

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



Solid Waste District of  
LaPorte County

(219) 326-0014  
(800) 483-7700

www.solidwastedistrict.com

Spring 2009



## Compost facility did not take a winter's nap



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You'd think with the awful, cold winter weather and snow that the men at our compost facility would have had lots of spare time. Not so! "Compost cooks year-round," said Joe Jokantas, Compost Facility Coordinator. "If we continue the processing all winter, although it is a bit slower, we will have tons of that fine compost that LaPorte County residents love so much."

"Of course," Joe continued, "we still have lots of good firewood, and we hope to keep a steady supply."

If you have any questions about the compost program, just give Joe a call at 785-2511, extension #4935. He will be glad to answer your every question.

## A great time to "grasscycle"

When you "grasscycle," you simply let your clippings drop back onto your lawn instead of bagging them. Grass clippings are mostly made up of nitrogen and water—both of which your lawn needs. Because each mowing will take about one-third less time, grasscycling saves your family time, too. So, grass-



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cycling is better for the lawn and easier for your family. What's not to like?

You don't have to have a special mower to grasscycle. You can use a mulching mower, which will chop the clippings very small. But, you can also use a regular mower by taking off the bagger attachment. If you remove the

bagger, be sure that you insert the "chute cover," which is a safety device to cover the hole where the bagger would go.

If you do want to pick up your grass clippings, or if you have other yard waste, deliver it to the District's yard waste drop-off site at the north end of Zigler Road (Zigler runs along the east side of the

Fairgrounds), just past the grandstands on the west side. The site is open seven days a week during daylight hours. Remember—you *cannot leave plastic bags at the site*. If you deliver material in plastic bags, please empty the bags and take them home with you for disposal in the trash.

**6 a.m.!!**

## Everyone, please check your clocks

Although there have been some big changes in our recycling program with the schedule change and the new toters, one thing has remained constant. Bins **MUST** be at curbside by **6 a.m.** on pickup day, the same as always. The recycling trucks now have GPS trackers, so we get a printout of what time each truck was on each road. This records every two minutes. Drivers are keeping track of addresses that do not have a recycling bin at curbside when they run the route.

In our desire to save the environment, we must factor in the cost of fuel plus the pollution effect on the environ-



ment. Repeated trips back and forth because folks do not have toters out on time only hurts us all in the long run. Please be mindful of the 6 a.m. rule. If you feel you have been missed, you must contact our office no later than the next morning after the miss; only then can we help you. Waiting a week to call makes it impossible to rectify the situation properly because trucks have moved on to other

routes.

To keep the recycling fee low and provide good service, we must all work together. We sincerely appreciate the great recyclers in LaPorte County; it is our desire to add to the numbers. Thanks for doing your part.

**Today's Thought: 500,000 trees could be saved if everyone recycled their Sunday newspapers.**

## Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk



By now, I hope everyone has their new recycling toter—and I stress—I HOPE! According to what I said in the winter issue, you should all have your toters. Due to address problems and the horrible weather conditions, we did not finish drop-offs by our expected delivery date. We are now finishing the bin exchanges. Man, oh man, was it ever a rough couple of months delivering and switching toters. This, coupled with a change in the pickup schedule, plus the awful weather, made January and February a real tough time. But, we made it!

Here is where I need to thank the citizens of LaPorte County for their kindness and patience during these trying times. Over all, the response to the new toters has been very impressive, and I feel that they will be a great benefit to our recycling program. In the December 2008 figures, the recycling total was 500 tons over last year's total. So, I believe all of the aggravation that our residents went through will yield high dividends for the recycling program. Out of 40,000 toters delivered, we had less than 1% of the bins refused by residents who did not want to recycle at all. No matter how easy we make it, we will still have a handful of folks who do not want to participate. I will continue to work on lowering that percentage.

The new large toters have been very well received by our community, and I can't wait until the end of 2009 to share the new collection totals with you.

Thank you for working with us during this difficult transition. The old saying, "Mirrors Reflect and People Shine," certainly is applicable to the citizens of LaPorte County.

Clay



# WHAT'S UP?

FREE E-cycling is convenient and available year-round to LaPorte County residents! You can drop off computers, monitors, electric typewriters, printers, fax machines, copiers, stereos, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, telephones, laptops, cell phones, adding machines, zip drives, palm pilots, keyboards, mice, hard drives (erased, please), calculators, scanners, electronic games, microwaves, power supplies, battery backups, etc.

