



Environmental Update



Bellaire Recycling Committee

April 2003

Hazardous Household Waste Vouchers are Coming to Bellaire!

By Patricia King-Ritter

Almost every home contains hazardous products that can harm the environment if improperly handled. Each year, thousands of people are injured by exposure to hazardous household products.

Because of the dangers they pose, these products require special awareness, handling, and disposal. Generally, unused product or product wastes should not go in the garbage or down the sink. Disposal of hazardous materials in this manner is illegal and puts people and the local environment at risk. To protect health and

the environment, every consumer should know how to properly use, store, and dispose of hazardous household products.

What is Hazardous Waste?

Products are considered hazardous if they are classified as flammable/combustible, explosive/reactive, corrosive, or toxic. On Page 2 are some general categories of hazardous products.

(See "Vouchers" on page 2)

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- Shredder Ease
- Citywide Garage Sale Time is Here
- Yard Waste = New Compost
- Bellaire Recycles Online Soon

Word to the Wise!

By Gayle Davies

Protect yourself from identity theft or credit fraud by shredding paper that contains sensitive information before you take it to the Recycling Center. A *Time Online* article says, "Last year alone, the FTC logged more than 85,000 complaints" and that "...some consumer advocates suggest as many as 750,000 identities are stolen each year."

The Bellaire Recycling Center is open only during daytime hours, during which Public Works Department employees are present to prevent anyone from removing material. The employees ensure that the center is orderly and safe for citizens to use. However, they can not monitor everything at all times.

The Bellaire Recycling Committee strongly urges recyclers to invest in a shredder to destroy sensitive documents, especially those with identifying information on them like social security, credit card, bank, or stock brokerage information (even when

Learn how you can help save our planet!

FUN!

10 am to 2 pm
saturday april 26th - 2003

Earth Day Festival!
at Whole Foods Market® Bellaire

First 100 kids to bring a bag of clean recyclables will receive a FREE Goodie Bag!!

Bring the whole family and learn from a variety of organizations & companies about how you can help sustain the environment!

Recycled ART contest & Lots of FUN stuff for the KiDs!

co-sponsored by:

- The Bellaire Recycling Committee
- Office Depot
- The Home Depot
- Whole Foods Market Bellaire

WHOLE FOODS MARKET

4004 Bellaire Blvd.
713.667.4090

in barcode form). Credit card offers received by mail should be destroyed to prevent thieves from charging on accounts that will be billed to the person identified on the offer.

Papers can be torn up by hand or cut up using scissors, but shredders do a superior job. They are easy to use and can be purchased at any major office supply store for as little as \$15 or \$20. Shredding may seem like a time consuming task to avoid identity theft or credit fraud, but once your identity or credit has been violated, it takes a great effort to remedy the problem. As the old adage says, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Recycle Your Ink Cartridges at the Earth Day Festival

By Barbara Rosen

Bring your old ink jet or toner cartridges to the Earth Day Festival. **Techs & Trainers** will be on hand to collect them as well as old computer equipment. We'll make good use of the computers, training disabled people. The donations are tax deductible.

The Grass is Growing

By Terry L. Timme

Spring is here and time to start working in the yard. Did you know that the city will collect your grass clippings and other yard waste and recycle them into compost? Talk about a win-win situation. Less trash going to the landfill and something useful is created. Yard waste is picked up on a different day than regular trash. Yard waste pick up is on Monday for those east of 610, Tuesday for those west of South Rice, and Wednesday for those between 610 and South Rice. If you have any questions, call the Department of Public Works at 713-662-8150.

You can have a green, healthy lawn and be environmentally conscious too. Mow your lawn to a height of 2 ½ to 3 inches, this will make for healthier grass with fewer weeds and require less water. Water less by watering slowly and deeply (about one inch of water per week) early in the morning when less water is lost to evaporation.

Don't over fertilize. Once in the spring and once in the fall is sufficient. Most chemical fertilizers are water-soluble and quickly wash away with rain and end up in Galveston Bay.

They also tend to leach other soil nutrients out of the soil and leave salt deposits. A slow-release, granular organic fertilizer, compost or manure will provide a healthier lawn.

Spring Cleanup is Coming!

Clean out your garage, closet, and yard because Spring Cleanup is here! Crews from Public Works will be making a special run to pick up everything, except building materials, brick, concrete, auto parts, and tree limbs longer than 4 feet. West of 610 on April 19th
East of 610 on April 26th.

Citywide Garage Sale

By Terry L. Timme

The Bellaire citywide garage sale will be held on Saturday April 26th. All Bellaire residents are encouraged to host a garage sale that day. You probably have a number of things that you no longer use but are too good to throw out. Let them become another's bargain or treasure. There are usually lots of people out there every Saturday looking for used items that are still in good or repairable condition. Every item that is reused is one less thing that your taxes have to pay to haul to the landfill.

You decide what you want to sell and set the price. On April 26th, set things up in your yard, driveway or garage and wait for people to come and offer to buy your treasures.

The Recycling Committee does your advertising for free. We publish a list of participating households that includes your address, when your stuff will be available, and a short description of your sale items.

Bargain hunters from all over the greater Houston area make this event a must. It's free and easier than putting an ad in the paper. The list will be available at several locations the day before the sale. Simply fill out the application form on page 4 and return it by April 21st. Forms are also available at the Library, City Hall, and online at the Bellaire Recycling Committee website – www.bellairerecycles.org.

