

A Quarterly Newsletter of



**Solid Waste District of LaPorte County**  
 (219) 326-0014  
 (800) 483-7700  
 www.solidwastedistrict.com  
**Spring 2010**



# Missing!



Landlords and homeowners, please help us out. When a tenant moves out or you buy a new house and move, please LEAVE your existing toter. Remember, there is a serial number on the toter and it is registered to a specific address.

For more information, contact Nancy Gibson, the District's Education Coordinator.

Is your recycling toter on the National Missing Toter Registry? If so, don't instinctively assume the worst—that it was stolen. It may have mistakenly fallen into the hopper of the recycling truck during pickup. You know, the trucks have an appetite too, but sometimes they can overeat! If this happens, please do not call Able Disposal. Simply call our office at 219-326-0014 or 800-483-7700 and we will get a message to Able to get a replacement out to you as quickly as possible.

If the lid of the toter doesn't fit properly (a common winter issue), a little warmth from sunlight will help it lie flat again. Please don't despair! With warmer weather coming, it truly will readjust. But, if your toter sustains damage, if a wheel falls off, or if the lid cracks, simply call our office and we will get it taken care of for you.

# Noteworthy News

Recycling totals are way up from a year ago, thanks to the residents of LaPorte County and their recycling efforts. Some figures suggest that recycling is now triple what it was before the new toters were distributed.

Many people tell us daily that they never recycled before they received the new toters. Other veteran recyclers tell us they recycle more because of the ease of use with the new toters, which have wheels and a lid. It is easier to get recycling to the curb, plus the toters are critter- and wind-proof (for the

most part, at least).

Some residents have called to request an additional toter because they are recycling so much. Unfortunately, there can only be one toter issued to each house or business, but that doesn't mean you have to stop recycling when your toter is full. **Additional containers** marked "Recycling" will be picked up on your designated day, as long as your **blue toter is also out**.

Keep up the good work, citizens of LaPorte County!

# Celebrate Earth Day

Thursday, April 22 is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Your Solid Waste District wishes

NASA



to invite everyone to stop by our office, located at 2354 N. Highway 35, Suite 6, in LaPorte (in the North Pine Business Center at the corner of Johnson Road and Highway 35), for an environmental celebration. Join us between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Watch for more details on our website (www.solidwastedistrict.com) or in the local media, or simply call our office at 219-326-0014 or 800-483-7700. We look forward to meeting all of you!

# Recycling Schedule

### Legend:

Where listed below, Township means outside of City Limits.

**A** City of LaPorte – South of Hwy 2 AND West of Hwy 4

**B** City of LaPorte – North of Hwy 2 OR East of Hwy 4; Kankakee Township

**C** Cass Township; Dewey Township; Hanna Township, Prairie Township

**D** Clinton Township; Noble Township; Scipio Township; Town of Wanatah

**E** Johnson Township; Lincoln Township; Pleasant Township; Union Township; Washington Township

**F** Michigan City – West of Karwick Road; Trail Creek; Sheridan Beach; Pottawattamie Park

**G** Michigan City – East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills

**H** Coolspring Township; New Durham Township

**I** Center Township

**J** Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township

### Special Instructions:

**Toters must be out by 6 a.m.!** Additional containers must be clearly marked **RECYCLING**.

If you are missed, please leave toter out and call our office within 24 hours.

Please contain plastic bags to prevent blowing and littering.

If you move, please leave your recycling toter because a serial number is assigned to that address.

April						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				D	E	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	F	G	H	I	J	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	A	B	C	D	E	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	F	G	H	I	J	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	A	B	C	D	E	

May						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	F	G	H	I	J	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	A	B	C	D	E	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	F	G	H	I	J	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	A	B	C	D	E	
30	HOL. 31					

June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		F	G	H	I	J
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	A	B	C	D	E	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	F	G	H	I	J	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	A	B	C	D	E	
27	28	29	30			
	F	G	H			

# Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk



Spring has finally arrived and things are starting to be renewed. Snow piles are gone, flowers are popping through the warming earth surface, and more and more residents are venturing out to enjoy all of the things that spring brings.

It seems this time of the year always brings to the surface that one special question, and I think you know what I am referring to. Young and old alike look at each other and ask that important question: Is everything I put out in the curbside collection toter really recycled? The short and truthful answer to this question is YES.

