



Environmental Update



Bellaire Recycling Committee

April 2002

12th Annual Citywide Garage Sale April 13th, 2002

One person's trash is another's treasure.
Whether you're trying to make room to actually park your car in the garage, need extra cash for vacation, or you're an avid bargain hunter. April 13th is the day you want to remember. That's the day of the Bellaire Citywide Garage Sale. The annual event attracts a large number of prospective buyers, and has proven to be a success for sellers and buyers alike. The recycling committee will publish a Garage Sale Guide listing locations and some information on items available and will place ads in local newspapers – all at no cost to the participants.

It's simple to participate. Simply fill out the application form on the back of this newsletter and drop it off at Public Works Department (Edith and Baldwin) by April 11th.

Shoppers can pick up their guides the morning of the sale at the Bellaire Recycling Center, starting at 8:00am and at the Bellaire Public Library starting at 9:00am.

Do A Good Thing - The Bellaire Recycling Committee Needs You!

If you love living in Bellaire, and want to see more programs to encourage recycling, this is your opportunity to make a difference. We are seeking enthusiastic people that want to help make Bellaire one of the most desirable places to live.

The Bellaire Recycling Committee acts as an advisory committee to the City of Bellaire and is dedicated to the reduction of the waste stream and water conservation through education, through the collection and resale of recyclable materials and through the promotion of the use of recycled products. The committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at

the Parks and Recreation Building and its members develop responses to current recycling issues and oversees programs and projects to promote its mission.

Members are approved by City Council and serve for a two-year term which are staggered and end in June of each year. If you are interested in participating in this vital program, we invite you to attend any of our meetings. Stop by City Hall (or call at 662-8222) for a membership application. We want to thank you in advance for calling and taking the first step in bettering our environment. Applications are due on April 15th, 2002.

Did You Know: What's in Your Garbage?

Do you know what is typically found in our garbage? Typically, municipal solid waste is composed of the following, by weight:

- 37.6% Paper and cardboard
- 15.9% Yard waste
- 8.3% Metals
- 9.3% Plastic
- 6.6% Glass
- 6.6% Wood
- 6.7% Food
- 9.0% Others

Various researchers have determined that an average of 25-35% of our garbage can be recycled.

This Issue

- Annual Citywide Garage Sale
- Bellaire / West U Earth Day Festival
- Special Recycling Ctr. Open House
- Join the Recycling Committee Today
- Earth Day History
- Enviro Information and Statistics

Earth Day Festival at Whole Foods April 27th, 2002

The Bellaire Recycling Committee, in conjunction with the West University Recycling Committee, will hold its first annual Earth Day festival on Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, in the parking lot of Whole Foods Market on Bellaire Boulevard at Wesleyan.

Mark the date on your calendar to come over and join the festivities. Learn more about recycling. Enjoy great food and prizes for bringing your recyclables. Great fun for the entire family!

Recycling Center Gets a Face-Lift

The Bellaire Recycling Committee wants to ensure that the Recycling Center is a more attractive and safer place for our citizens to visit and is a better educational tool for our children. Come and see the rejuvenated center during a special open house and celebration on Saturday, May 19, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The revitalization plans include new signage for the center. Pictures of materials (on the walls in front of their bins) will help new recyclers visualize the guidelines set out in the recycling guide. Other additions include a magnet (to test whether cans are steel or aluminum), a can crusher, and recycling guide sheets (in a weather-resistant box) for recyclers that have misplaced theirs.

A few safety features are being added. Textured paint will be applied to the wooden steps to protect recyclers from slipping. Also, the concrete walkway is being extended to keep recyclers on solid ground, even during a hearty Houston rain.

Other improvements are aesthetic in nature. The Recycling Committee plans a workday at the center to replant the garden and spruce up other areas. This workday is planned for Saturday, April 20, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. If you have a green thumb or would otherwise like to help out, please join us in this effort.

Earth Day, Every Day

Results for Fiscal Year 2001

Total Revenue:	\$20,685.86
(Sales - paper, glass, aluminum, tin and plastic)	
Total Cost Avoidance:	\$51,844.10
(Savings from trip reductions and landfill costs)	
Total Operating Expenses:	(\$57,641.44)
(Labor, education and center maintenance)	
TOTAL:	\$14,888.52
(Revenues + Cost Avoidance - Expenses)	

\$\$\$ GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY \$\$\$

Paper and aluminum are our biggest revenue generators for our city! Last year in 2001, aluminum and paper alone gave our city over \$ 20,300! In addition, we avoided over \$33,000 in trip fees to landfills! Just imagine if everyone in our city participated in recycling. How much you could be contributing to better our city! It is never too late to start!

The Original Earth Day

(Courtesy of the Earth Day Network)

In 1970, when Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin proclaimed April 22 to be "Earth Day," he helped give birth to a historic movement. The result of an idea whose time had come -- Earth Day 1970 -- the largest organized demonstration in the nation's history. More than 20 million people participated in the event that gave birth to the modern environmental movement.

In the era of student and citizen politics, Senator Nelson first conceived Earth Day as a nationwide teach-in to dramatize America's environmental plight to a nation barely aware of its present and potential environmental challenges. The teach-in concept was expanded to a national Earth Day demonstration coordinated by Denis Hayes, who later became chairman of Earth Day 1990.

