



# Bellaire Recycles!

More information available at [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org)



Bellaire Recycling Committee

April 2004

## Earth Day Festival a Big Success

By Gayle M. Davies

The Bellaire Recycling Committee's Third Annual Earth Day Festival temporarily turned the parking lot at the Whole Foods Market on Bellaire into a three-ring circus on Saturday, February 28.

Attended by several hundred area residents, the festival featured 24 exhibiting organizations that showed people how to make earth-friendly choices in their daily lives. The Nature Discovery Center, Urban Harvest, Mothers for Clean Air, computer recycler Techs and Trainers, the Houston Zoo's Attwater Prairie Chicken Project, Sterling McCall Toyota's Prius hybrid car, and many more turned out on the pleasantly cool day.

Adding to the festivities were one of METRO's downtown trolleys, Promised Land Dairy's Molly the Cow, a collection of art cars, the Texas International Dancers, and a West University Police Officer's Union barbecue. The Bellaire Honor Society helped to keep the event running smoothly. Many thanks go to the Nature Discovery Center, Whole Foods Market on Bellaire, and Office Depot, who helped plan and fund the event.



Snake brought to you by the Nature Discovery Center.



Area residents check out the Earth Day booths.



Whoopin' it up with the Texas International Dancers



Quinn Bello makes a new friend in Molly the Cow.

## Citywide Garage Sale

By Terry L. Timme

Bellaire will host its citywide garage sale on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>. All Bellaire residents are invited to host a yard or garage sale that day. You probably have a number of things that you no longer use, but that are still too good to just throw out. Look in the back of the closet, and you'll find things you forgot you even had - toys the kids no longer use or clothes they have outgrown. Let your "trash" become someone else's treasure. This is an excellent type of recycling, since every item sold at the garage sale gets reused. By not throwing it away, you also save the City - and ultimately yourself - the cost to dispose of it in the landfill.

And hosting a garage sale is fun and easy. Just decide what you want to sell and for how much. Send us the form on the back of this newsletter, including a short description of what you are selling. Please return it by 5:00 PM, Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Application forms are also available at Public Works, the Bellaire Library, City Hall, and [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org). The Recycling Committee will compile a list of all these garage sales and will make it available at the Bellaire Library, Recycling Center, CiCi's Pizza on Bissonnett, and Whole Foods Market on Bellaire, on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday morning, set up your cast-offs in your yard, garage, or driveway; and watch as people from all over the Houston area come pay to take away your clutter.

### This Issue

- **Bring Curbside Recycling to Bellaire!**
- **Earth Day 2004**
- **Citywide Garage Sale & Form**
- **Bellaire Wins E-Waste Grant**
- **Get a Handle on Grass Clippings**
- **A Resident's View**

More information is available at [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org)!

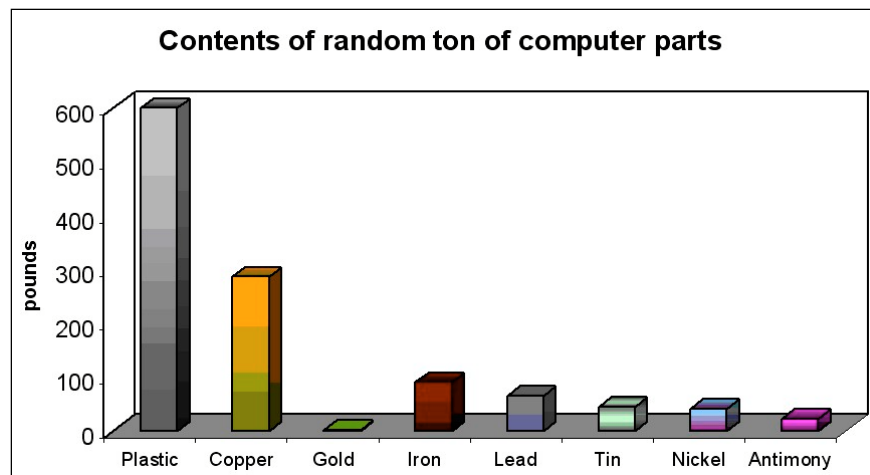
After the Citywide Garage Sale is over, please consider donating unsold items to charity rather than throwing them away. See the website for some ideas on various local charities and business that would be happy to take some items off your hands.