When the District first started, especially in the City of LaPorte, our process for collection was dual-stream, which meant everything we collected had to be sorted at the curb. Through the years, we have progressed to commingled recycling, which basically means that everything we collect can be combined because it is later sorted at a facility called a MRF (Municipal Recovery Facility).

We contract out this service, which sometimes can be confusing because our vendor of record at this time also has a trash hauling service and the trucks are very similar. Trust me—they do not combine your recyclables with your trash! The Solid Waste District has some very strict penalties in place if this should happen. We not only monitor the company's facilities, but we also require them to send us monthly reports on the tonnage totals they pick up. The percentage of participation is also built into these reports, and there are penalties if the company doesn't meet contract deadlines.

We do get calls from citizens who have concerns, and we check them out to reassure the citizen that the correct procedures are being followed. Every couple of years we set up a tour of the facilities we use, and we take staff, Board members, CAC members, and media along to verify that our commitment to the community is being met. There is a link on our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com, with photos and commentary about the most recent tour.

So, don't ever for one minute think your contribution to the curbside program isn't appreciated or handled in the most professional way. As always, call or write with your concerns.

Clay

WE EARN ONE MORE TOMORROW BY OUR DEEDS OF TODAY.



# Earth Day: A History

You'll hear a lot about Earth Day over the next month because 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day. On April 22, 1970, about 20 million Americans gathered in their neighborhoods, hometowns, state capitals, and Washington, D.C. Events ranged from litter cleanups and tree plantings to demonstrations and "teach-ins" to increase environmental awareness and knowledge.

That first Earth Day was the culmination of efforts begun a century earlier and inspired by naturalists, such as Henry David Thoreau and John Muir. Early in the 20th century, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service were founded, devoting themselves to protection of our public lands and natural heritage resources. In the 1920s, Marjory Stoneman Douglas began her work to save the Florida Everglades. The storms of the 1930s that caused the Dust Bowl in the Great Plains led to conservation efforts on farm and ranch lands. In 1948, the first piece of legislation that regulated water quality, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, was passed by Congress. In 1953, Keep America Beautiful was founded, largely to address the eyesore and hazards of roadside litter. In 1962, Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, sounded the alarm about the effects of pesticides on wildlife, as well as humans.

In 1963, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson accompanied President John F. Kennedy on a speaking tour focused on environmental concerns. After President Kennedy's death, Nelson continued to work on the issue, but the next six years were consumed by other priorities.

Then, in 1969, three things occurred that got the nation's attention. In early January, Americans got their first glimpse of the earth as seen from space in photos



Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, exposed the risks associated with certain pesticides, some of which were banned less than a decade later.

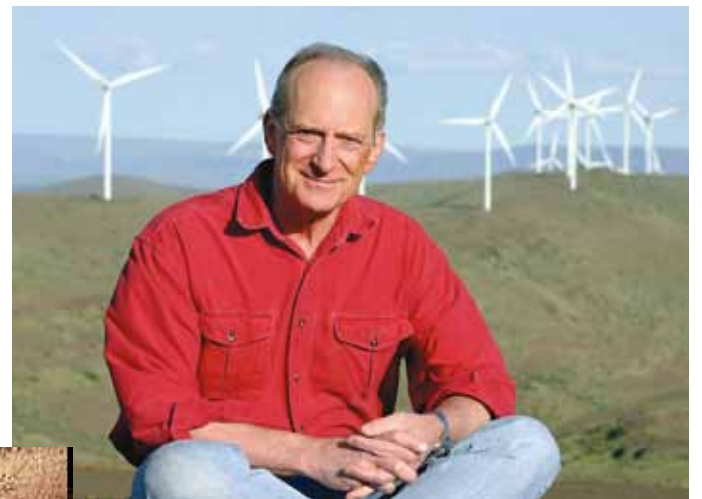
(Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

taken by the Apollo space crew. In late January, an oil spill fouled the California coast near Santa Barbara. In June, a chemical fire on Cleveland's Cuyahoga River received national media coverage. In 1969, the "enough is enough" moment occurred and Americans mobilized.

