



# Bellaire Recycles!

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



**Bellaire Recycling Committee**

**August 2004**



## e-Waste Recycling Event – Sept 11<sup>th</sup>

*By Terry L. Timme*

Did you buy new computers for the school year and don't know what to do with the old ones? The Bellaire Recycling Committee will hold a special collection event on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> when you can recycle your old computers and other electronic devices, known as "e-waste". We will be collecting items between 9AM and 2PM at the Department of Public Works building, 4337 Edith Street. There will be a nominal charge of \$5 per computer monitor or television. For more details, check our website ([www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org)) for updates as the event draws closer.

Computers and televisions are the most important items that will be collected as e-waste, but we will also collect other computer peripherals, printers, scanners, fax machines, VCRs, telephones, cell phones, calculators, stereos and other small personal electronic devices - in general, things with a circuit board inside. These may contain environmentally hazardous substances such as mercury, lead, cadmium, toxic fire-retardants, and PCBs. Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs), the glass 'picture tubes' in computer monitors and TVs, are the most dangerous. To protect you from radiation, the glass in CRTs contains lead. There is typically 4-8 pounds of lead in a TV or computer monitor. (See "Event" on Page 3)

## Frances Freeman, We Will Miss You

*By Gayle Davies*

The Bellaire Recycling Committee is saying so long to our shining star, Frances Freeman. Frances joined the Committee four years ago and soon became a tremendous asset to our team. For much of her tenure, she served as recording secretary, and was indispensable as volunteer coordinator for the Bellaire Recycling Center. For those of you that take advantage of volunteer help at the Center on the first Saturday of each month, you have Frances

to thank for ensuring that those volunteers were scheduled. We will miss Frances' sunny disposition and keen wit, which have made our many meetings and projects so much fun. Frances will be rejoining the Senior Adult Services Committee, a group on which she previously served as secretary. Frances also has been a member of the Bellaire Historical Society "almost since the beginning," and helps the Bellaire Library with its book sales.

We will miss you, Frances, and your smiling face. We look forward to your visiting us for Earth Day - and maybe occasionally at the Recycling Center.

## Clean Sewers: Flood Control at Home

*By Craig Bello*

After one of the wettest months on record, flood control is again on everyone's mind. Harris County, Houston, and Bellaire are each doing their part to alleviate this threat, but effective flood control begins at your curb. Our roads and sewer system are designed to quickly direct water away from your house and into the bayous. This design only works if the water can get into and through the sewer.

When gutters and sewers are clear, flooding in the area are minimized. However, when sewers are clogged with leaves, grass and other debris, rainwater flow through the sewers are restricted. The resulting poor drainage means water can back right up your driveway, or worse, into your home. Although the Department of Public Works (DPW) does its best to keep the City's drainage

### This Issue

- **e-Waste Event Scheduled-9/11/04**
- **Proud Bellaire Wins 2nd Recycling Grant**
- **Retiring Recycling Committee Member**
- **Clean Sewers Help Flood Control**
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- **Solid Waste Review**
- **Curbside Recycling on Your Mind?**

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

clear, the system works more efficiently when everyone takes care to keep the gutters clear and prevent dumping to the sewer.

Cleaner sewers also mean fewer expensive, time-consuming clearing operations. Joe Keene, Director of Public Works, says that he has seen significant improvement in the City's sewers since our previous article in December 2003 and hopes the residents can keep up the great work.

## Welcome to Our New Members

By Craig Bello

On Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, the Bellaire City Council appointed two new members, Brian Fielkow and David Steury. Brian was appointed for a full two-year term, while David was appointed for the remaining year of a position vacated earlier this year. Council also reappointed Craig Bello, Gayle Davies, Patricia Ritter, and Terry Timme to another two-year term. The Recycling Committee is looking forward to meeting the new members and helping them find their niche on the Committee.

## "Proud to Recycle" is Granted

By Craig Bello

The Bellaire Recycling Committee has won another grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council: \$12,500 for a "Proud to Recycle" campaign. The program (often referred to as "P2R") is a bold joint venture involving Bellaire, West University, Meyerland, Braeswood Place, and possibly Southside Place.

