



(219) 326-0014
(800) 483-7700
www.solidwastedistrict.com

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County



Fall 2021

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

Three cheers for County Fair recycling volunteers!

Many thanks to the local 4-H participants who volunteered to run the La Porte County Fair Week recycling project — Robert Smith, Wesley Smith, Lexi Burns, Mia Burns, and Hannah Magill. They did an amazing job coming in early to the fair every morning and getting all of the fair recycling picked up and put away. Thanks also to the fairgoers who chose to utilize the recycling bins that were placed throughout the fairgrounds. Hip, hip, hooray!



Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

Fall brings about many changes. Kids are in school and ballfields are lit for football and soccer games. The days are getting shorter and cooler, and the leaves begin to drop from trees. As you gather leaves and prepare your lawn and garden for winter, here are some tips that are good for your yard and for the environment:



Credit: SerrNovik | iStock | Getty Images Plus

- After gathering the leaves, put them into your compost bin. Mix them in slowly over the next several months with additional "green" debris, such as fruit and vegetable scraps. If you put in too many leaves at one time, it can slow the composting process.
- Use the bag attachment on your mower to shred leaves. These leaf bits can be used as mulch that can be placed into garden beds and protect sensitive perennials. Leaf mulch protects the soil and the helpful creatures that live in your garden from winter's harsh temperatures.
- If there is only a sprinkling of leaves on your lawn, use your mulching mower instead of a rake. The mower will shred the leaves into small pieces and drop them back onto the lawn. These leaf bits protect your grass during the winter and decompose by spring.
- After you've composted and mulched your leaves, you might have a few bags left over. Collect your leaves and deliver them to the District's Zigler Road Compost Site, located at 724 Zigler Road in La Porte. You can drop off all types of yard waste, including branches, grass clippings, and leaves. No plastic bags or trash are to be left at the area. A limited amount of mulch, compost, and firewood is offered for sale. Visit www.solidwastedistrict.com or call 219-326-0014 for additional information.

Remember — please don't burn fall leaves. If you burn piles of leaves, you can accidentally start fires that get out of control, putting people and homes in danger. Plus, leaf burning puts pollutants into the air, making it harder for people to breathe, especially children, the elderly, and those with breathing difficulties.

Don't forget to savor the fall weather! Take a hike and take in the fall colors. Rake a big pile of leaves for the kids and let them jump in. Snap some photos to enjoy autumn memories during the long winter to come.

Clay



"FALL HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY FAVORITE SEASON. THE TIME WHEN EVERYTHING BURSTS WITH ITS LAST BEAUTY, AS IF NATURE HAD BEEN SAVING UP ALL YEAR FOR THE GRAND FINALE."

— LAUREN DESTEFANO

Curbside yard waste pickup questions?

City of La Porte Residents:
Contact the La Porte City Street Department at 219-362-2477.

Michigan City Residents:
Contact Michigan City Central Services at 219-873-1530.



Last HHW collection for 2021!

Mark your calendar

Saturday, October 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Michigan City, Marquette Mall, West Parking Lot

Accepting Household Hazardous Waste Only – Household hazardous waste includes household, automotive, and lawn and garden chemicals, including oil-based paints and motor oil. Batteries, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, medications, and cooking oil are also accepted. NO electronics, appliances, or tires will be accepted.

All hazardous waste must be brought to our HHW collections in 5-gallon or smaller containers. Please contact the District at 219-326-0014 with any questions or concerns about this program change. This program is for residents only, not businesses.

America Recycles Day reminds us to keep recycling

Each year in November, we celebrate America Recycles Day to remind us about the important economic and environmental benefits of recycling and to help motivate occasional recyclers to become everyday recyclers. Since the early 2000s, the amount of waste recycled or composted in the U.S. has stayed between 30% and 35%, while at least 60% of most household waste is recyclable or compostable. This America Recycles Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Keep America Beautiful ask us to find new ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle to help meet the goal of increasing our national recycling and composting rate to 50% by 2030.