Senator Nelson realized that the time was right to put the environment at the top of the national agenda. He enlisted the help of graduate student Denis Hayes and planning got under way. When Earth Day rolled around, even the organizers did not anticipate how large the crowds would be or how passionate the voices. Within a year, President Richard Nixon had established the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Congress had passed the Clean Air Act, and that was only the beginning.

The work begun by Earth Day continued in the years that followed. In 1990, on the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, more than 200 million people in over 140 countries took part. In recent years, those numbers have continued to grow, with more than a billion people now taking part in annual celebrations, activities, and initiatives.

The motto of Earth Day is "Make Every Day Earth Day." By continuing our efforts to improve the environment in big and small ways, we are making every day and every year one for the earth and all of its inhabitants.



Denis Hayes was a graduate student when he agreed to work with Senator Gaylord Nelson to organize the first Earth Day. (Photo Courtesy of Zeitgeist Films)



This hillside dump was photographed in 1972 as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Documerica" project, which was intended to capture images of environmental problems. (Photo by Gene Daniels, courtesy of U.S. EPA)

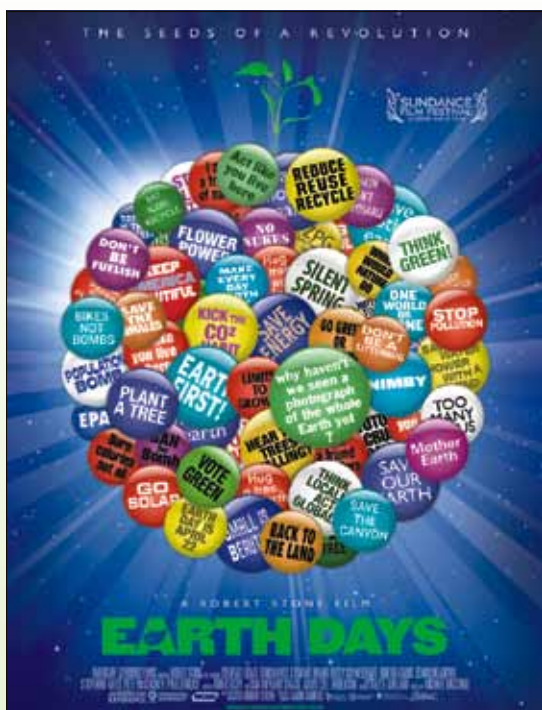
## Read more about it!

**Earth Day**  
www.earthday.net

**Apollo 8's "Earthrise" Photo**  
www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image\_feature\_102.html

**Cuyahoga River Fire**  
www.cleveland.com/science/index.ssf/2009/06/cuyahoga\_river\_fire\_40\_years\_a.html

**Santa Barbara Oil Spill**  
www.dailynexus.com/article.php?a=16459



## Earth Days

Last year, a documentary, "Earth Days: The Seeds of a Revolution," opened at the Sundance Film Festival. The film traces the beginnings of the modern environmental movement through the first Earth Day and the actions that followed. The documentary will air on "American Experience" on PBS on April 19 and will be available on DVD after that.

To learn more, visit [www.earthdaysmovie.com](http://www.earthdaysmovie.com) or [www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/earthdays/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/earthdays/).

# FAST FACTS

## Cook, clean, deodorize

What gives lift to your homemade cookies, creates a soothing paste for a sunburn, deodorizes your fridge, and cleans your bathroom? Baking soda, of course! Baking soda, or sodium bicarbonate, is a leavening agent used in baking, but it is also so much more.

Baking soda mixed with dish soap makes a versatile cleaning scrub. Mixed with white vinegar, baking soda can be used as an all-purpose cleaner. Baking soda can help deodorize trash cans, garbage disposals, laundry, gym bags, tennis shoes, cat litter boxes, hampers, and other smelly items. A paste made from baking soda and a small amount of water can soothe skin irritations caused by sunburn or insect bites.

For more baking soda solutions, go online and search for "baking soda solutions" or check out *Baking Soda Bonanza* by Peter A. Ciullo or *Green Up Your Cleanup* by Jill Potvin Schoff.



## Green @ Home

Looking for ways to "green" your home? Whether you want to reduce your energy use, conserve water, choose environmentally friendly materials and products, reduce your waste, or protect your health, you'll find suggestions at [www.epa.gov/greenhomes](http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes). Find specific ideas for each area of your home with the room by room feature.



