

August 2011



# Bellaire Recycles



## Bellaire's Fourth of July Festival- Hooray for the Red, White, Blue & Green



The Bellaire Recycling Committee answered questions and talked to residents about going green at the Fourth of July festival. The recycling booth at the festival gave everyone a chance to smash aluminum cans with a rubber mallet to prove going green is fun. Committee members also fielded questions regarding what is and is not recyclable in Bellaire's curbside program. They also educated residents about the "Don't Bag It" Campaign which is to leave grass clippings on your lawn as a natural fertilizer instead of bagging them as trash. (See April 2011 Newsletter for details)

## Have you seen the new Recycle Bins in Bellaire's Parks?



Bellaire Public Works installed Recycle Bins at Bellaire's Parks and the Little League field in June! Next time you are in a park, look for the new bins. They are large tan receptacles that have "RECYCLABLES ONLY" on the top (see picture to the left). Be sure to deposit all your empty water bottles and cans! If you see someone putting trash in one, make sure you tell them it is for Recyclables Only. Use of the bins will be monitored in the coming months to determine the best placement of the bins. Great job Public Works in getting us these bins!

## Help us Recycle Better in Bellaire

Members of the Bellaire Recycling Committee recently toured the Waste Management Facility where all of Bellaire's Wednesday recycling is taken for sorting. It was a very fascinating and informative trip for all. While the sorting process is very automated, a number of employees work the very fast moving conveyer belts to remove non-recyclable things and try to keep plastic bags from causing the machines to break down. We learned a few things on the tour that can help us all Recycle Better.

- Plastic lids should be LEFT ON bottles
- Remove newspapers from the plastic sleeves before you put a newspaper in the bin
- Separate cardboard and plastic from water bottle and other beverage case packages
- Accumulate all plastic bags, newspaper sleeves, etc and put in one bag and tie it shut (plastic bags are among the top things that cause the equipment to break)
- Waxed cardboard milk and juice cartons are now accepted in the Bellaire Curbside program!

E-mail Todd Gross with Public Works at [tgross@ci.bellaire.tx.us](mailto:tgross@ci.bellaire.tx.us) for answers to your recycling questions.

### Inside this Issue

- How does Bellaire's Single Stream Curbside Program work?
- Sponsors needed for 3<sup>rd</sup> Bellaire Recycles Day
- Recycling Newsletter soon to be Electronic
- Household Hazardous Materials—how to handle them
- Beyond the Bin
- Volunteers Needed to help Bellaire Recycling Committee



## Are you a Super Recycler? Need Another Bin?

If you are filling your first bin or 7<sup>th</sup> bin each week and need more, *great job!*

Just so you know, we have some residents that have 11 bins they put out on Wednesdays!

Are you recycling enough? Don't let not having enough bin space stop you from recycling.

Bellaire residents can purchase additional recycling bins for \$10 each at the City Hall complex, 2nd floor, M-F during regular business hours. Fill those bins!

---

## How does Bellaire's Single-Stream Curbside Recycling Program Work?

Do you ever wonder how "single-stream" recycling works? It wasn't so long ago that we had to sort our newspapers from our plastics and so forth. Single stream recycling is a system in which all papers and containers are mixed together in a resident's bin and the collection truck instead of being pre-sorted.

Because Bellaire's recycling is mixed together in our curbside program, Public Works is able to use the same trucks it uses to collect solid waste to collect your recyclables each Wednesday. Instead of taking the loads of recyclables to the landfill, Bellaire trucks take them to Waste Management's nearby recycling facility. There advanced equipment is used to sort the items by material type and other qualities. The sorted materials are compressed into large rectangular bales and shipped to processing plants to be made into new products. Learn more by watching videos of the process at

<http://www.thinkgreen.com/recyclables>. Please direct any further questions you may have to Todd Gross in Public Works at [tgross@ci.bellaire.tx.us](mailto:tgross@ci.bellaire.tx.us).

---

## Sponsors needed for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Bellaire Recycles Day



Bellaire City Council approved the Recycling Committee's request for approval of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Recycles Day in November 2011 **contingent upon obtaining sponsor funding to cover the cost of the event. We need your help!**

Bellaire Recycles Day is an educational event held in connection with America Recycles Day. Since 1997, communities across the country have come together in November to celebrate America Recycles Day. More than a celebration, America Recycles Day is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to the promotion of

recycling programs in the United States. Vendor/Organization participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bellaire Recycles Day in November 2010 increased 70% with 24 groups attending.