Recycling is the easiest thing we can do 365 days a year to save energy, conserve natural resources, and create green jobs. This America Recycles Day, take the pledge to help America improve its recycling rate while recycling right. First, “precycle” by selecting locally recyclable products and packages when you shop. Then, find out what is accepted for recycling in our community by visiting www.solidwastedistrict.com. Next, collect empty, clean, and dry recyclables and deliver them to the curb or a

drop-off center for processing. Finally, close the recycling loop by buying recycled-content products. Do this by checking for terms like “post-consumer recycled content” on the label or package.

Nationwide, Americans recycle about 68% of paper and paperboard, but just 9% of plastics. Think about items you might not normally recycle, like shampoo bottles or empty toilet paper and paper towel tubes, and make an effort to focus on recycling them this year.

Each fall, America Recycles Day reminds people that recycling is a simple activity which saves energy, conserves resources, reduces air and water pollution, and helps create jobs. Visit www.epa.gov/ Americarecycles and www.Americarecyclesday.org to pledge your support and to learn what you can do to recycle more at home, at school, or at work. With everyone pitching in, we can meet the nationwide goal of a 50% recycling rate by 2030. Thanks for doing your part!

If you have any questions about local recycling programs, call us at 219-326-0014, ask a question on our Facebook page, or visit www.solidwastedistrict.com.



Keep your reusable bags clean and your family healthy

Reusable shopping bags are handy and durable, but they aren’t self-cleaning. Here are some tips to keep your reusable shopping bags clean and your family healthy this fall and winter:

- Wash your hands after you get home from the store and before unloading grocery bags.
- Launder reusable cotton and synthetic fabric grocery bags frequently. If the bag has cleaning instructions, follow them. If not, turn the bags inside out before tossing them into the washing machine. Detergent and cold water will do the trick. You can dry fabric bags on low heat or line-dry them.
- Wipe out the inside of plastic reusable or insulated bags with a damp, soapy cloth and then wipe away any residue with a clean, damp cloth. Turn the bags inside out and allow them to air-dry.
- Label bags for meat, produce, dairy, packaged food, and cleaning supplies. And, place raw meat into a disposable plastic bag before putting it into a reusable bag.
- Never use bags that you use at the grocery store as gym bags, diaper bags, or laundry bags.
- Put clean bags near the door so you’ll remember to grab them on your next trip to the store.



Join us for our annual plastic bag exchange!

Bring your plastic bags to one of our recycling events and we will give you a FREE reusable bag to use in the future. All events will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., while supplies last.

Monday, November 15	Solid Waste District Office, 2857 W. State Road 2, La Porte
Tuesday, November 16	Al’s La Porte, 702 E. Lincolnway, La Porte
Wednesday, November 17	La Crosse Library, 307 E. Main Street, La Crosse
Thursday, November 18	Al’s Michigan City, Franklin, 3535 Franklin Street, Michigan City
Friday, November 19	Al’s Michigan City, Karwick, 1002 N. Karwick Road, Michigan City
Saturday, November 20	Wanatah Town Hall, 104 N. Main Street, Wanatah

Please call our office at 219-326-0014 for updates if pandemic restrictions are in place. One reusable bag will be given to each person who brings bags to exchange. Plastic bags and plastic films are also accepted for recycling year-round at our office in La Porte.

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT OF LA PORTE COUNTY

MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM 2021

This fall, we will be offering our annual Master Recycler course, which is available to all residents free of charge. Classes take place every Thursday, from 9 to 11 a.m., October 7 through November 4, 2021. The course includes field trips to local recycling facilities, such as the recycling sorting facility, landfill, paper recycling facility, wastewater treatment plant, household hazardous waste recovery facility, and more. To register for the course or for more information, please call our office at 219-326-0014 or email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com.