# Spring reading, naturally

As the temperatures warm, you may be looking forward to more time outdoors. Your plan may be to garden, bike or walk, or simply sit and enjoy the spring breezes and sunshine. Consider a trip to the library (or used bookstore), too. Nothing is finer than reading a good book outdoors on a warm spring day.

If you love nature, consider some classics. *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters* by Annie Dillard will have you ready to do some exploration of your own. Are you itching to travel? Pick up *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail* by Bill Bryson. As two middle-aged men set out to hike the Appalachian Trail, you'll find humor and awe. Maybe it is the desert landscape that fires your imagination. Look for *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey or *The Land of Little Rain* by Mary Austin. More

of a beach person? Track down a copy of *The Outermost House: A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod* by Henry Beston. You might also look for works by John Muir, John McPhee, Gary Snyder, and Maxine Kumin, among others.

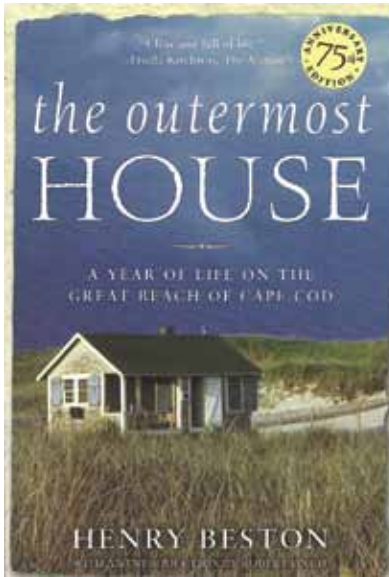
If you prefer your nature closer to the local coffee shop, look for *City Wilds: Essays and Stories About Urban Nature*, edited by Terrell F. Dixon. *City Wilds* celebrates the natural world that

is closest to home for many Americans.

Perhaps you are interested in how we form communities. A National Science Foundation study in 2007 found that as many as one quarter of Americans have no one to confide in or celebrate with. In *Population: 485 – Meeting Your Neighbors*

*One Siren at a Time*, Michael Perry writes of returning to his hometown and joining the volunteer fire department. One emergency call at a time, he connects with his neighbors and explores the place where he grew up with new eyes. In *Less Is More: Embracing Simplicity for a Healthy Planet, a Caring Economy, and Lasting Happiness*, edited by Cecile Andrews and Wanda Urbanska, the authors ostensibly address how to embrace a simpler lifestyle. However, their real concerns seem to be how we find and maintain more enriching relationships. The reader is challenged to ask the question, "What do I have to offer?"

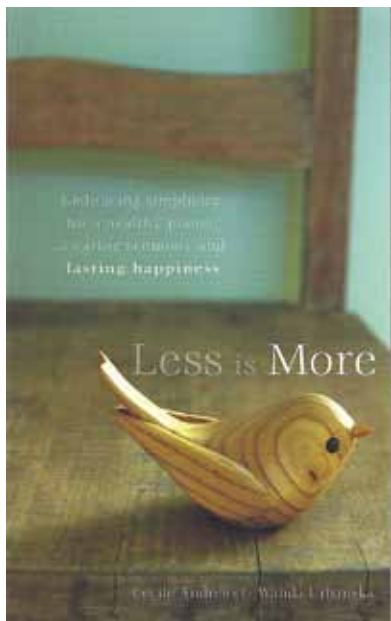
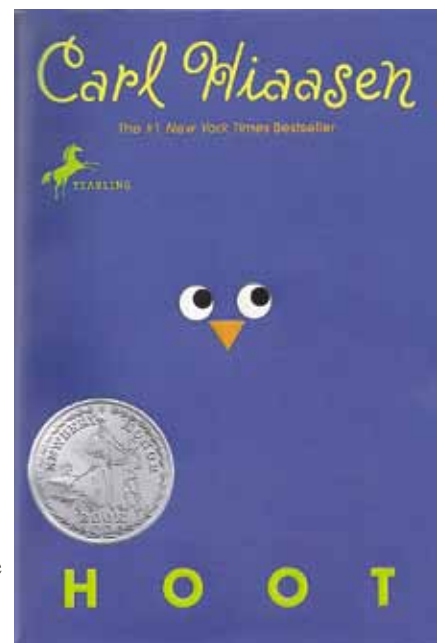
If you have children in your life, check out *Get Out! 150 Easy Ways for Kids & Grown-Ups to Get into Nature and Build a Greener Future* by Judy Molland. This book is full of ideas to get families and groups outside where they will learn about nature as they enjoy it.