P2R has two main goals – educating the public about recycling opportunities in the area, waste reduction and composting, and promoting participation in recycling programs. Mostly, we want area residents to take part in recycling and celebrate their contribution to our environment. Avid recyclers will receive small incentives in appreciation for their participation – things like paper composting bags and canvas shopping bags.

Development of the program is still in the early stages and more information will be passed along as it develops. A huge thanks goes out to Terry Timme, the Committee's master grant application writer and presenter.

Prepared in cooperation with the Houston-Galveston Area Council and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

## Water: A Precious Resource

By Gayle Davies

Summer is water's busy season. Water usage increases dramatically as people water their lawns and gardens, and enjoy cooling off and getting refreshed with water more so than other times of the year. Generally, this resource isn't priced to encourage conservation, so many of us don't give much thought to how much water we use.

Potable water (safe for human consumption) comprises only 0.64% of the world's water, and humans currently use 54% of this limited supply. U.S. per capita consumption levels are among the highest and the rest of the world is following our lead. On average, each American uses 60 gallons of water daily. Most water usage is attributed to lawns and garden care (35%), toilets (26%), and other bathroom uses (23%). Addressing water waste in these three areas could reduce water usage by about 30% per household on average. (See "Water" on Page 3)



Committee's Entry for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Day Parade: Riders make last minute adjustments to the first ever Recycling Committee "float".

## From e-Waste to e-Useful

By Barbara Rosen, Techs & Trainers

*"Just a quick line to express our gratitude to Techs & Trainers for supporting the students of the Houston Center for Independent Living Center / Computer Access Training Program.*

*The students here would be totally lost with out the assistance your computer loaner/purchase program. Now the students can take what was learned in class and practice at home.*

*The program fits well into the needs of assistance with today's technologies, as well as training to become self-sufficient in computers. We would like to say thank you for being able to provide the services to people of all backgrounds be it economics' or disabilities."*

*-Anthony T, Domenech CATP Instructor / HCIL*

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

## Who are these students?

- Some have recently been disabled due to accidents or illnesses.
- Some have lived with disabilities for most of their lives.
- Some are young; most of them are not.
- Most have very limited resources.
- Some want to prepare for employment.
- Some want to launch a business to become self-employed.
- Some need the internet to interact with their doctors and the outside world.
- All are motivated to learn and improve technical skills.
- All are eager to put these computers to good use.

## What about dead computers?

Dead and obsolete computers are wonderful to take apart. They are training tools for our special needs workers. Many of the parts are reused and the metals can be recycled.



## What is Techs & Trainers?

Techs & Trainers is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to bringing technology to people with disabilities. We look forward to your donations on e-Waste Day.

## Recycling Performance Review

*By Craig Bello*

As with most performance reviews, there usually is both positive and negative news. Results from Bellaire's solid waste program for the first half of Fiscal Year 2004 (October 1, 2003 through March 30, 2004) show some very interesting trends.

Bellaire residents deserve a big round of applause for their waste reduction efforts. The single most impressive trend is a substantial reduction in overall solid waste volumes. Bellaire's solid waste production for the first half of FY2004 is down almost 15% - that's more than 2,600 cubic yards of waste - compared to volumes for the same period in FY2003.

Another huge accomplishment involves green waste recycling. More and more of us are separating our lawn and yard waste from household garbage. Comparing the first halves of FY2003 and FY2004, green waste recycling has increased a whopping 54% (3,050 cubic yards). Each cubic yard of green waste recycled reduces disposal costs and landfill use. Congratulations Bellaire, but let's keep it going!

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

There is a troubling trend, however, in the year-to-year comparison. Compared to FY2003, the Debbie Marshall Recycling Center is receiving less recyclables. Recycling of all materials is off considerably, except for plastics. The Recycling Committee is concerned about the volume decrease at the Center. Saving recyclables in the garage and transporting them to the Center can be a hassle. The inconvenience may be turning residents off to recycling. So one potential solution we are looking into is a curbside recycling program for the City. Let us know what it will take for you to recycle at [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org).

## “Event” ... (Continued from Page 1)

Early planning has the collection event shaping up so that you may not even have to get out of your car. Simply drive up, fill out a little paperwork as volunteers remove the e-waste from your vehicle, and then pay your disposal fee and/or collect your donation receipt. In the process, you may even get a refreshing beverage or snack from a local vendor.