Meet Helping Ninjas Leo and Layla

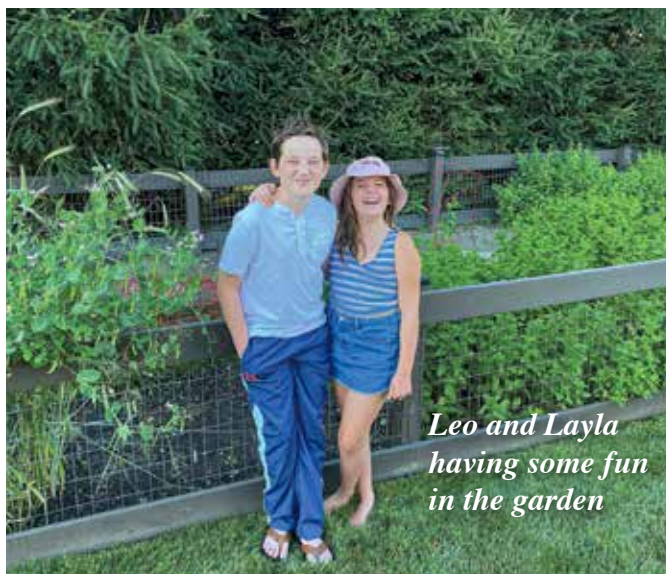
Twelve-year-old Leo Berry and his little sister Layla from Carmel, Indiana, love to show other kids how to make compost. Compost is made from rotting plant-based materials that have been broken down naturally by bacteria and other microorganisms. Composting can take all the garbage that comes from plants — like leaves, banana peels, leftover peas, and even paper — and recycle it to make a nutrient-rich soil amendment that is great for plants and the environment.

Leo, Layla, and a group of their friends formed a group called the Helping Ninjas about four years ago. According to Leo, Helping Ninjas are “highly skilled at helping,” and they do all sorts of projects for people and the environment. Over the years, they have planted organic gardens and donated the vegetables they grew to a nearby food pantry, they have planted pollinator gardens, they have taught students about composting, and more.

Leo and Layla first started composting in 2018, when the Helping Ninjas applied for a Carmel Green Teen grant to pay for seeds and supplies to plant a garden and teach other kids in the local elementary schools how and why to compost. This was one of Leo’s favorite projects. The students worked with their school cafeteria manager to start composting cafeteria scraps (apple cores, leftover carrots, potato peels, etc.) by using a school worm composting bin that could also be used by teachers as a fun, educational tool. Leo noted that composting with worms is called vermicomposting.

“I think it is important that all kids learn how to help the Earth by composting,” says Layla. The Helping Ninjas have been

busy doing their part, teaching over 150 kids in after-school programs throughout Central Indiana how composting works by having them make take-home, mini compost bins in glass jars. (See below to



*Leo and Layla
having some fun
in the garden*

make your own compost jar, which is a fun science project to do at home.)

Leo, Layla, and the Helping Ninjas continue teaching kids and adults to compost. Composting is easy and inexpensive because you just use what gets thrown away anyway. In America, food scraps and yard waste together make up about one-third of what we throw away, so composting at home and at school can provide free plant food while keeping a lot of garbage out of landfills. Compost can be used as a nutrient-rich soil amendment to create healthier lawns, flowers, gardens, or other plants.

Layla adds, “Whether you are a kid who likes composting, planting flowers for pollinators, or recycling, every little bit helps.” Find your inner ninja and try composting today!

To learn about the Helping Ninjas or to start a group of your own, visit www.helpingninjas.com.

Make compost in a jar

Based on Leo and Layla’s Helping Ninjas project

A composting jar is a fun way to learn about composting and watch it in action. This is a great project to do around Halloween because you can use chopped up pumpkin parts (minus the seeds) as the vegetable scraps. Make sure you add the



soil to introduce decomposer microorganisms (tiny creatures, including bacteria and fungi) that help break down the food scraps to make compost.