Sharing books with young people builds relationships and improves their reading skills. For wonderful books about the natural world, look for Lynne Cherry's books, such as *The Armadillo from Amarillo* or *The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle*; *Brother Eagle, Sister Sky* by Chief Seattle, illustrated by Susan Jeffers; and *Just Us Two: Poems About Animal Dads* by Joyce Sidman. Encourage young gardeners with *The Empty Lot* by Dale H. Fife, *The Gardener* by Sarah Stewart, *A Handful of Dirt* by Raymond Bial, and Lorraine Roulston's series on Pee Wee, the worm. For the slightly older crowd, suggest a simple chapter book, such as *Judy Moody Saves the World* by Megan McDonald.

Pre-teens can be a harder group to please. Get them excited about the environment with Carl Hiaasen's eco-thrillers: *Hoot*, *Flush*, and *Scat*. In these books, youth find—and find ways to solve—environmental problems created by adults.

Obviously, there are many more great books for children, teens, and adults. Take advantage of that reuser's paradise—the local library—and enjoy good reading with the good weather!



## What a week!

In the week before Earth Day each year, students and teachers are invited to explore the natural world during National Environmental Education Week. Environmental education isn't just for the science classroom, but can include activities in social studies, language arts, math, art, music, and more. Environmental education gets students excited because they get involved in real-world problem solving.

There are many ways for students and teachers to take part in Environmental Education Week, beginning with incorporating environmental themes and topics into daily lessons. But the activities don't end there. Students can be encouraged to write conservation plans for home and school, audit energy and water use or trash disposal, set up a nature walk or scavenger hunt, take part in a litter cleanup, visit a local utility facility (power plant, water treatment plant, wastewater plant, recycling facility, etc.), start or expand a school recycling program, and much more. Get parent organizations and clubs into the act, as well!

Environmental Education Week 2010 is April 11-17. This year's focus will be on conserving water and energy to preserve our planet and save money. For more information, visit [www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org).



Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life... There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.

Rachel Carson, 1907–1964  
from *The Sense of Wonder*  
American biologist

## One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? We have a suggestion! Purchase recycled-content trash bags and trash can liners. When you are at the store to buy trash bags and can liners, read the labels and look for phrases like "made with recycled content" and "made with post-consumer recycled content."

Don't forget reuse. Plastic shopping bags can be used as liners for small wastebaskets.





# Mark your calendar!

## Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections

**Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

**Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

**Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

**Saturday, June 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

**Saturday, July 31, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

**Saturday, September 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** Michigan City, Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall

**Saturday, October 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

## Tire and Appliance Collections

**Saturday, May 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

**Saturday, October 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

## Book Collection

**Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2

## Solid Waste District of LaPorte County

### Board Members

Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Chairperson  
 Mayor Kathy Chrobak  
 Commissioner Ken Layton, Vice Chairperson  
 Commissioner Mike Bohacek  
 Commissioner Barb Huston  
 Councilman Joseph Doyle  
 Councilman Rich Mrozinski

### Citizen's Advisory Committee

Thomas R. Larson, Chairperson  
 Daniel Tompkins, Vice Chairperson  
 Juli Charlesworth  
 Charles Ted Daube  
 Jim Irwin  
 Jim Kintzele  
 Karen Kleist  
 Dick Reel

### We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

We are also available to speak to your club or organization about solid waste, waste reduction, recycling and composting.

**Solid Waste District of LaPorte County**  
 2354 North U.S. Highway 35  
 LaPorte, IN 46350

(219) 326-0014 • (800) 483-7700

[www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com)

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# Feed the Beast

The Solid Waste District's Compost Facility, located in Westville, produces "gold" from wastes with the help of the Beast, formally known as the grinder. It is so named because of its ability to chew up and pulverize a tree limb up to 30" in diameter. The Beast is primarily used to mulch wood scraps from untreated lumber and converts wood materials into usable mulch at a rate of 70 yards per hour.