**If your family or a company you know is interested in being a sponsor for Bellaire Recycles Day, please contact Brenda Cauthen at [bcauthen@ci.bellaire.tx.us](mailto:bcauthen@ci.bellaire.tx.us) as soon as possible.**

## Recycling Newsletter to be distributed Electronically

The Bellaire Recycling Committee will electronically distribute the next Recycling Newsletter in Dec 2011. **Go to the City's website** at <http://www.ci.bellaire.tx.us/> **and sign up for “Bellaire News and Information”** by clicking on this button  on the left hand side of the page. This will save paper and \$\$ for the City. For those residents who prefer not to receive the newsletter electronically, there will be limited paper copies at Public Works, City Hall and the Library.



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

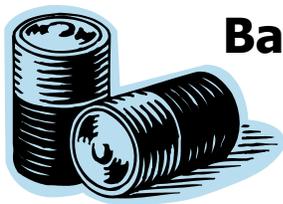
AMERICANS PRODUCE OVER 4 MILLION POUNDS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE EVERY **DAY!**

### Practice Safe Disposal

If you have unwanted hazardous products that you are not able to give away, dispose of them responsibly.

- Latex, or water-based paint, is non-hazardous and may be - disposed of in your trash if it is dried or solidified. Download - the Use & Disposal of Paint Guide at [http://www.eng.hctx.net/watershed/hhw\\_disposal\\_tips.html](http://www.eng.hctx.net/watershed/hhw_disposal_tips.html) to learn how.
- Used oil and oil filters can often be recycled at local auto - parts stores. Log on to Earth 911, <http://www.earth911.org/> or call 1-800-CLEAN UP to find a used oil collection center - near you.
- Alkaline batteries (in pagers, toys, flashlights, etc.) are not - considered hazardous and can be disposed of in your trash!
- Nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cad) batteries are accepted at local - electronics stores (Best Buy, Radio Shack and Batteries - Plus). Log on to <http://www.rbc.org/index.html> to find a - rechargeable battery collection center near you.
- Car batteries and other lead-acid batteries are accepted at - many metal scrap yards. These scrap yards may even pay - you a nominal amount for these batteries!

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.ENG.HCTX.NET/WATERSHED/HHW\\_DISPOSAL\\_TIPS.HTML](http://www.eng.hctx.net/watershed/hhw_disposal_tips.html)



### Battery Risks

- Americans buy almost 3 BILLION batteries every year.
- Do not throw Ni-Cad batteries in the trash. To prevent toxins from releasing into the air, soil or water, they should be collected & recycled. Batteries Plus in Meyerland (4774 Beechnut) collects these.
- When batteries are left in landfills metals can pollute the air or leach into the soil or water supply.
- Batteries contain a variety of heavy metals & corrosive acids. These toxic ingredients have the potential to cause burns or injury to skin & eyes.
- Rechargeable lithium ion batteries, in rare instances, pose fire risk because they may overheat & ignite if they fail. Lithium ion batteries are found in notebook computers, mobile phones, & cameras among other things.
- Lithium batteries are not only a choking hazard for small children and pets, but they pose the risk of serious internal injuries if swallowed. Always keep button-cell batteries out of reach of children and pets. If you suspect one has been ingested, seek medical attention immediately.

Source- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



## Beyond the Bin

### Wondering where to take some of your non-curbside Recyclables?

- Houston Galveston Area Regional Recycle Guide <http://www.recycleinfo.org> from here you can type in the items you need to recycle & find locations near you for drop off.
- Texas Art Asylum Cool stuff for creative reuse <http://www.texasartasylum.com/>
- Westpark Consumer Recycling Center 5900 Westpark (near Renwick), Houston, TX 77057 Phone 713.837.0311 [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/westpark.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/westpark.html)

The Westpark Consumer Recycling Center is a drive-through facility where you can drop off recyclables. The following items which are not part of the Bellaire curbside program are accepted at Westpark Consumer Recycling Center:

- Aerosol Cans
- BOPA ( Batteries, Oil, Latex Paint and Antifreeze)
- Computers & Computer Equipment, Microwaves & TVs
- Oil Filters
- Residential Electronic Scrap (small electrical appliances)
- **Styrofoam Blocks** (no Styrofoam cups, food trays or peanuts; no rubber or foam sheets)
- Tires (car tires; maximum of 10/customer/month)



### **Volunteers Needed to help Bellaire Recycling Committee**

Do you want to help? Consider volunteering with the Bellaire Recycling Committee. The committee works closely with Public Works and other City departments in an effort to educate residents about recycling and the City's Curbside Program, as well as research new recycling ideas and possibilities. If you are interested in helping out, please email Brenda Cauthen at [bcauthen@ci.bellaire.tx.us](mailto:bcauthen@ci.bellaire.tx.us)

Send ideas for newsletter articles to Brenda Cauthen at [bcauthen@ci.bellaire.tx.us](mailto:bcauthen@ci.bellaire.tx.us)

### **Thank you for RECYCLING**

Bellaire Recycling Committee—Jana Bedi, Brenda Cauthen, Doug Christians, Dorene Delaloye-Schroder, Seth Miller, Louella Stellar, Bill Stone