

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



Solid Waste District of
LaPorte County

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

www.solidwastedistrict.com

Summer 2009



Mother Goose Has Returned

No, we are not telling a nursery rhyme; it's the truth. Our wonderful Compost Goose has returned for the third year and has made her nest at the top of a compost pile. We are not sure if it's the area or the consideration shown by Project Coordinator Joe Jokantas and crew that keeps her returning every year to her Compost Condo, but she must like the accommodations.

As in the past, Joe and the men are careful not to disturb her nest. Work goes on as usual, but everyone works around her compost pile. When the eggs hatch, Mom

and Dad Goose take the "kids" and walk them around the Compost Site while allowing them to swim in the mud puddles. The family stays at the site until they are ready to move on, and then, with no warning, the whole family disappears.

We all wish them well and hope they return next year.

Don't forget our super compost is available for sale at the Westville Compost Site. If you have any questions, call Joe at 785-2511, Ext. #4935. Remember to use the # sign before the extension or your call will not go through.



Field Days

Our Education Coordinator, Nancy Gibson, assisted by Michelle Buford and Pauletta Schuster from our office, presented a "how to" event at the Annual 5th Grade Field Days at Luhr Park during early May. The turnout was wonderful and the weather cooperated nicely for this outdoor teaching experience.

Children and teachers from area schools were transported in for this fun-filled week of environmental information.



Our staff members assisted the children in making recycled flower pots from newspaper. Each child went home with the pot he or she made holding a freshly planted flower for Mother's Day.

This event has always been fun for the children. Plus, it puts recycled newspaper to a good *reuse*. Our goal, as always, is to teach the children as much as we can about all phases of the recycling process. Nancy and her crew did a fine job passing that message on to children and teachers alike.

Photos courtesy of Pauletta Schuster



**Toters are to be used for RECYCLING ONLY—
that means no yard waste, junk, garbage,
or paint cans!**

6 a.m.!!

Some things never change

Your new recycling toters 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. The GPS system records the location every two minutes, and we can check truck locations from our computers, too. In addition, drivers are now keeping track of addresses that do not have a recycling bin at curbside when they run the road.



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.

Please remember the 6 a.m. rule—it hasn't changed, even if your recycling container has. To keep the recycling fee low and provide good service, we must all work together. Thank

you to all the great recyclers in LaPorte County!

Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive
Director's Desk



Is it just me, or has anyone else noticed how well we are doing with participation in the recycling program? As I drive back and forth from work or to community functions, I see so many of the bright blue toters sitting curbside, lined up like soldiers ready to do battle against the mounds of material that could end up in a landfill. Once the material is collected, it goes first to separation and then moves on to a processing facility and finally to an end user. Some of your recycling could be contained in the very paper you are now reading or in the soda pop or water bottle that quenches your thirst, so you can sing the praises of recycling.

I won't bore you with the numbers from our program yet; I am saving the grand totals for year-end in our winter issue. However, I can tell you that recycling figures have risen another 20% and are still climbing. This year's figures will surprise you, I'm sure.

I would like to give a special congratulatory shout out to the group of very dedicated students and their sponsor, whom I met this spring—South Central High School's P.H.A.I.L. (Peers Having An Impact on Life) Club and their sponsor, Mary Ellen Ward. They organized a pill collection in their community, applied for a grant, organized a location and date, and did all the advertising, plus arranged for the proper authorities to be present to collect the medications. These fine students collected over 35 pounds of outdated or unused medications and got them disposed of safely and according to all legal guidelines. The high school students were on hand to distribute "thank you" packets, also. Way to go, South Central—we hope other high schools follow your example.

Clay

The national recycling rate at 30% saves the equivalent of more than 5 billion gallons of gasoline, reducing dependence on foreign oil by 114 million barrels. This figure could be even higher!

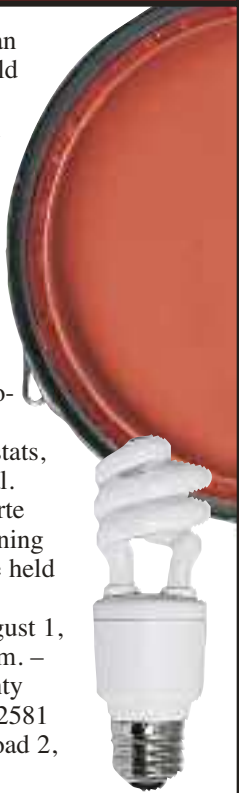
WHAT'S UP?