The Bellaire e-waste collection event is made possible by a grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council. All of the collected e-waste will be either donated to local charities (see the accompanying article about Techs and Trainers) or processed by Recycle America Alliance in Humble, Texas. All items will be reused and recycled in accordance with the highest environmental standards. All of the end markets for reuse or recycling are in the United States, so your e-waste will not be shipped overseas.

**Prepared in cooperation with the Houston-Galveston Area Council and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.**

## “Water” ... (Continued from Page 2)

Here are some ways that you can use water more wisely and help in its conservation:

1. Water lawns and gardens slowly and early in the morning to reduce evaporation and increase water absorption.
2. Use a sprinkler that makes large water droplets that remain close to the ground, rather than a fine mist that is sprayed into the air.
3. Use drip irrigation (or upside down soaker hoses) on bedded plants to reduce evaporation.
4. Avoid watering when it's windy.

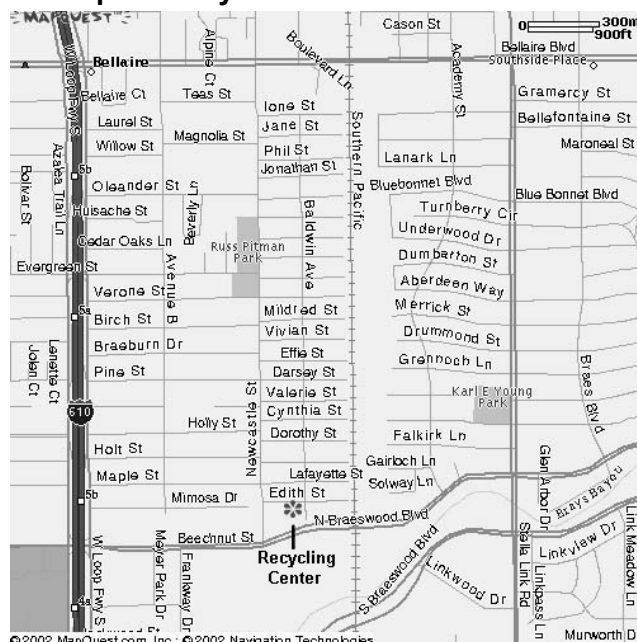
5. Water the lawn and bedded plants only when they begin to wilt, and then water so that the ground is wet from 6 to 12 inches deep.
6. Avoid watering too frequently since that prevents air from getting to roots, encourages diseases, and causes salt buildup.
7. Avoid watering streets, gutters, and driveways. Water runoff into storm sewers provides a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes.
8. Turn off sprinkler systems when Mother Nature has already done the watering.
9. Set the lawn mower as high as possible, especially for St. Augustine grass, to reduce evaporation, deepen the root system, and help choke out weeds.
10. Hand water very small areas and spots that need extra watering.
11. When replanting, choose native grasses and plants that are drought tolerant with low water requirements (known as xeriscaping).
12. Catch and use rainwater by installing a "catchment" system. For more information, see [www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/Rain.htm](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/Rain.htm).
13. Cover the swimming pool. An uncovered pool can lose 1,000 gallons per month. A cover can reduce evaporation by as much as 90%.
14. Use Energy Star appliances and low-flow toilets and faucets. An Energy Star washer can save up to 7,000 gallons of water per year. An existing toilet can be made low-flow by placing a brick or water-filled gallon bottle in the tank.
15. Fix leaks. Leaks account for almost 13% of household water usage. Leaks can often be corrected with a simple gasket or flapper replacement that cost very little.
16. Remember; toilets are not trashcans. Keep them free of debris such as cotton balls and cigarette butts.
17. Turn off the tap while brushing teeth, washing hands, and shaving. The advanced version of this involves turning off the water while soaping up in the shower.



## Bellaire Recycling Center

4337 Edith

Open 7 Days a Week 8AM to 5 PM



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

August 7, 2004	October 2, 2004
September 4, 2004	November 6, 2004

### Bellaire Recycling Committee

Craig Bello	Co-Chair / Editor
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	Committee Member

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

In helping with our First Saturday Assisted  
 Pickups and other Programs