



# Bellaire Environmental & Sustainability Board

## Newsletter

### April 2013

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#### SUMMARY OF BELLAIRE'S SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING SERVICES

Thanks to everyone who puts their recyclables out each Wednesday. YOU are doing a great job Bellaire! Here are a few reminders about trash & recycling pick-up:

- Garbage & recycling needs to be set out for collection by 7AM
- Garbage & recycling shouldn't be set out prior to 6PM the day before collection or on City holidays – Garbage along the curbs make our streets look trashy!  
Six (6) garbage bags are collected per home on each designated collection day
- If you have more than six (6) bags that need to be collected, residents may purchase a sticker for \$1.00 for each bag in excess of the allowed six (6) bags. Stickers are available for purchase at City Hall located at 7008 S. Rice Avenue in the Utility Billing Department
- Each bag shouldn't have more than about 25 pounds of garbage—be considerate of our workers!
- 200 pounds of brush are allowed per pick up
- Cardboard or aluminum cans should be included with recycling for curbside pick-up on Wednesdays—not in the garbage
- Recycling containers shouldn't be more than 25 pounds either
- Garbage bags and recycling bins should be placed behind the curb at a distance of no more than three (3) feet from the curb



#### The following items are not collected in garbage or recycling pick-ups:

- chemicals (swimming pool or other) · automotive fluids (oil or other) · carpet
- automotive parts · building materials · oil based paint · large appliances · electronics

Residents are asked to find other means, such as recycling, donation and proper hazardous waste disposal methods, to dispose of these items.

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From time to time, we see unwanted items left out by the curb for others to take. However, Bellaire City ordinance 11-084 Sec 16-3 doesn't allow for other people to remove, handle, or otherwise disturb, any garbage container or its contents that have been placed on or near city streets for city garbage collectors. This prohibits anyone from removing items left by the curb for trash collection. So if you have items that you would like to donate for further use call a charity and make arrangements for collection. Charities such as Habitat for Humanity, Goodwill and Military Order of the Purple Heart and others will come to your home and collect household goods for re-use.

## REMINDERS:

- On windy days please place paper & light weight items under heavier items in your bins. This prevents paper from blowing around our streets before it is picked up. You can also place newspapers in a paper bag or cardboard box to help contain it when you set it out.
- Additional recycling bins may be purchased for \$10/each at City Hall located at 7008 S. Rice Avenue in the Utility Billing Department.
- There is **no limit** to the number of recycling bins that can be placed out on Wednesdays.
- Residents are reminded that garbage generated by commercial lawn maintenance companies, tree-trimming companies, handy-men or anyone else not considered the occupant must be hauled away by the service provider. It is up to residents to notify service providers of this requirement and ensure it is met. See Chapter 16 of the Code of City Ordinances--Solid Waste <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=13798>

If you have concerns or questions please call Public Works 713-662-8150

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**Look for the Bellaire Environmental & Sustainability Committee  
(formerly the Recycling Committee)  
at these upcoming events:**

**Bellaire Trolley Run 4/13/2013 8-11am**

**Nature Discovery Spring Fling- Earth Day Celebration 4/20/2013**

## **Spring Fling - Earth Day Celebration**

**Date: Saturday, April 20, 2013**

**Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cost: FREE!**

**Place: Hana & Arthur Ginzburg Nature Discovery Center**

**7112 Newcastle Drive, Bellaire, TX 77401**

Join us as we celebrate Earth Day at the Nature Discovery Center. This FREE family event has something for everyone: children's crafts and activities, nature walks, environmental exhibitors, and music on the front porch. **The Bellaire Garden Club's annual Spring Plant Sale takes place out back under the pavilions from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**



## Used Book Sale

The Bellaire City Library will hold a Used Book Sale on November 2, 2013 from 9AM to 4PM.

As always it is in the parking lot between the Fire Station and the Library.

## Check out the movie "Bag it"

It will have you thinking twice about where things go when you put them out on trash day. It contains a lot of good information about the impact we all have on our environment.

<http://www.bagitmovie.com>



When you are enjoying the great events in Bellaire this spring look for the recycling bins & recycle your bottles and cans. The Little League park at Jessamine has recycling bins to collect recyclables. Please look for the recycle symbol on the bins & avoid mixing other non-recyclable trash in with the plastic and cans on their way to a new life.

## Do YOU want to be on the Environmental and Sustainability Board??



If you want to help educate Bellaire residents on how to recycle and live greener, then check the Bellaire city web site at <http://ci.bellaire.tx.us> for an application to fill out for upcoming openings on the Environmental and Sustainability Board beginning July 1. Applications are due in May.

## City Wide Garage Sale

The Bellaire city-wide garage sale day is April 27<sup>th</sup>. Any Bellaire resident wishing to hold a garage sale that day may do so with no city issued permit required. It's a great way to recycle some of those things you are no longer using. For more information on Garage and Estate sales see the City's webpage devoted to them! <http://ci.bellaire.tx.us/index.aspx?nid=971>



## Sustainability Ideas

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Check out the Building and Standards Green Committee website at <http://ci.bellaire.tx.us/index.aspx?nid=870> Learn how to do a Home Energy Audit and more!



### It's Grass Growing Season

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With Spring's arrival, our grass starts growing and we start the annual mowing and fertilizing ritual. We are continuing the "Don't Bag 'em, Leave 'em" campaign in the City of Bellaire in an effort to reduce the amount of grass clippings we are hauling to the landfill. With your participation, we

can greatly reduce the impact that taking grass clippings to the landfill has on our city and the environment. See an archived copy of the April 2011 Water Bill insert on the subject at

<http://ci.bellaire.tx.us/documents/166/189/Public%20Works%20April%202011Grass%20Clippings.PDF>



## Green Changes that Make a Difference

- **eCycle it! Take your old computer, DVD player or other electronics to an electronics recycling center. Reusing and recycling materials like copper, gold, and others saves natural resources and reduces mining and processing. eCycling also helps avoid land, air and water pollution by capturing and reusing hazardous substances such as lead or chromium. Find eCycling centers near you with Earth911.com. The Westpark Consumer Recycling Center (between Chimney Rock and Renwick) accepts electronics. (5900 Westpark).**
- **Be sensible! The Earth might seem like it has abundant water, but in fact only one percent of all water on the planet is available for humans. Buy fixtures and products that are water efficient - you can use less water to get the same job done just as well.**
- **Make it a full load! Run your dishwasher only when it's full. Don't pre-rinse dishes - tests show pre-rinsing doesn't improve dishwasher cleaning, and you'll save as much as 20 gallons of water per load. When you buy a new dishwasher, look for one that saves water. Water-efficient models use only about only about 4 gallons per wash.**
- **Shower power! A full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water, but taking a five-minute shower saves water by using 10 to 25 gallons. Put a little timer or clock near your shower so you can see how fast you are. Save even more water, and money on your water bill, by installing a water-efficient showerhead, or ask your landlord to install one if you rent.**
- **Compost it! Compost helps improve soil so it holds more water and plants grow better. Allow grass clippings to stay on the lawn, instead of bagging them. The cut grass will decompose and return to the soil naturally. Food scraps and kitchen waste also make good compost, and you save money on fertilizers or other additives.**

From [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) for more tips check out their website.