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Weekend spotlight: Recycling center dedication **Local environmentalist honored at ceremony**

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The crowd that gathered June 6 at the Bellaire Recycling Center took turns remembering Debbie Marshall for her contributions to the local recycling effort.

During a special ceremony that morning, the recycling facility officially was renamed for Marshall, who was described as a catalyst in the recycling program's fine-tuning. Marshall died Feb. 2, 1996 after a long battle with cancer. She was 43.

Present at the ceremony were former Mayor Betty Janicek and former Councilwoman Chris Brady, who served on City Council between 1991 and 1995, when Marshall led the move to revitalize the Recycling Center.

"We on City Council always were impressed by Debbie's devotion to duty," Brady said.

Friends recalled how Marshall organized block parties to raise funds and awareness of recycling benefits. Her composting classes promoted such action as reducing the waste stream by converting grass clippings into a valuable ground conditioner.

She also is remembered for her part in recycling education and efforts to help improve the local recycling program. Her grant applications produced \$45,000 - enough to upgrade the facility on Edith Street.

Much of Marshall's efforts were recalled at the ceremony by former committee chairman Tom Young. Among those on hand for the ceremony were Marshall's son, Jason, and her father, Eldon Gaunt.

Mayor Pro Tem Millie Hast read a proclamation from Mayor Chuck Jacobus designating June 6 in Marshall's honor and joined City Councilman Phil Nauert in unveiling a permanent marker attached to the front wall of the facility.

"The Recycling Center is open seven days a week, 365 days a year," said Diana Sullivan, chairwoman of the Bellaire Recycling Committee.

Donations of about \$2,000 were made in her memory to be used for upgrades at the Recycling Center. Sullivan accepted \$500 checks from Knoll Pharmaceuticals and Executive Women's International, an organization to which Marshall belonged.

Shopping carts are available for users to remove recyclable material from their cars and drop them into the product-designated bins, she added. Recycling bins are labeled "plastics, clear glass, colored glass, tin cans, aluminum products, cardboard, magazines, telephone books, newspapers and white office paper."

About 30 percent of the city's waste stream is separated for recycling by the residents who bring the wanted materials to the Recycling Center, said Dick Larsen, director of the Bellaire Public Works Department, which oversees the program.

That percentage, he said, is among the highest in the state.