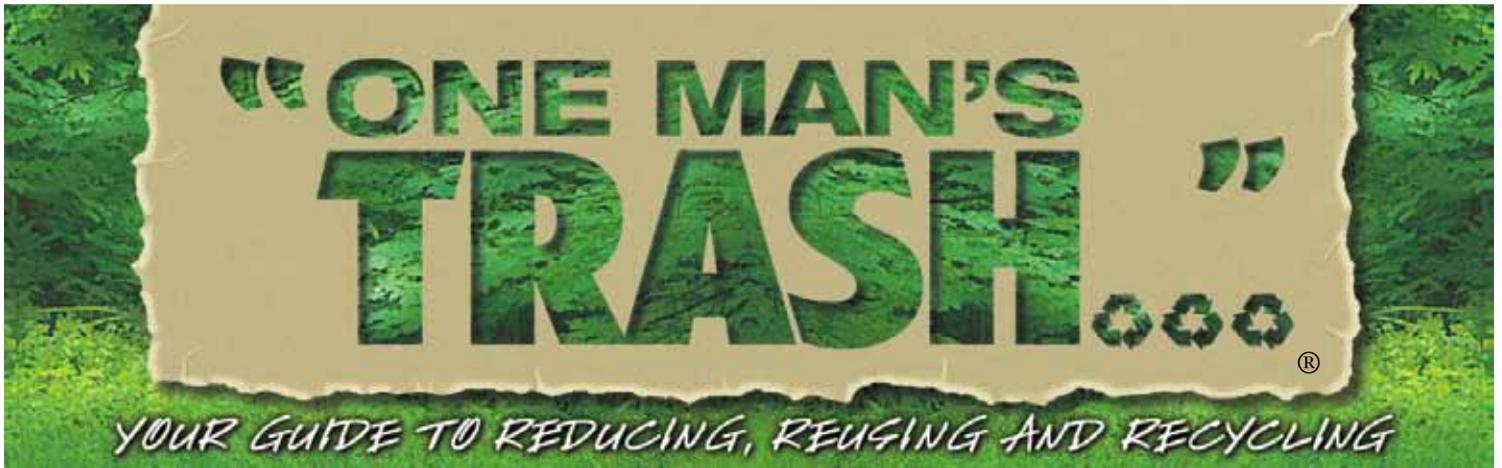


A Quarterly Newsletter of



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



What an Earth Day!

More than 200 residents joined us to celebrate Earth Day 2010 at our office. When the staff decided to plan an open house for the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, they had no idea there would be such a tremendous response from the public. Residents brought in batteries, cell phones, ink jet cartridges, and many other items for recycling. Those who brought in five plastic bags to recycle received a reusable shopping bag. At the end of the day, there were three 96-gallon totes stuffed with plastic bags. Those in attendance also had the chance to sign up for our prize drawings; picked up special giveaways;

were treated to cookies, cake, and punch; and received answers to all of their recycling questions.

Prize winners were:

- South Shore Poster: Tobi Bednarski
- Rain Barrels: Mary Ann Engle and Chandra Michaels
- Bird House: Bea Rollins
- Environmental Gift Bag: Tom Wilcox
- Compost and Mulch: Duane Arndt

The District's first Earth Day celebration was a great accomplishment! There will most certainly be an Earth Day event again next year!



Tobi Bednarski



Tom Wilcox



Chandra Michaels



LaPorte County Commissioner and Solid Waste District Board Member Barb Huston



Bea Rollins



Tom Buford, HHW Coordinator, with Carl Burner and Mary Gigliotti from WLOI/WCOE

Drivers on the Road

by Pauletta Schuster

I had the experience of traveling the recycling pickup route on Tuesday, March 30 with Ernie Lopez, Route Supervisor for Able Disposal.