What you need for each jar:

- 1 large (1-liter) empty mason or other large jar OR the bottom half of a 2-liter soda bottle
- 1 empty paper towel tube, cut into 1” pieces (can use 2 empty toilet paper tubes or half of a cardboard egg carton instead)
- 1 cup of vegetable or fruit scraps (leftover bits of items that would normally get thrown away)
- 1 cup of brown leaves
- ¼ cup of soil (dirt from the ground or packaged potting soil)
- ½ cup of water
- spoon for mixing

Directions:

In a large jar, add the cut-up cardboard, vegetable or fruit scraps, dry leaves, and

Volunteers hit the beach Monday mornings to clean up litter

Michigan City is home to Washington Park Beach along Lake Michigan, which is visited by thousands annually. Summer is exceptionally busy with many folks from out of town joining residents at the beach. All those people on a long stretch of beach generate a lot of trash. Unfortunately, not everyone cleans up after themselves.

Thus began the “Monday Mornings! Beach Clean-Up.” What originated four years ago has continued to expand in volunteer numbers and assistance to the Michigan City Park Department to keep the beaches clean. Local organizer Mike Kilbourne had lost his job and was feeling depressed. He was looking for something meaningful to be a part of. He tried picking up litter at the beach and really liked it. Not only was it good exercise, but Mike also found many good friends while cleaning up.

Nora Ryszka, another organizer of the Monday Mornings! Beach Clean-Up and also coordinator of The Great Michigan City Green Clean, has made sure that the weekly event includes education along with the cleanup activities. Mike said, “People are more conscientious about how they treat the beach, and more locals are out cleaning, even when it’s not Monday morning.”

The largest cleanups have taken place when schools have participated, bringing young people by the busload to clean up the beaches. Many people come on their own or have their children in tow. The youngest participant is Daisy, who started cleaning up the beach with her dad when she was only four years old.

When asked what message he would



like people to remember, Mike said, “Leave no trace! If you bring it in, please bring it back out, or put it in the garbage can. There are many garbage cans!”

He added, “Also, please don’t leave cigarette butts and cigar tips in the sand. Those are not going anywhere, and when you put them in the sand, they can stay there for many years. Please dispose of butts properly.”

If you would like to participate, show up any Monday morning at the Washington Park Beach at 8 a.m. or after. Buckets and grabbers are provided if you don’t bring your own. You will not need a beach parking sticker to participate because beach cleaners get in for free. Everyone is welcome to join in!

Learn more by joining The Great Michigan City Green Clean and Monday Mornings! Beach Clean-Up groups on Facebook.



Mike Kilbourne snaps a selfie with Nora Ryszka (far right) and other Monday morning cleanup volunteers.

soil. Stir or place the lid on and shake. Add water. Stir or shake. **Take the lid off.** Place the jar on the kitchen counter or near a windowsill and watch the food scraps become compost! Continue to stir the jar once or twice a week. Add a tablespoon or two of water each week if the mixture looks dry.

It takes about four weeks for the mixture to become compost. You will

know the compost is ready when the mixture looks like soil. The smaller the food scraps, the faster the mix is broken down to become compost.

NOTE: Never add these to a compost pile: dairy products, like milk and cheese; anything that came from an animal, like meat or bones; pet waste; or fats. These items attract pests and make the compost stink.

Curbside Recycling Schedule

- A** City of La Porte – South of Hwy. 2 and West of Monroe (Hwy. 4); North of Hwy. 2 and West of Hwy. 35
- B** City of La Porte – East of Hwy. 4 and South of Hwy. 2, including Kankakee Township; East of Hwy. 35 and North of Hwy. 2 to Brighton Street
- C** City of La Porte – East of Hwy. 35 and North of Brighton Street; Town of Westville; New Durham Estates Mobile Home Community; 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 – South of 12, South of MLK Drive, West of Karwick Road; Pottawattamie Park; Village Green
- G** Michigan City – North of 12, North of MLK Drive, East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills; Beach Walk; Green Acres; Sheridan Beach
- H** Coolspring Township; New Durham Township (excluding the Town of Westville and New Durham Estates); Weatherstone Village; Terrace Acres
- I** Center Township (outside city limits)
- J** Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township; Trail Creek (Michigan City); Rolling Prairie Mobile Home Park

Recycle Toter Reminders:

- Place at curb by 6 a.m. on pickup day.
- Locate toter at least 4 feet from items such as mailboxes, trees, or parked vehicles.
- If recycling pickup is missed, please call 219-326-0014 within 24 hours. We will get a truck back out to you!

