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Environmentalism sparks Ontelaunee recycling business

Tony Lucia + MORE
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The owner of a Berks County excavating firm has begun a new business that recycles yard and construction waste for use by homeowners and contractors.

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Tony Folino, owner of Pennaco Excavating Inc., Wyomissing, recently opened the second location of Berks Soil and Stone at 1 Belleman's Church Road in Ontelaunee Township.

That operation is where the crushing and recycling of materials from tree stumps and topsoil to concrete and stone takes place.

Last year, Folino opened the initial Berks Soil and Stone location at 1200 Park Road, also in Ontelaunee. That facility functions as a retail center where the recycled materials are sold.

Folino said the impetus for the business was to help the environment by recycling the waste.

"I see a lot of sites, some of them close to watersheds, with stuff dumped there because they don't have any other place to dump," Folino said. "I saw there was a need, and created a use for this material."

For a fee, Berks Soil and Stone accepts trees and tree stumps, yard waste, bricks, blocks, concrete, macadam, topsoil and other materials. It does not accept any hazardous materials - including painting materials - or trash.

Customers either can drop off their materials or it can be picked up for a charge.

However, loads to be dropped off must be checked, including their origin.

"We get paid by the load," Folino said. "How much depends on the material."

The waste is converted into mulch, topsoil, clay material for septic systems, driveway stone, aggregate, screening for trenches and other products.

Among his customers, he said, is Ontelaunee Township. He also is bidding for services with other municipalities.

Folino, whose son, David, also works at the firm, said that as the business grows, he may be hiring.

Contact Tony Lucia: 610-371-5046 or tlucia@readingeagle.com.

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Tony Folino, owner, at Berks Soil and Stone's recycling center in Ontelaunee Township near Leesport. Materials including yard waste are recycled and sorted for reuse.

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