During my day on the route, I was reminded of some very important recycling guidelines:

1. The toter must be curbside at 6 a.m. to ensure pickup. The recycling route may change and be picked up at a different time than it has been picked up previously.
2. There must be a 5' clearance for the truck to pick up the blue toter. If the toter is too close to a pole, mailbox, or sign, the arms on the truck are unable to pick it up automatically.
3. Boxes need to be broken down and placed inside the toter or next to it. Boxes need to be in pieces less than 2' square so that they don't get stuck inside the toter as it is emptied.
4. Only put acceptable recyclables into the toter (see list at right). If there is something that is not



Tom



Greg



5. acceptable, the toter will not be emptied.
6. Place your plastic bags in another bag and tie it shut to prevent bags from blowing out during pickup.
7. Items that do not fit in the container must be clearly marked RECYCLING. The blue toter must still be out. The toter is a "flag" for the driver to stop.
8. Additional containers must not exceed a 20-gallon capacity.

By following these guidelines, you help the drivers and are ensured proper pickup, as well as saving time for the driver and District staff.

On the day I spent on the route, I also learned a lot about the drivers. The drivers get six weeks of training on all of the different trucks, have two weeks of intensive training on driving the trucks, and then follow up with two weeks of training on the routes. All but one of the drivers have been

with the program since it started in LaPorte County. These drivers know their equipment, our recycling program, and our county. Help them out by doing your part!

Reminder: If you are missed, please call the District office within 24 hours.

Bob Will

Pauletta and Ernie finishing the route



Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk



The Solid Waste District has a lot of unsung heroes and hidden gems in the programs that we offer. One of the gems is our electronics recycling trailers. We are lucky to be able to offer this service to our residents at two locations in our county. The first, located at 1027 Hitchcock Street in Michigan City, is hosted by the Michigan City Refuse Department. The second, at 1805 W. Fifth Street in LaPorte, is hosted by the LaPorte County Highway Department. These are a couple of our hidden gems!

The program, which is available to residents free of charge, allows you to safely dispose of any electronic item you might have in your home. We will make sure that it is properly recycled. We just ask that you follow a few simple rules:

- Don't remove anything from the trailer.
- Only electronics should be placed in the trailer.
- Always place your item in the empty shipping crates farthest back in the trailer.
- Never leave anything outside of the gates.

These rules must be followed so that we can maintain this program at minimal cost to the District. Keeping our costs in line is very important to the District's budget.

In 2009, we collected 241,940 pounds of electronics. That is a tremendous amount of electronics that will be kept out of our landfills. This program is for residents, but businesses can go to our website or call our office for information on this service.

The unsung heroes of this program are Jim Kintzele and his crew at the Michigan City Refuse Department, Bob Young and his crew at the LaPorte County Highway Department, and, of course, you, our residents, who make all of our programs a huge success. Give yourselves a congratulatory pat on the back!

Clay

BETWEEN 1997 AND 2007, NEARLY 500 MILLION COMPUTERS BECAME OBSOLETE!

Recycle these materials!

- **Glass** – juice, pop, soda, and water bottles; beer and wine bottles; and food jars
- **Metal Cans** – tin food cans and aluminum beverage cans
- **Paper** – newspapers, any inserts, tabloids, or small flyers that originally came with the paper; catalogs; phone books; magazines; cardboard boxes in sizes of no more than 2' square; stationery and copy paper; and cereal boxes
- **Plastic** – All plastic with the recycle symbol on it, #1 through #7

Do NOT put the following materials into the recycling toter: liquids, food waste, fabrics, wood, and scrap metal (except for cans).

Food, glorious food

Each year, Americans throw away about 27% of the food they purchase and bring home. When added to unusable food from farms, factories, and stores, food waste tops a whopping 100 billion pounds! And waste isn't the only result — a 2009 study found that a quarter of U.S. water consumption and over 300 million barrels of oil go into producing and distributing food that ends up in landfills.

Annually, food waste comprises about 12.7% of municipal trash, or about 200 pounds per person per year. A family of four disposes of \$590 worth of edible food each year.

Yet, unlike containers, paper products, and yard trimmings, very little food is recovered. Only about 2.5% is recovered, either for use or for composting.

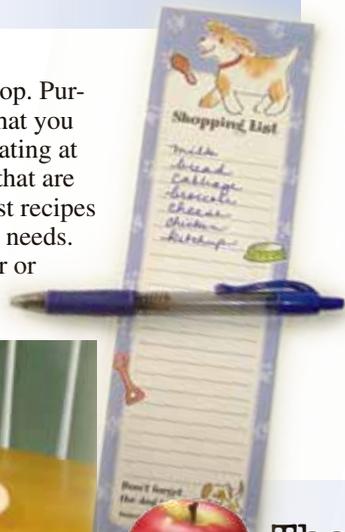
At home, you can reduce your food waste by using the 3 R's — Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle:

- Reduce your food waste at home. Make a list before you shop. Purchase only the amount of food that you need for the meals you will be eating at home. Avoid exotic ingredients that are needed for a single recipe. Adjust recipes to make the amount your family needs. Store leftovers in the refrigerator or freezer.