NOTE: Township is outside of City limits. Never remove toter from assigned address.

October						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
					E	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	F	G	H	I	J	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	A	B	C	D	E	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	F	G	H	I	J	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	A	B	C	D	E	
31						

November						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	F	G	H	I	J	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	A	B	C	D	E	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	F	G	H	I	J	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	A	B	C	Holiday No Service	D	E
28	29	30				
	F	G				

December						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
			H	I	J	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	A	B	C	D	E	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	F	G	H	I	J	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	A	B	C	D	E	Holiday No Service
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	F	G	H	I	J	



LAPORTE COUNTY RECYCLING
Solid Waste District

District Board Members

- Commissioner Joe Haney – Chair
- Commissioner Sheila Matias – Vice Chair
- Mayor Tom Dermody
- Councilman Mike Mollenhauer
- Commissioner Rich Mrozinski
- Mayor Duane Parry
- Councilman Don Przybylinski

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- Paul Brooks – Vice Chair
- Amy Feikes – Secretary
- Katie Bell
- Juli Charlesworth
- Jim Irwin
- Jim Micheals
- Dick Reel

Staff

- Clay Turner, Executive Director
- Robin Havens, Office Manager
- Lisa Woodson, Recycling Coordinator
- Sacha Gee-Burns, Environmental Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator
- Lyn DeGroote, Controller
- Scott Lynn, Program Coordinator
- Vincent Sherman, Compost Site Project Coordinator
- Abraham Moyo, Compost Utility



- www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling
- www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling
- www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling
- www.lpcorecycling.tumblr.com
- Green E-Club: <http://eepurl.com/eiyHs>

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

Solid Waste District of La Porte County
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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.

Recycle better for program sustainability

Have you noticed that what is accepted for recycling may change from year to year or from place to place? That's because recyclables are part of a commodities market.



Don't do this! When you close your pool for the season, remember that pool covers are NOT recyclable in La Porte County. Place them into your regular trash or go online to find cool ways to repurpose them.

For example, sometimes we can sell certain types of your recyclable plastics or glass at a good price, and other times the market price is so low that it costs us more to sort and ship these recyclables than they are currently worth. Selling recyclables at a loss leads to increased costs and can lead to additional program fees. To avoid this, we may occasionally modify what is accepted for recycling to make our program sustainable, just as you adjust your household purchases and budget to meet changing costs and needs.

To add to the problem, recycling contamination is at an all-time high, with levels of contamination over 30% in some areas. In other words, a third of the material going into recycling bins doesn't even belong there. Contamination results when the wrong materials and dirty items are placed into recycling bins or carts. Removing these materials costs money and reduces the price we can get for your recyclables.

To face today's challenging recycling markets, we all need to be recycling better by keeping recyclables clean and contaminant-free. Follow these simple guidelines to create market-ready recyclables:

- Place only accepted recyclables in the curbside recycling cart or drop-off recycling bins. If you aren't sure what is accepted, visit our website, www.solidwastedistrict.com.
- Empty food and liquids from cans, bottles, and jars and let the containers drip-dry before placing them into the recycling bin. This helps keep paper and cardboard clean.
- When in doubt, throw it out. Many folks put items into the recycling container hoping that they are recyclable. Despite these good intentions, some items should not be mixed with clean recyclables.
- Keep it loose! Do not bag your recycling. Plastic bags, whether loose or holding recyclables, are considered contamination.
- Know what should never be placed in the curbside recycling container! Never put in food waste, clothing, cords, hoses, tissues, paper towels, hazardous waste, or electronics. And, please, absolutely NO diapers!