

Bellaire Recycles!

More information available at www.BellaireRecycles.org



Bellaire Recycling Committee

April 2005

Spring Fling Celebrates Earth Day 2005

By Gayle Davies

The Bellaire Recycling Committee, Whole Foods Market, and the Nature Discovery Center are hosting a Spring Fling in celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 16, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year's event will be held at two locations—Whole Foods Market at 4004 Bellaire Boulevard and the Nature Discovery Center at 7112 Newcastle Drive.

A fun, family event, Spring Fling includes children's crafts and activities, wildlife walks through Russ Pittman Park, and much more. At the Nature Discovery Center, the Bellaire Garden Club will hold its annual spring plant sale, and the Scholastic Book Fair will take place in the Henshaw House. The North Harris County Dulcimer Society will provide music while the Houston Storyteller's Guild will entertain adults and children alike with nature-related stories. Also, the Texas International Dancers will entertain at Whole Foods Market.

Additionally, at both locations, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., various organizations and companies will have representatives available to visit with, as well as activities for children. These include clean air, land, and water supporters, a computer recycler, a wildlife rehabilitator, and hybrid cars. (The computer recycler, Techs and Trainers, will be taking computer equipment for recycling at the Whole Foods Market location only.) This is a great time to bring the whole family and learn from a variety of organizations and companies about how you can help sustain the Earth's environment.

Thank you to Office Depot for helping to make this event possible. For more information, please see www.BellaireRecycles.org or call the Recycling Hotline at 713-662-817.

15th Annual Citywide Garage Sale

By Terry Timme

The Bellaire citywide garage sale will be held on Saturday April 16th. This is the 15th annual garage sale and if you remember last year we had lots of rain on the day of the sale. We rescheduled twice in fact. This year we will have added a designated rain date of April 23rd. 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 (if you can just remember where you put it) but that are still too good to just throw out. Look in the back of the closet, 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 that is sold at the garage sale gets reused. That's less that your taxes have to pay to dispose of in the landfill.

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The Recycling Committee will publish a list of everyone in Bellaire having a garage sale on April 16th. This list will include your address and a short description of what you have for sale.

You decide what you want to sell and for how much you want to sell it. Then on Saturday April 16th set things up in your yard, driveway or garage. Many shoppers were out last year in the heavy rain, so if you have room in your garage, don't let the rain stop you. People from all over the greater Houston area come to Bellaire for this special

More information is available at www.BellaireRecycles.org

event.

The list will be available on Friday afternoon (the day before the sale). Just fill out the application on the last page of this newsletter and return it to us by 5:00 PM Monday April 11th. Application forms are also available at Public Works, the Library and City Hall. You can submit one online too at www.BellaireRecycles.org or send an email to us with the request information at RecyclingCommittee@BellaireRecycles.org.

Proud to Recycle Logo Approved

By David Steury

Last year, a Houston-Galveston Area Council grants program awarded funds to the Recycling Committee of the City of Bellaire, Texas to promote a Proud to Recycle campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness of the benefits in recycling, promote participation and create some pride in doing so.

As a first step, Bellaire City Council approved a "Proud to Recycle" logo (see top right logo page 1) in mid-January. This paves the way to use this logo as a brand incentive for promotional materials such as T-shirts, paper yard waste bags and cloth shopping bags.

One may wonder why the logo does not contain a specific reference to Bellaire. The main reason is because the context of the grant is regional, but even so, those who take part in this program wish to promote recycling beyond the limits of Bellaire. Hopefully, this logo will become a familiar sight, but in the mean time, be on the lookout for the green smiley face and be proud to recycle.

E-Waste Grant Put to Great Use

By Craig Bello

The Bellaire Recycling Committee offers a heart-felt thank you to the residents of Bellaire and surrounding cities who took advantage of the two Bellaire e-waste recycling events in 2004. When the Committee secured the grant in early 2004, we did not anticipate the amazing support for the September 11th and December 29th events.