Most food in the U.S. travels between 1,500 and 2,000 miles before being eaten.

— Iowa State University



The average American farmer receives about 20 cents of every dollar spent on food. But when customers buy directly from the farm, the farmer gets the whole dollar.

— University of Missouri



- Reduce food waste at restaurants. If portions are large, share a full order with your companion. When you are full, put leftovers into a carry-out container. Better yet, bring your own reusable container from home and put leftovers into it. Remember to eat the leftovers soon!
- Freeze food for future use. If you bought too many carrots, you can chop them up and freeze them. They'll be ready to toss into a nice soup next winter.

- Share unwanted food with friends and co-workers. Do you have leftover birthday cake? Invite a neighbor over for a slice or take the extra to work.
- Donate unneeded food products to local food banks and other charitable organizations. Go through your non-perishable boxed and canned goods regularly. If an item has been sitting in your pantry for six months, you probably aren't going to use it before the expiration date. Give it to someone who will use it.
- Give away unwanted produce. If you have a garden, share nature's bounty with friends, neighbors, and co-workers. If you purchased too much produce or your family just didn't like the plums, give the items away before they rot.
- Compost your food scraps. You can compost fruit and vegetable scraps, as well as bread, pasta, and grains, in your backyard compost pile. Bury the food about 10" below the surface to discourage unwanted visitors. You can also compost food scraps in a vermicompost (worm composting) bin indoors or an in-ground food composter outdoors.



© iStockphoto.com | Peter Burnett



In the U.S., agricultural imports are rising twice as fast as exports. Over the past two decades, imports of fruit, vegetables, and grains increased by more than 100%. Today, the typical American meal contains ingredients from at least five countries outside the U.S.

— U.S. Department of Agriculture

Cutting back on campus

A study of an all-you-can-eat campus dining hall found a significant decrease in edible food waste by making one small change—taking away large plastic trays. These trays allow students to carry all of their food selections at one time. While inedible, compostable waste stayed steady during the study, the amount of edible food waste dropped by about 30%. Students could return for more food as many times as they wished. However, removing the tray kept students from taking more food on their first trip than they would be able to eat. "Trayless trials" at other colleges have yielded similar outcomes.

Results of this study, which was conducted by Andy Sarjahanian, Elena L. Serranob, and Rick Johnson, were published in the January 2009 edition of the *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition*.



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Learn more!

www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/materials/organics/food/index.htm — Find information on food scraps and how to reduce, reuse, and recycle them at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's food waste site.

www.leanpath.com — A website devoted to food waste reduction in the food service industry, the site includes a blog, "Food Waste Focus," and an e-newsletter, "Food Waste Flyer."

www.localharvest.org — This site is a national, easily searchable database for local food available from farms, farmers markets, restaurants, grocery stores, and other sources. You can also search by type of food.

www.slowfoodusa.org — An international movement, Slow Food works to link the pleasure of food with a commitment to community and the environment.

www.wastedfood.com — Jonathan Bloom's site is part blog and part call to action to reduce food waste and hunger.

FAST FACTS

Couch abandonment

A recent survey found that millions of Americans will abandon or leave behind large furniture on their next move. In this situation, one resident's trash may not be the next resident's treasure!



© Jordan Rusev | Dreamstime.com

Rather than abandon perfectly good furniture or appliances that you don't want or can't take with you, make arrangements to sell or donate them. List them for sale in the local paper or online through a service such as Craigslist.com or AmericanListed.com. To donate, contact friends or charitable organizations. If transportation is a problem, ask whether pickup service is available.

If the furniture or large appliance is worn-out or broken, contact us about proper disposal.