The Lake Michigan Districts Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection Program accepts 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, the remaining collections will be held as follows:

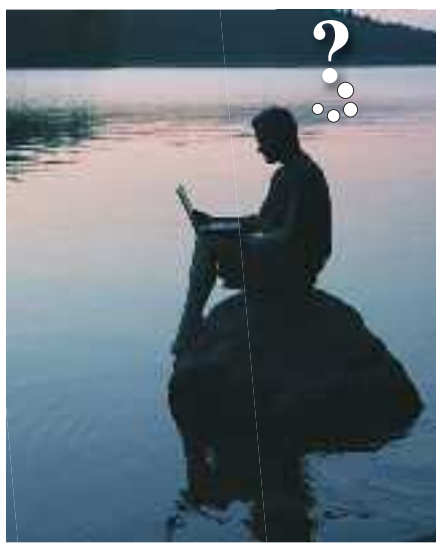
- Saturday, August 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2, LaPorte
- Saturday, September 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Kabein Ace Hardware, Marquette Mall, Michigan City
- Saturday, October 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 West State Road 2, LaPorte

For more information, call 219-326-1425 or 1-800-483-7700. Or, visit our website, www.solidwaste-district.com, and click on "Household Hazardous Waste."



Fun Facts

1. What does the word *Xeriscape* mean?
 - A. No landscaping at all
 - B. Landscaping with drought-resistant plants, which can save up to 54% of the water used for a garden
 - C. Landscaping with your own homemade mulch and compost
2. What should you do with plastic six-pack rings before recycling?
 - A. Tie them into bows.
 - B. Stuff them into a plastic jar.
 - C. Snip them to avoid any danger to wildlife if the rings would blow out of the recycling bin.
3. Name the three major pollutants found in automobile exhaust.
 - A. Carbon monoxide, lead, and nitrogen oxide
 - B. Carbon dioxide, lead, and mercury
 - C. Carbon monoxide, mercury, and nitrous oxide
4. What human desire contributes most to pollution?
 - A. The desire for beauty
 - B. The desire for convenience
 - C. The desire for truth
 - D. The desire for youth
5. What is the ideal temperature at which to set your water heater?
 - A. 100 degrees – No one will be scalded at your house.
 - B. 180 degrees – Your showers will always be hot.
 - C. 130 degrees – Anything below that does not kill bacteria.



Answers: 1 B; 2 C; 3 A; 4 B; 5 C

E-cycle your electronics



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.

We are accepting these items from 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 gaylords and trailers. However, businesses, industries, non-profits, institutions, and schools can drop off electronics at ICRI. Their new location is 1095 N. 50 E in Chesterton, and the new phone number is 219-688-3938. You must place a phone call to ICRI prior to drop-off at their facility.

Seven steps to garage sale success



Now that summer is here, you might have some free time. Turn some of that into money-making time—host a garage sale! A garage sale is a great way for your family to clean up the house, clear out the closets, and cash in on some of your old and unused stuff.

Follow these steps to garage sale success:

1. Pick a date that works for everyone. If your neighborhood is planning a sale, do it the same dates as your neighbors because you'll get a lot more traffic.
2. Sort your stuff. Make sure that all of the parts are together for games and small appliances. Wash old clothes and toys.
3. Price your merchandise. Be reasonable with your prices. A relatively new DVD might be marked at half what you paid for it, but a 5-year-old DVD probably should be about 50 cents. Put a tag on every item. If some items are being sold as a group, such as a set of four plates, be sure to mark that clearly (such as "\$5 for set of 4").
4. Advertise your sale. Most devoted garage sale shoppers check the weekly ads, both in the paper and online, to find sales. Also, sale-day signs are a great way to help shoppers find your house. (Be sure to put the signs up the

Tire and White Goods Collection

On May 23, we held another successful Tire and White Goods Collection at the Fairgrounds. This was the first collection this year; the second will be on October 17, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., at the Fairgrounds.

It always surprises us how many fine LaPorte County residents bring items to us. We know the program generates plenty of tonnage that might otherwise end up where it shouldn't, so we are always pleased to see so many cars and trucks.

If you missed this event, we hope to see you in the fall.



5. Be prepared on sale day. Have change ready, especially small bills and coins. Provide used grocery and shopping bags so that your shoppers can easily carry away their new treasures.
6. At the end of the day, box up unsold items and donate them to a local charitable organization.
7. Count your money and enjoy!



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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