Between the two events, we saw over 360 recyclers – that's more than 40 recyclers per hour or 1 every 90 seconds. Techs and Trainers, a non-profit company, was able to reuse some computer equipment to train and assist people with special

needs - 180 computers and 74 monitors, 10 laptops, and 26 printers. The Houston Zoo collected 107 cell phones and 43 ink cartridges for recycling to support Bat Conservation International and various zoo-keeper projects. An estimated 8,800 pounds of e-waste was reused and recycled through these partners.

Recycle America Alliance was contracted by the City to handle the rest of the e-waste. Altogether, almost 18,000 pounds of e-waste were recycled with RAA. This remaining electronic waste was processed at their Humble facility. The e-waste will be reused or recycled in the US or Canada.

Based on a survey of the event participants almost 75% of the recyclers were Bellaire residents, but suggests our event did reach surrounding cities. The survey also shows there was an increase in the awareness of the hazards of electronic waste between the two events. At the September event only 60% of the people were aware of the amount of lead and other toxic materials in computer and TV monitors, but it rose to 79% in December. There also is a greater awareness of computer recycling options in the community.

According to the survey, nearly everyone (almost 95%) thought the recycling fee structure was fair. However, the collected fees were not enough to cover the expenses of having the e-waste collections in Bellaire. The two events were made possible by a grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council with funds provided by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality. To host future events, the Recycling Committee is exploring other sources of funding and welcomes your input.

WaterSmart Landscaping Workshop & Plant Sale

By Gayle Davies

The 6th annual WaterSmart Landscaping Workshop & Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 30th, 2005, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Pasadena Convention Center in Pasadena, Texas. Workshop topics include plants that weather floods and droughts, backyard composting, dealing with pests, and natural landscaping. There will also be demonstrations on small-space gardening, bentwood trellises, and low-volume irrigation.

To register, contact call 281-218-0721 or go online to www.peopleware.net/1542b. To be placed on

the mailing list for future classes, send contact information to: Chris LaChance at c-lachance@tamu.edu.

Flood Control Begins at Home

By Gayle Davies

Created and organized by Bellaire resident Hana Ginzburg, a workshop entitled “Flood Control Begins at Home” was presented at the Bellaire Civic Center on February 26, a rainy Saturday that reminded those in the Houston area that the next flooding event may not be very far in the future. The workshop brought in 185 people, twice the number expected, to hear several presenters discuss, among other things, smart water management, permaculture principles, land use planning, and landscaping with native plants. A nature walk and cistern demonstration rounded out the day’s events.

Ms. Ginzburg’s inspiration for the workshop came from last year’s “Backyard, Bayou and Beyond” symposium. “Flood Control Begins at Home” had a distinctly Bellaire flavor and focused on the concerns of those living in the Brays Bayou watershed, although the information presented is useful anywhere in the greater Houston region. In fact, workshop attendees came from as far away as Galveston and The Woodlands.

Presenters included Bellaire resident Dr. Mindy Vanderford who discussed basic physical principles of water and smart water management, including flood, drought, and mosquito control through the use of tubes, channels, tanks, pumps, and dams. Her husband, Kevin Topek, a permaculture designer, demonstrated how detention and retention of water helps to mitigate flooding problems through the use of ponds, bogs, rain gardens, and other structures. He also filled in for Bellaire resident J. Kolenovsky, who was unable to attend, with an exhibit of pictures of rain garden projects that create beautiful landscapes.

Kevin Shanley, Bayou Preservation Association chairman, discussed the overall urban rainwater drainage issue, including the need for greater storm water storage capacity through detention parks that also provide recreational space and wildlife habitat. His essential message was that the traditional way of getting rid of rainwater through “better drainage” does not work because the bayous are already overcharged, and quicker drainage can lead to flash floods and out-of-channel flows. There is no

one magic solution. A range of projects from regional detention parks to individual back yards is needed to absorb stormwater and slow down its flow until the receiving channel can accept it.

At lunchtime Dr. Bob Randall of Urban Harvest spoke about rainwater cisterns and Dr. Vanderford walked participants through Bellaire Park, pointing out current drainage features there. Finally, landscape designer Mark Bowen presented numerous ways that city lots can be designed to minimize flooding and maximize water absorption while creating attractive landscapes.