“Vouchers” ... (Continued from Page 1)

Automotive Products - gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, car wax and cleaners, lead-acid batteries, brake fluid, transmission fluid

Home Improvement Products - paint, varnish, stain, paint thinners and strippers, caulk adhesives

Pesticides - insecticide and insect repellent, weed killer, rat and mouse poison, pet spray and dip, flea collars, mothballs, disinfectant, wood preservative

Household Cleaners - furniture polish and wax, drain opener, oven cleaner, tub and tile cleaner, toilet cleaner, spot remover, bleach, ammonia

Other - cosmetics, household batteries, pool chemicals, shoe polish, lighter fluid, art and craft materials

The City of Bellaire will soon be able to provide disposal vouchers to citizens so household hazardous waste can be delivered to a City of Houston facility (11500 South Post Oak) for proper disposal. The Bellaire Recycling Committee was awarded a \$10,000 grant by the Houston Galveston Area Council for this program.

The vouchers should be available by April/May 2003 through the Department of Public Works. Since each voucher costs the City of Bellaire \$75 and a large demand is expected at the beginning of the program, the Department of Public Works will issue vouchers under certain rules and restrictions.

Bellaire Recycles! Going Online

Bellaire Recycles! will be available online in the very near future at www.bellairerecycles.org. Our new home will be a great source of information on "reduce, reuse, and recycle" concepts as well as the upcoming hazardous waste voucher program. Please look for it, make contributions, and watch it grow!

Bellaire Recycling Advisory Committee

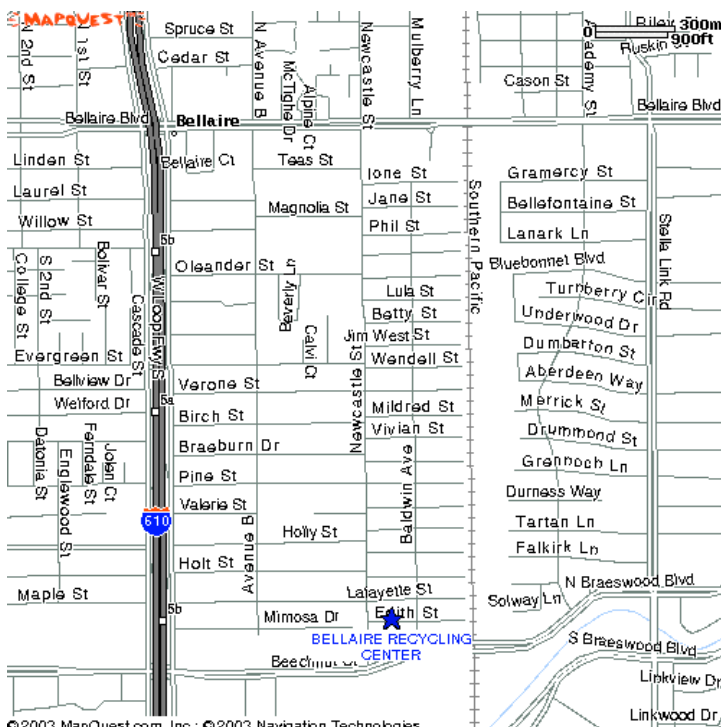
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Recycling Hotline: 713-662-8173 or bellairerecycles@hotmail.com.

Monthly meetings: 1st Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Parks and Recreation Center - All are welcome.

Bellaire Recycling Center

4337 Edith



Special Thanks to:



Office DEPOT

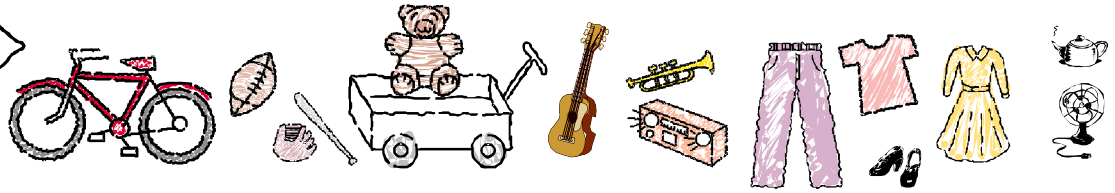
In helping with our First Saturday Assisted Pickups and Programs!

Next assisted pick up dates:

April 5, 2003 June 7, 2003

May 3, 2003 July 5, 2003

Do a Good Deed and Recycle!



APPLICATION FORM
The Thirteenth Annual Bellaire Citywide Garage Sale
April 26th, 2003

Name(s) _____ Phone number _____
 (Will not be published) (Will not be published)

Address _____

Description of items (15 words or less):

Time (optional) _____

Please return this form by 5:00 PM Monday April 21st to:

City of Bellaire Public Works Department Service Center (Edith & Baldwin)
 Or, Bellaire City Hall Receptionist (South Rice & Laurel)
 You can also FAX this to 713-662-8179
 Or, you can send an email with the above information and the words
 garage sale in the subject line to: bellairecycles@hotmail.com



The list of all Bellaire households participating in the citywide garage sale
 will be available at 1:00 PM on Friday April 25th at:

Bellaire Public Library 5111 Jessamine
 Bellaire Recycling Center 4400 Edith (@ Newcastle)
 CiCi's Pizza 5317 Bissonnet
 Whole Foods Market 4004 Bellaire (Customer Service Desk)

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR:

The list will be available the day before the garage sale (since the Library does not open until 9:00 and most garage sales start at 8:00). This will encourage more participation so you will hopefully sell more items. We will publish alternative start times but we can not guarantee that people will not show up earlier than you request.

For more information about the Garage Sale please leave a message on the Recycling Hotline (713-662-8173) and someone will call you back.