However, mulch isn't the only "garden gold" we produce. Compost is a necessary ingredient for full, lush flower gardens and rich, productive vegetable gardens. The basic components of compost are leaves, wood, food scraps, and yard waste. The high nitrogen in the food scraps and grass clippings helps to break down the leaves and wood, which are high in carbon. This becomes the perfect solution in reducing the volume of material that would have been discarded.

To create compost, yard waste, wood, and food

scraps are mixed together in correct proportions and then placed in windrows at the Compost Facility. The moisture and temperature are tested regularly to monitor the material and indicate when the compost needs

to be turned and watered. The rows stay on the ground for approximately 6 months. To keep track of the decomposition and maintain our high quality standards, the windrows are numbered with the most aged row first. The compost is then put into piles, which are placed in the Trommel Separation Screen. The long conveyor belt on the back removes all oversized material. The compost is filtered and then pushed onto the smaller conveyor belt. All compost is tested for CO2 (carbon dioxide) and NH3 (ammonia) before leaving the site.

Our compost and mulch are



© iStockphoto.com / Laure Neish

# Stop throwing away yard waste!

Grass clippings, leaves, and sticks don't need to go into the trash. Each year, the average household sends 700 pounds of yard waste to landfills. Rather than filling landfills with clean, nutrient-rich organics, we should be reusing and recycling more of this material.

You can grasscycle by letting clippings drop back onto the lawn when you mow. You can mulch leaves and grass clippings in your yard and garden. You can create compost in a bin or pile in your own backyard. Do you want to learn more about earth-friendly yard care? Contact the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Hotline at 219-324-9407. Master Gardeners staff the phones on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to noon, from April 14 through September 29.



You can also drop off grass clippings, twigs, and brush at a composting facility. Residents of LaPorte County can drop off yard waste at the Zigler Road site near the LaPorte County Fairgrounds and at the Compost Facility in

Westville. Some municipalities also offer yard waste collection programs. Call your city or town office for details.

If you drop off yard waste, follow these simple guidelines:

- Keep your yard waste clean—absolutely NO trash should be included.
- Containers, whether bins, buckets, or plastic bags, must NOT be left at the site.
- Kraft (brown paper) bags MAY be used.

both available for residents and businesses (see box). For more information, please call 219-785-2511, ext. 4935 or visit our website, [www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com).

## LaPorte County Solid Waste District Compost Facility Rates

Westville Correctional Facility, County Road 1100 W., Westville

### Rates for Mulch and Compost:

Compost – \$10.50 per cubic yard  
 Mulch (Natural Only, No Colors Available) – \$11.00 per cubic yard

### Tipping Fees for Businesses:

Small Items (brush, leaves, grass, trees under 30" diameter) – \$5.00 per cubic yard

Large Items (trees 30" diameter and over, clean stumps) – \$7.00 per cubic yard

### Tipping Fees for Residents:

Small Items (brush, leaves, grass, trees under 30" diameter) – Free

Large Items (trees 30" diameter and over, clean stumps) – \$7.00 per cubic yard

All materials dropped off must be debris-free. Failure to comply will result in termination of your tipping privileges.

**Hours:** Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. (Closed for lunch: 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

**Saturday Hours:** May 1 through June 26 ONLY, 8 to 11 a.m.

During the next quarter, the facility will be closed April 2, May 4, May 29, May 31, and July 5.



We are currently working on a new SWAP event featuring toys, games, and children's books. We are tentatively looking at a date in the middle of September at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds. Watch for further details within a few months, or visit our website, [www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com), later in the year. We will keep you posted.



Have you visited our new and improved website? The next time you're online, surf over! You'll find us at [www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com). Take a few minutes to explore!



Make your voice heard at the Solid Waste District Board meetings. Meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms at the County Complex on these dates:

- April 5 (Joint Meeting with Citizen's Advisory Committee)
- July 12
- September 14 (Joint Meeting with Citizen's Advisory Committee)

The Citizen's Advisory Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the District Office on these additional dates:

- April 1
- July 8
- September 9