

# Bellaire Recycles!

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



to recycle

## Bellaire Recycling Committee

April 2007

### Bellaire Recycling Center

4402 Edith  
Open 7 Days a Week 8AM to 5 PM



### Bellaire Recycling Committee

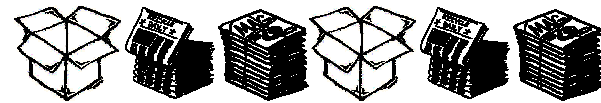
- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Craig Bello             | Chairperson      |
| Bonnie Parker           | Vice-Chairperson |
| Meg Healy               | Education Chair  |
| Sarah Ginsburg          | Secretary        |
| Patricia Atkins         | Committee Member |
| Tami Sheena             | Committee Member |
| C.J. Adkins             | Committee Member |
| Arthur Talley           | Committee Member |
| Open Committee Position |                  |

Hotline: 713-662-8173 or  
[RecyclingCommittee@BellaireRecycles.org](mailto:RecyclingCommittee@BellaireRecycles.org)

Monthly meetings: 1st Wednesday, 7 PM,  
Dept. of Public Works Bldg - All are welcome.

### Sudoku Challenge Winners

Congratulations to our three challenge winners selected at random from the dozens of correct entries. Natalie Myers, Kazumi Oka and Reagan Roxford have all won an aluminum can crusher. They will be able to maximize the amount of recyclables that can fit in their green curbside bin and have a little fun at the same time.



### REGISTRATION FORM

#### The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Bellaire Citywide Garage Sale - April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

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(Will not be published) (Will not be published)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(Will not be published)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 28<sup>th</sup> please choose one of the following choices:

Rain or Shine     May 5<sup>th</sup> Rain date     No sale either date

Please return this form by 5:00 PM on Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup>:

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](mailto:RecyclingCommittee@BellaireRecycles.org).

Or use the form on our website at [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> at: Bellaire Public Library (5111 Jessamine) and the Bellaire Rec Center (5125 Laurel). For more information about the event, 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](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org).

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

### Curbside: Off to a Great Start

By Craig Bello, Chairperson

At the regular City Council meeting on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, David Ritz, deputy director of Public Works, delivered the eagerly awaited results for the Curbside Recycling Program. With the program now six months old, the future view of the program is starting to come into focus.

According to Public Works tracking data, the average Wednesday collection results in 24.4 tons of recyclables. On a monthly basis, the City is recycling about 102 tons per month through curbside.

The Debbie Marshall Recycling Center is feeling the effects of the City moving toward curbside collection. Recycling at the Center has been reduced by about half, dropping by about 26 tons per month. A drop in recycling at the Center was expected when the convenience of curbside was made available.

Right now you are probably doing the math in your head. Prior to curbside recycling, Bellaire was recycling about 50 tons per month through the Recycling Center. With curbside recycling, Bellaire is recycling about 126 tons per month, 24 tons from the Recycling Center and 102 tons per month curbside. Overall, there is a recycling gain of 150% thanks to the convenience of curbside.

Public Works also tracks the number of recycling bins placed at the curb every week, called the set-out rate. The rate varies from 35-40% on a week-to-week basis, but is definitely a strong start. The participation rate, the total number of households that recycle but not necessarily each week, would be even higher that that, according to results from other recycling programs.

The residents of Bellaire deserve congratulations for their excellent start with curbside recycling and the energy and environmental benefits it brings. However, this is just the beginning and we hope to improve participation rates and tonnage as the program matures.

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

### Spring Fling at the Nature Discovery Center - April 14<sup>th</sup>

By Craig Bello, Chairperson

On Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Nature Discovery Center will host their Spring Fling Earth Day celebration from 10 am to 3 pm. As usual, you can expect to enjoy a day of crafts, kids' activities, music, environmental information, and fun. There will also be a Scholastic Book Fair, guided nature walks, and a few surprises. The Bellaire garden Club will be there to host their biannual plant sale starting at 8 am.

The Recycling Committee will be onsite with a booth to support the event. We will present demonstrations, provide information, and answer questions about all kinds of recycling, waste disposal, and environmental issues. You can see more about the event and the Nature Discovery Center at [www.naturediscoverycenter.org](http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org).

### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Citywide Garage Sale

By Craig Bello, Chairperson

The Bellaire Citywide Garage Sale will be held on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> (rain date May 5<sup>th</sup>). All Bellaire residents are invited to host a garage sale.

You probably have a number of things that you no longer use, but 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. This also translates into lower City landfill costs.

The Recycling Committee will publish the Citywide Garage Sale Guide - a list of the homes in Bellaire having a garage sale - on April 27<sup>th</sup>. This list will include addresses organized by region and short descriptions of what is for sale.

You decide what you want to sell and for how much you want to sell it. Then on



Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>, set things up in your yard, driveway or garage. People from all over the greater Houston area come to Bellaire for this special event.

The Guide will be available after 1PM on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Bellaire City Library (5111 Jessamine) and Bellaire Rec Center (5125 Laurel).

Register using the form on the last page of this newsletter, submitting it by 5:00 pm Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Registration forms are also available at Bellaire Public Works, City Library and City Hall. Alternately, you can submit one online at [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org) or send an email to us with the requested information to [RecyclingCommittee@BellaireRecycles.org](mailto:RecyclingCommittee@BellaireRecycles.org).