## ELECTRONIC RECYCLING



We are accepting these items Monday through Friday at two locations: 1027 Hitchcock Road in Michigan City and the LaPorte County Highway Department, 1805 West 5th Street, LaPorte. Hours may vary, so call us at 326-0014.

This site is monitored on a daily basis and is for the convenience of **LaPorte County residents only**.

Businesses, industries, and schools cannot utilize this drop-off because of limited space in the garages and trailers. However, businesses, industries, non-profits, institutions, and schools can drop off electronics at ICRI, 1824 West 35th Avenue, Gary. For more information, call ICRI at 219-887-7000.



**We want your suggestions, questions and comments!**

We are also available to speak to your club or organization about solid waste, waste reduction, recycling and composting.

**Solid Waste District of LaPorte County**  
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## Fun Facts

- In California, a wheat farmer produces about \$150 per acre per year. What sort of farmer can earn \$12,000 per acre per year?
  - Coffee farmer
  - Dairy farmer
  - Wind farmer (by producing electricity with windmills)
  - Beet farmer
- True or False: It is estimated that the earth supports 5 million species of plants and animals.
  - True
  - False
- How much air do we breathe each day to stay alive?
  - 695 quarts
  - 11,950 quarts
  - 21,000 quarts

- Air pollutants, mainly sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, mix with rain or snowfall to pollute rivers and lakes and to kill trees. What is this process called?
  - Non-recycling
  - Acid rain
  - Tree-acide
- Over half of the phosphates in our streams and lakes comes from detergents. What type of detergent is usually phosphate-free?
  - The sale brand
  - The one your mother uses
  - Liquid detergent
  - Powder detergent that claims to be "phos-free"

Answers: 1 C - The wind farmer; 2 B - It supports over 30 million species; 3 C - 21,000 quarts; 4 B - Acid rain; 5 C - Liquid detergent

## Household hazardous waste collections begin for 2009

Again this year, the Lake Michigan Districts Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection Program will be accepting lawn and garden chemicals, automotive fluids, oil-based paint and related products, and mercury-containing items, such as fluorescent tubes and bulbs and thermostats, for proper disposal.

Here in LaPorte County, our first collection for the year was held on Saturday, March 21 in LaPorte. The remaining collections will be held as follows:

- Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall, Michigan City
- Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Lake Park Plaza, Old Wal-Mart,

4301 S. Franklin Street, Michigan City

- Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2, LaPorte
- Saturday, August 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2, LaPorte
- Saturday, September 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Kabelin Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall, Michigan City
- Saturday, October 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2, LaPorte

For more information, call 219-326-1425 or 800-483-7700. Or, visit our website, [www.solidwastedistrict.com](http://www.solidwastedistrict.com), and click on "Household Hazardous Waste."

## Good Reasons to Recycle

- Recycling saves energy.** It takes less energy to make new products from recyclables than to make them from virgin materials. Last year, recycling by households saved an amount of energy equal to the electricity used by 17.8 million Americans or the gasoline used by 11 million cars.



- Recycling reduces pollution.** Making new products from recycled materials releases fewer air and water pollutants. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, last year's recycling reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an amount comparable to removing 35 million passenger cars from our roadways.
- Recycling conserves natural resources.** When we make new products from recycled materials, we keep resources out of landfills and in use.

## Mark your calendar!

### Tire and White Goods Collections

- Saturday, May 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2, LaPorte
- Saturday, October 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2, LaPorte



### Book Collection

- Friday, June 12, and Saturday, June 13, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2, LaPorte

## What can I deliver to the Mobile Household Hazardous Waste collections?

- Aerosols
- Automotive supplies
  - Antifreeze
  - Oils and other fluids
- Batteries
  - Automotive
  - Household
- Corrosives
- Expired medications
- Mercury-containing products
  - Fluorescent tubes
  - Thermometers with silver bulbs
  - Thermostats
  - Other mercury-containing items



- Paint and related products
  - Oil-based paint\*
  - Thinners
  - Solvents
- Pesticides
  - Fungicides
  - Herbicides
  - Insecticides
  - Other poisons
- Sharps
  - Needles
  - Syringes
  - Lancets



- Waste fuels
  - Diesel
  - Gasoline
  - Kerosene
  - Other flammable liquids



\*Bring oil-based paint ONLY to the mobile collections! NO latex paint is accepted at these events! Remove lids from latex paint cans; add a cup of cheap, CLAY cat litter; allow to dry and harden; and dispose of with your regular garbage (leave lids OFF of cans).

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