## Bellaire Wins Grant for E-Waste

*By Terry L. Timme*

The Bellaire Recycling Committee was successful in winning a grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). The grant will help Public Works host two special collection days to recycle unwanted household electronic waste, commonly known as "E-Waste". The first event is slated for late spring or early summer. Watch the local papers and [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org) for the specific date.

E-waste includes computers, televisions, cell phones and other appliances with electronic components. With the pace of technological advancement, many computers and other electronics are replaced every 2-3 years, but only about 11% of these are reused or recycled. The EPA estimates that at least 1% of the solid waste stream is comprised of E-waste. Electronic equipment has many components that contain valuable metals (see Figure) and a substantial volumes of environmentally hazardous substances, such as mercury, lead, cadmium, brominated fire-retardant products, and PCBs. Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) are the glass 'picture tubes' in computer monitors, TVs, and other video display devices that amplify and focus high-energy electron beams to create images on their screens. To protect consumers from radiation dangers, the glass in CRTs contains lead. Lead is dangerous and has been banned from paint and gasoline additives. There may be 4-8 pounds of lead in an average computer monitor or TV, so the EPA classifies them as hazardous waste, and some states prohibit the disposal of electronic equipment in household trash. But neither the US nor Texas regulations cover household E-Waste.



For a greener, healthier lawn there are several things you can do that are easier, cheaper and more environmentally friendly than dumping fertilizer on it. Mowing your lawn to a height of 2½ to 3 inches will result in with fewer weeds and require

Some computer parts, like the CPU, can also be re-used locally rather than recycled. The City will team up with Techs and Trainers, a local non-profit organization that trains people working to overcome handicaps to take apart and rebuild old computers. The reworked computers are then distributed to beginning computer users.

## How do you Handle Grass Clippings?

*By Terry L. Timme*

Spring is here and time to start working in the yard. If you mow your own grass, did you know that the City will collect your grass clippings and leaves separately from regular trash to be recycled into compost? Talk about a win-win situation - less trash going to the landfill with something useful being made from the waste. Yard waste is picked up on a different day than regular trash. Here's the schedule:

- ◆ East of 610: Monday
- ◆ Between 610 and South Rice: Wednesday
- ◆ West of South Rice: Tuesday.

Please call Public Works at 713-662-8150 with any questions.

less water. Using a mulching lawn mower returns nutrients back to the soil and eliminates the need to cart off bags of grass clippings. 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.

If your yard still needs help, compost, mulch or a slow-release, granular organic spread once in the spring and once in the fall is sufficient. Don't over-fertilize. Most chemical fertilizers are water-soluble and quickly run off with ground water and end up in

Galveston Bay. They also tend to leach other soil nutrients out of the soil and leave salt deposits.

## What's the Big Deal about Leap Day?

*By Craig Bello*

Why the extra day? Although everyone is taught that a year takes 365 days, this is not the whole story. An astronomical year, the time it takes for the Earth to complete one revolution around the Sun, is actually 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds long. This means that once every 4 years an extra day is needed to bring the calendar back into closer alignment with the planets. An extra day was added to the shortest month, giving us February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Now you are asking yourself, this schedule would push the calendar forward by over 11 minutes every year and just over 3 days every 400 years. To correct for this, only century years divisible by 400 are leap years (i.e., 2000 was a leap year, but 1900, 1800, and 1700 were not), making the calendar ahead by less than 3 hours every 400 years. Another correction is only necessary every 3,300 years when the calendar will be ahead by at least one full day.

## A Resident's Personal Experience

*By Hana N. Ginzburg*

*An excerpt from the Southwest News 2/20/01*

Dear Editor:

When I lived in Holland 25 years ago, I carried a shopping bag to the store or market, because they did not provide any bags. You either brought your own or used one of the empty packing boxes the stores made available. I did that for a while in Houston, mainly to cut down on checkout time, but soon I got out of the habit.

Now, after collecting brown bags to recycle, I decided to reuse them myself. It works like magic. When the checker asks me if I want paper or plastic bags, I hand him/her my bags, and help sack them. Often a bag is good for three or four trips. I wonder how many trees we would save if everyone did that? Please pass the idea along to your friends.



More information is available at [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org)!

## Did you know City Hall is considering bringing curbside recycling to Bellaire?

Of course curbside recycling helps the environment and that is important to those that think about the Earth first. It:

- ◆ **Reduces waste**
- ◆ **Saves energy**
- ◆ **Can help the City avoid landfill costs**
- ◆ **Reduces pollution**
- ◆ **Creates jobs**

Curbside recycling should be important to everyone because a well-implemented, well-supported program can reduce the waste stream, saving trips to the landfill and tipping fees. It is an especially important time for the residents of Bellaire to recognize this and to get involved.