## Spring Cleanup is Coming

*By Craig Bello, Chairperson*

Spring cleaning in April is a real tradition in Bellaire. While preparing for the Citywide Garage Sale, you can also take advantage of this big event to help you unclutter your house. Spring Cleanup is basically a bonus garbage collection day, but on a Saturday. City crews will cover the City, collecting the garbage generated from your spring cleaning. For homes west of the 610 loop, Spring Cleanup will be on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. For those homes east of the 610 loop, it will be on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Solid Waste will collect everything EXCEPT:

- Car or truck parts
- Hazardous materials
- Oil-based paint
- Items containing Freon (e.g., air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers)
- Medical waste
- Construction waste
- Sharp objects or broken glass



## Recycling Committee Needs You!

*By Craig Bello, Chairperson*

The Recycling Committee is an active, challenging, and rewarding way to give back to Bellaire. In June the Committee will have a number of open positions as some current members depart due to term limitations and other interests. With our existing slate of goals and education responsibilities, the Committee desperately needs to maintain a full compliment of members and a

good supply of supporting volunteers. If this sounds like you, please contact us at [RecyclingCommittee@BellaireRecycles.org](mailto:RecyclingCommittee@BellaireRecycles.org).

## Appliance Compliance

*By Craig Bello, Chairperson*

In answering a question from the website, we realized the need to spread the word about what to do with old appliances. First think reuse, then recycle, and finally disposal.

There are a number of outlets for your old appliance if it still works. If it still has life, your appliance can be **reused** by someone in need. Please contact a local charity or church to see if they are interested in finding your appliance a new home. Some are available on our website.

Since many appliances contain large amounts of recyclable metals, there are companies in town that may be interested in taking the appliance of your hands in order to **recycle** that metal into cash. Contact any of the metal recycling companies to see if they are interested - they come to pick it up. Some are available on our website.

Finally, there is the disposal option. Public Works will simply pick up almost any appliance from the curb on your regular garbage collection day. The exceptions to the rule are appliances that contain freon like refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc. Prior to disposal, the freon in these appliances must be removed by a licensed professional and the resulting certificate must be presented to have it collected by Public Works. When having a new appliance delivered, it may be best to have them cart off your old appliance for disposal. Not only do they have easy access to freon removal pros, but also the disposal costs will not be paid by the City.

## Have You Been Tagged?

*By Craig Bello, Chairperson*

With a new curbside recycling program, there is a period where the participants get adjusted to the ins and outs of the program. The Recycling Committee and the City are committed to help provide the right education to make your participation as easy and rewarding as reasonably possible.

However, as some of you know there are specific requirements to participate in the curbside program. These requirements are in place in order to make

the Wednesday collections efficient and help make the resulting product valuable to Vista Fibers (who receives our recyclables) so they continue to collect our recyclables at no cost.

Not abiding by these few requirements could result in your recycling bin being left uncollected. Public Works has created a "bin tag" that should appear on any uncollected bin, denoting the reason for it not being collected. Your bin or other recyclables may be denied collection if

- It contains non-approved materials in the bin like glass, plastic bags of any kind, or materials other than those specifically allowed.
- Newspapers or cardboard outside the bin were not bundled or bagged appropriately.
- A non-Bellaire bin or other container was used. Additional bins can be purchased from the Finance Department at City Hall for \$10 each.
- Your bin or bundled materials weight more than 30 lbs. This weight limit protects our collection staff from injury.

The Recycling Committee and Public Works are available to answer any questions you may have.

## Solid Waste Ordinance Refresher

*By Craig Bello, Chairperson*

With spring cleaning in the air and garden activities in process, this is a great time to remind everyone of some of the important solid waste ordinances in place.

**Section 16-4** limits the amount of garbage collected from a residence on any day to 300 pounds. With safety concerns limiting each bag to 30 lbs., this means a general maximum of 10 bags per household. Residents need to be mindful of the 30 lbs. operational safety limit when they pack their garbage bags, especially when it comes to dense lawn trimmings.

**Section 16-7** requires that any commercial tree trimmer, landscaper, or lawn service must haul away all trimmings and debris from trees, hedges, bushes or lawns produced when they work at your residence. The trimmings and debris **may not** be placed at the curb for collection by Public Works.

**Section 16-8** prohibits disposal of automotive parts and related materials through garbage collection provided by Public Works.

This section also requires that any remodeling debris, roofing debris, other construction waste, or garbage generated by building or remodeling contractors be hauled away. These materials **may not** be placed at the curb for collection by Public Works.

## Stemming the Junk Mail Epidemic

*By Craig Bello, Chairperson*

Junk mail is overrunning your mailbox! Now it can be recycled curbside rather than going to the landfill, but why not stop it before it even gets generated and shipped to your home.

Federal 'opt-out' laws from 2000 give you the right to tell companies not to sell your name and address, preventing other companies from targeting you with junk mail. There are additional actions you can take. We will post them on our website.

Actions you can take:

1) Contact anyone who sends you a bill, organizations to which you belong, etc. and tell them not to release your name, address, social security number, email address or phone number to anyone else for marketing, mailing, or promotional purposes. This is the best use the 2000 law.

2) Contact the following major players that will help to reduce your junk mail deliveries:

### Major Mailing Lists

Mail Preference Service  
Direct Marketing Association  
PO Box 643  
Carmel, NY 10512  
[www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailinglist](http://www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailinglist).

### "Resident" Mailings

ADVO, Inc.  
Customer Assistance  
P.O. Box 249  
Windsor, CT 06095  
[www.advo.com/consumersupport.html](http://www.advo.com/consumersupport.html)

### Catalogs and Magazines

Abacus, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1478  
Broomfield, CO 80038  
[optout@abacus-us.com](mailto:optout@abacus-us.com)