On Earth Day 1970, the modern environmental movement leaped onto the national stage, grabbed the microphone, and demanded

sweeping changes. The movement helped to shape the values and priorities of a whole generation, and it fundamentally altered American politics and policies.

Overview of some events that happened on Earth Day, 1970:

- Over twenty million people participated in Earth Day events, listening to speeches, holding seminars, and taking practical action to clean up the environment.
- In New York City, Fifth Avenue was closed to automobiles and over 100,000 people attended an "ecology fair" in Central Park.
- Congress adjourned for the day and over five hundred of its members attended "teach-ins" at universities or made speeches about saving the environment.
- The United Auto Workers lead parade through downtown St. Louis featuring a smog-free car.
- Ohio University students pasted stickers reading "This is a polluter" on cars in Athens, Ohio.
- New York Gov. Rockefeller signed a measure coordinating pollution abatement and conservation activities.

Sharing Environmentalism with Your Children

In *The Lorax*, Dr. Seuss introduces the "Once-ler" who cuts down the beautiful Truffula trees so that he can use their wonderful silk tufts to knit "thneeds". Thneed sales are so successful



that the Once-ler builds a factory and invents the Super Axe Hacker which cuts down four trees at a time. The Lorax speaks up in defense of the trees, animals, air and water that the Once-ler is destroying in pursuit of bigger and bigger profits. Finally, when the last Truffula tree is

cut down, production of the Thneeds ends. Closed factories, polluted air, polluted water and an uninhabitable wasteland are all that remain on the once beautiful site. The Lorax can no longer live here, but he leaves behind a

small pile of rocks on which the word UNLESS is inscribed.

The Lorax illustrates an ecosystem, a natural unit in which living and non-living parts interact. All of the parts are linked together and functions as a unit. When one of the parts is altered or damaged, the entire system may fail.

Recycling Trivia: Get the facts on Recycling

- The average family produces about 100 pounds of garbage every week!
- At the rate we're generating garbage, we need 500 new landfills every year!
- How much garbage will you generate in a lifetime? About 600 times your adult weight.
- Every 3 months, the U.S. throws away enough aluminum to rebuild our commercial air fleet.

Do a good deed and help decrease the statistics. We need to help preserve the Earth for our kids! Start saving your newspapers, aluminum cans, paper etc. Every little bit helps. Do you know the City of Bellaire gets money for your recyclables? The money goes back into the community. Bring money into the community instead of contributing to high landfill costs. Spread the word and Recycle!

Bellaire Recycling Advisory Committee

Chairperson	Patricia King-Ritter
Treasurer	Max Zimmerman
Education	Dr. Gayle Davies
	Meg Healy
Editor / Web Coordinator	Craig Bello
	Terry Timme
Volunteer Coordinator	Frances Freeman

For comments or to learn more, call our hotline at 713-662-8173 or e-mail us at bellairerecycles@hotmail.com. We welcome everyone to our monthly meetings. Our meetings are held at the Parks and Recreation center on the First Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

APPLICATION FORM

The Twelfth Annual Bellaire Citywide Garage Sale

April 13th, 2002

(Rain Date: April 20, 2002)

Name _____

Address _____ Telephone: (will not be in listing) _____

Hours you will sell: From _____ to _____

Description of items (15 words or less)

RETURN YOUR FORM BY APRIL 11th by 5:00pm To: The City of Bellaire Public Works Department, Service Center (Baldwin and Edith Streets)

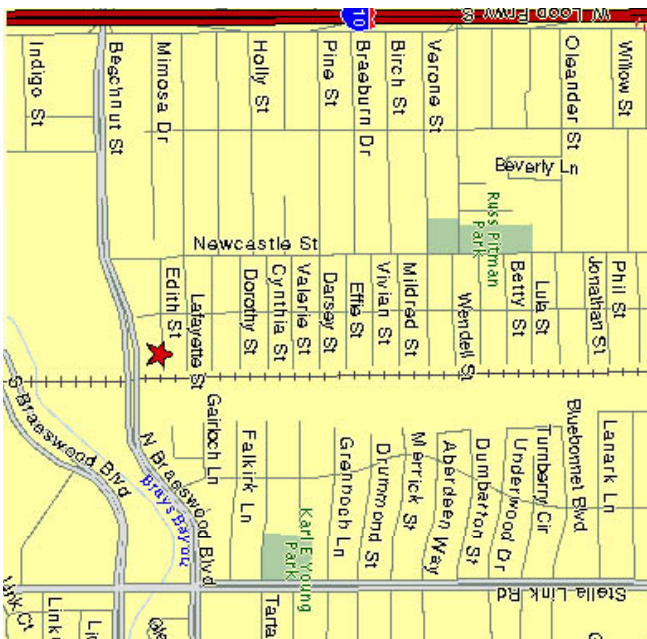
The list will be available for distribution to the public at 9:00am on Saturday April 13 at the following locations:

- * City of Bellaire Library, 5111 Jessamine (at South Rice)
- * The Bellaire Recycling Center, 4400 Edith (at Newcastle)

For more information about the Garage sale prior to April 11, please leave a message on the Recycling Hotline: 713-662-8173. Someone will call you back.

Bellaire Recycling Center

4337 Edith



Special Thanks to

Office DEPOT



In helping with our First Saturday Assisted Pickups

Next assisted pick up dates:
April 6, 2002
May 4, 2002
June 1, 2002

Do a Good Deed and Recycle