Trashy TV

You've probably heard someone say, "Everything on TV is trash." We have a feeling they didn't mean the kind of trash you might find on TV today. On cable shows like "Dirty Jobs," "Hoarders," "Mission: Organization," "Hoarding: Buried Alive," and "Wa\$ted," trash and recycling take center stage. Even a couple episodes of "Undercover Boss" focused on waste.

In a recent issue of *Waste & Recycling News*, "Dirty Jobs" host Mike Rowe said, "Our focus is more on people and work, but the environment is a factor in virtually every segment, and recycling is quite possibly the biggest recurring theme."

Rather than watching re-runs this summer, check out some of the trashy shows on TV. You'll be surprised and probably a little grossed-out, but you won't look at waste the same way again!



"Hoarding: Buried Alive" is one of the shows that focuses on waste. (Photo courtesy of Discovery Communications, Inc.)

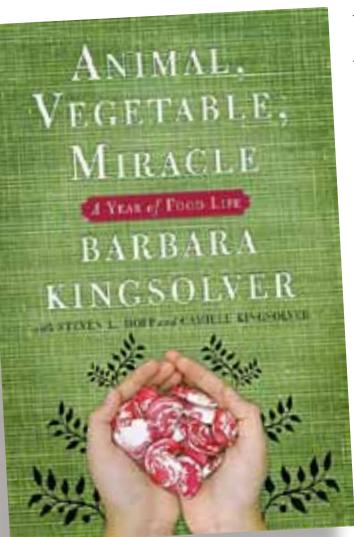
Targeting recyclables

Nationwide, the 1,740 Target stores now offer customers a recycling station for plastic bags, MP3 players, cell phones, ink cartridges, and beverage containers. This is Target's first large-scale effort to offer customer recycling. Previously, Target's reuse and recycling efforts were mostly behind the scenes. For instance, Target stores reused 437 million garment hangers and recycled 935 million pounds of cardboard in 2008.

With this program, Target joins many grocery and electronics stores in offering recycling for some of the products they distribute. Look for – and ask about – recycling programs where you shop!



Local for a year



What happens when one American family decides to get its food from nearby farms and its own backyard? The book, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver with Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver, explores this journey through planting, harvesting, and preserving. To learn more, find recipes, or learn about other families' efforts, visit www.animalvegetablemiracle.com.

North of the border, Canadians Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon took a similar journey, which they chronicle in *Plenty: Eating*

Locally on the 100-Mile Diet. You can learn more about their experiences at www.100milediet.org.

Green and gorgeous

Choosing products that are better for the environment doesn't mean sacrificing style. From purses to glassware, clever entrepreneurs are making treasures from our trash.

Several companies are taking car parts, including license plates, tires, and seatbelt strapping, used billboards, metal pull-tabs, and discarded wrappers to make purses. Because used materials are made to fashion the purses, many of the patterns are unrepeatable. You'll find these unique bags at gift shops, as well as at online stores, such as www.ecoist.com and www.niokagreenstore.com.

The Green Glass Company takes used drink bottles and turns them into beautiful glassware. Green Glass began with a unique wine bottle-to-goblet conversion process to fashion functional and eye-catching wineglasses. That has led to other products, including a new line of tumblers made from soft drink and beer bottles. The company's designs turn ordinary bottles into extraordinary glasses, pitchers, and vases. To see Green Glass products, which are sold in gift shops as well as online, visit www.greenglass.com.



Green Glass makes these tumblers from Boylan soda bottles.

Candy and gum wrappers were folded and woven to create this purse.

QUOTES REQUOTED



Photo credit: Annie Griffiths

I can plant something as an act of faith in time itself, a vow that we will, sure enough, have a fall and a winter this year, to be followed again by spring

Maybe life doesn't get any better than this, or any worse, and what we get is just what we're willing to find: small wonders, where they grow.

Barbara Kingsolver, 1955–
Small Wonders
American author



© Raanan Mori | Dreamstime.com

One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? Here's an idea—a reusable coffee mug! This year, Americans will carry out 23 billion paper cups filled with coffee and other hot drinks. If you buy one cup of coffee per week, you could avoid 52 disposable cups, lids, and sleeves by carrying your own mug. If you buy one cup of carry-out coffee per work day, you could reduce your waste by 250 disposable cups, lids, and sleeves. If you buy two cups of carry-out coffee every day...well, you get the idea. In addition to reducing your waste, you might also be saving money. Many shops will give you a discount if you bring in your own mug.