### WHY?

- ◆ The most effective tool available to small communities for controlling landfill use is reducing the waste stream through a strong recycling program.
- ◆ The most effective means for increasing recycling volumes, particularly in affluent, well-educated communities, is making recycling more convenient through curbside pickup.
- ◆ West University has had in-house curbside recycling for more than 30 years and currently recycles about 33% of their solid waste. As a result, West U receives significant revenue from recyclable materials and avoids expenses in their solid waste program.
- ◆ Curbside recycling improves our quality of life and adds shine to the image of the City.

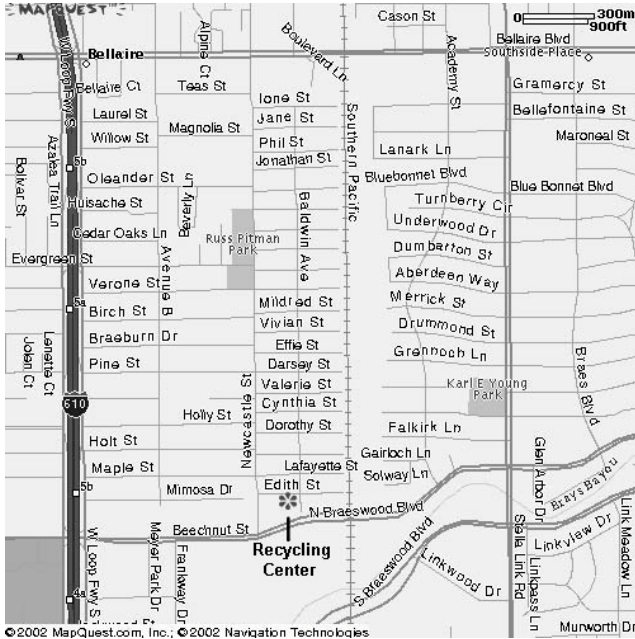
### What can I do?

- ◆ Support Bellaire Public Works Department as it tries to achieve a competitive solid waste program that includes an effective curbside recycling service to reduce the waste stream.
- ◆ Register your support with the Recycling Committee at [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org).
- ◆ Contact your Mayor, City Council members and City Manager. Send an email from the City website at [www.ci.bellaire.tx.us](http://www.ci.bellaire.tx.us).
- ◆ Write letters to the editor of the Southwest News, Houston Chronicle and other local papers.
- ◆ Educate yourself on curbside recycling issues, starting with links on the Committee's website.

# Bellaire Recycling Center

4337 Edith

Open 7 Days a Week 8AM to 5 PM



# Bellaire Recycling Committee

Craig Bello	Co-Chair / Editor
Meg Healy	Co-Chair
Dr. Gayle Davies	Vice Chair
Frances Freeman	Volunteers
Guyleene Ebersole	Secretary
Terry Timme	Education
Patricia King-Ritter	Committee Member
Elaine Lange	Committee Member

Hotline: 713-662-8173 or  
RecyclingCommittee@bellairerecycles.org

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

## Special Thanks to:

- Our Volunteers
- Whole Foods Market-Bellaire
- Office Depot

## Next Assisted Pick-up/Drop-off Dates:

April 3, 2004	May 1, 2004
June 5, 2004	July 10, 2004

In helping with our First Saturday Assisted Pickups and other Programs!

## APPLICATION FORM

### The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bellaire Citywide Garage Sale - April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
(Will not be published) (Will not be published)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Description of items for sale (15 words or less):

**Please return this form by 5:00 PM on Monday April 19<sup>th</sup>:**

In person: Public Works Department (Edith & Baldwin) or City Hall Receptionist (S. Rice & Laurel)  
 Or FAX: 713-662-8179  
 Or E-mail: bellairerecycles@hotmail.com

*Or Web Form: [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org)*

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The list of all Bellaire households participating in the Citywide Garage Sale will be available at 1:00 PM on Friday April 25<sup>th</sup> at: Bellaire Public Library (5111 Jessamine), Bellaire Recycling Center (4400 Edith @ Newcastle), CiCi's Pizza (5317 Bissonnet), and Whole Foods Market Customer Service Desk (4004 Bellaire). For more information, please leave a message on the Recycling Hotline (713-662-8173) or visit our website [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org).