The response to the workshop was overwhelmingly supportive, with attendees having learned better ways to mitigate flooding on their own properties, and to prevent adding to the region’s flooding woes. As one participant noted, a quote of Albert Einstein’s aptly describes the area’s flooding challenges: “Problems cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them.”

Paper or Plastic? (for Your Grass)

By Terry Timme

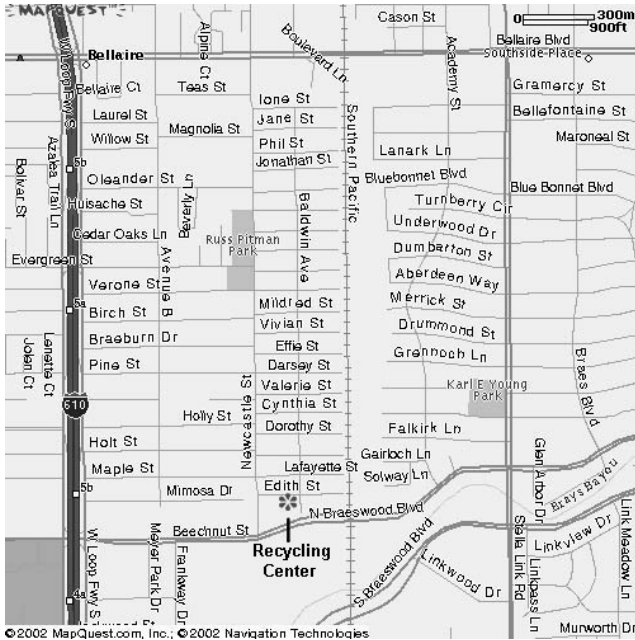
Consider paper when it comes to putting out your lawn clippings at the curb for the city to collect. If you mow your own grass, the city will collect your grass clippings as well as leaves and other yard waste and take them to be recycled into compost. Compost is the breakdown of the yard wastes into a rich organic mixture. Plastic does not breakdown so any yard waste has to be taken out of the plastic bags before it can be composted. If it is in paper bags, it can be directly composted. You can get large paper bags designed specifically for yard waste at most hardware stores.

Yard waste is picked up on a different day than regular trash. If you live east of 610, it is on Monday. If you live between 610 and South Rice, it is on Wednesday. If you live west of South Rice, it is on Tuesday. If you have any questions, call Public Works at 713-662-8150.

▪ Bellaire Recycling Center

4337 Edith

Open 7 Days a Week 8AM to 5 PM



Next Assisted

Pick-up/Drop-off Dates:

May 7, 2005
July 2, 2005

June 4, 2005
August 6, 2005

Bellaire Recycling Committee

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| Craig Bello | Co-Chair |
| Meg Healy | Co-Chair |
| Gayle Davies | Vice Chair |
| Elaine Lange | Volunteers |
| Guyleene Ebersole | Secretary |
| Terry Timme | Education |
| Patricia King-Ritter | Committee Member |
| Brian Fielkow | Committee Member |
| David Steury | Newsletter Editor |

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

Monthly meetings: 1st Wednesday, 6:30 PM,
Dept. of Public Works Bldg - All are welcome.

Special Thanks to:

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

In helping with our First Saturday Assisted
Pickups and other Programs

APPLICATION FORM

The 15th Annual Bellaire Citywide Garage Sale April 16th, 2005

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

Address _____ email: _____
(Will not be published)

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

In the event of rain on the 16th please choose one of the following choices:

Rain or Shine April 23 Rain date No sale either date

Please return this form by 5:00 PM on Monday April 11th:

In person at Public Works Department (Edith & Baldwin) or City Hall (South Rice & Laurel)

FAX it to 713-662-8179 / Email the information to: RecyclingCommittee@BellaireRecycles.org

Or use the form on our website at www.BellaireRecycles.org

The list of all Bellaire households participating in the citywide garage sale will be available at 1:00 PM on Friday April 15th at: Bellaire Public Library 5111 Jessamine. For more information about the Garage Sale please leave a message on the Recycling Hotline (713-662-8173) and someone will call you back, or check out our website www.BellaireRecycles.org

More information is available at www.BellaireRecycles.org!