Don't forget reusable cups for cold drinks, too!

Public sites handle extra recycling

Did you just host a party? Do you have an overflow of recyclables? Use the public recycling drop-off sites. We ask that you use and fill your blue toters first and add a second recycling box if you regularly have more than will fit into your cart. However, if you have a one-time or short-term overflow, use the drop-off sites listed below.

At the drop-off sites, you can recycle

the same items that are acceptable in your blue toter. This includes paper, cardboard (broken down), glass bottles, metal food and beverage cans, Styrofoam, and all plastic items marked #1-#7.

At the sites, contamination is a serious problem. Please do NOT place unacceptable items into the bins. We do NOT accept window glass, light bulbs, mirrors, chemi-

cal cans, aerosols, paints, scrap metal, toys, rubber products, fabrics, furniture, tires, wood, or yard waste. Please help us continue to offer these drop-off sites by keeping the bins clear of unacceptable items.

These are the locations of the public drop-off sites:

LaPorte

- Pulaski Street (off Brighton Street), by

- the railroad tracks, in Unitek's back parking lot
- Sagamore Professional Center, off Monroe Street/Highway 4
- LaPorte Highway Barn, Hanna/Highway 30 and 400 West

Others

- Marquette Mall parking lot, behind Sears, Michigan City
- Kingsbury Fish & Wildlife, Hupp Road, Kingsbury



Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections

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 Collection

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



We are now on Facebook!

If you have a Facebook account, add us to your "Likes" (previously known as "Fan Pages"). You'll find us by searching for "LaPorte County Solid Waste District." Add us to your "Like" list and you'll get regular updates from us in your News Feed.



Swap N' Switch

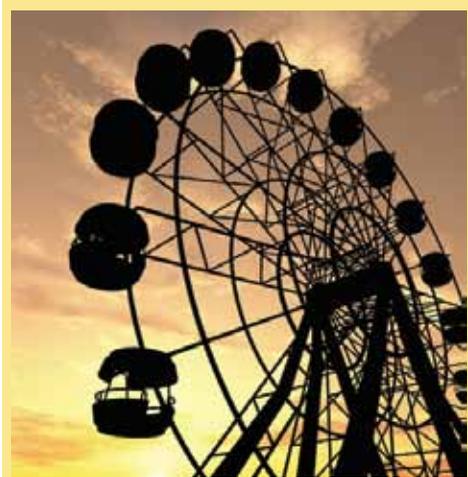
We are planning a swap event September 16-18 for toys, games, and children's books. Residents will be able to bring in an item and swap it for another item of choice. This program will be free. The times and details will be announced soon. Watch for updates on this event on our website, in the newspaper, and in our next newsletter.

Recycle at festivals and other events!

Did you know that we loan out our recycling stands for festivals and community events? If you are interested in borrowing these stands and containers for a local event, here are the guidelines:

- The District requires a minimum 24-hour notice prior to pickup of recycling stands and containers.
- You must provide a contact name and number when you check out the stands.
- Your group is responsible for pickup and return of the stands.
- You must recycle what you collect. Recyclables can be mixed with your household recyclables in the blue toters or dropped off at the public recycling drop-off sites (see article on this page).

Call us at (219) 326-0014 or (800) 483-7700 for more information.



See you at the Fair!

Remember to RECYCLE during your fun day at the LaPorte County Fair, which will be held from July 18 to July 24. Do the right thing to keep our air, water, and soil healthier. We will once again help you with this process to protect the environment by providing several recycling drop-off locations at the fair. There will be a recycling dumpster between the Salem Chapel Methodist Church and the Door Village Methodist Church Buildings. There will also be a small recycling dumpster in front of the Community Building. In addition to the dumpsters, we will have our recycling stands and toters available at various locations throughout the fairgrounds. These are available to the vendors, the campers, the 4-H participants, and all fairgoers. Have lots of fun, eat lots of good food, enjoy seeing lots of people, and RECYCLE!



Recycling Schedule

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

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

September						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			C	D	E	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Holiday No Recycling	F	G	H	I	J
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	A	B	C	D	E	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	F	G	H	I	J	
26	27	28	29	30		
	A	B	C	D		

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.

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

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