was made with one purpose in mind and giving it new life... turning things on their head is what I enjoy," Merzon said.

**Iron Flower Design's show will be on Friday, October 7th from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, October 8th, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 25 Centerview Dr, Troy, NY 12180. Interested art enthusiasts can tour the property's gardens to view the sculptures, as well as some indoor pieces as well.**

# Rain Barrel and Composter Sale

Orders must be placed by Oct. 5

You can place your order for a rain barrel, backyard composter, and more, on our vendor's website at [www.troy.compostersale.com](http://www.troy.compostersale.com). **Orders must be placed by Wednesday, October 5th.**

Pick-ups will be on **Saturday, October 8th** at the Department of Public Works (3118 7th Ave, Troy). Time slots will be assigned and sent over email prior to pick-ups.

## Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event: Troy, NY

Our next household hazardous waste disposal event will be on **Saturday, October 29th at the Troy Resource Management Facility**. You will receive a confirmation and time slot email approximately one week before the event. **Please check your spam and junk folders!** If you still have not received a confirmation, please call us at (518) 279-7313 or email [recycling@troyny.gov](mailto:recycling@troyny.gov). Scan the QR code to the right to register and view the list of accepted and prohibited items.



**Address:** Corner of E. Industrial Parkway and Main St.

**Registration link:** [www.troyny.gov/hhw](http://www.troyny.gov/hhw)

## Upcoming Events

COMMUNITY-BASED SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

### TROY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (ALAMO) OPEN

*Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 1*

### CHILDREN'S COMPOSTING WORKSHOP @ TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY - LANSINGBURGH

*Saturday, October 15*

*Register at <https://bit.ly/compost-workshop-registration>*

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL EVENT - TROY

*Saturday, October 29*

*Advanced registration required: [www.troyny.gov/hhw](http://www.troyny.gov/hhw)*

### COMPOSTER AND RAIN BARREL SALE (ONLINE)

*Place orders by Wednesday, October 5: [www.troy.compostersale.com](http://www.troy.compostersale.com)*

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK