

# RECYCLETTER



Montgomery County, MD  
Recycling Volunteer Program



## Program Update

Time sure flies by when you're having fun, and 2017 was certainly an exciting year for the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Solid Waste Services and our dedicated recycling volunteers. As many of you join family and friends to celebrate and enjoy the holiday season, we thank you for your continued support and dedication to the County's recycling efforts. Together, we made great strides to educate residents about the importance of reducing waste, reusing materials and recycling everything that can be recycled.

As the year comes to a close, I'm very happy to report that 147 dedicated volunteers (some volunteering at multiple events) contributed over 1,930 hours of service in 2017. This included providing educational materials and talking to 19,299 people about waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and grasscycling during the course of the year. Thank you to everyone!

In 2018, we plan to provide more volunteer opportunities, and develop additional tools and trainings to help you to continue to grow as a recycling volunteer. We will also focus on boosting our Recycling Volunteer Team Leader program. So, stay tuned and see what 2018 brings!

Again, thank you for your continued support and dedication. Safe journeys to all traveling during the holiday season.

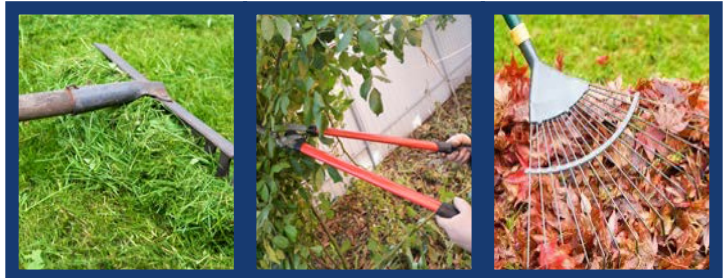
*Michelle Sorillo*

Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist

## Backyard Composting

The Montgomery County, Maryland, Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Solid Waste Services provides compost bins, at no additional charge, to Montgomery County, Maryland residents who are interested in backyard composting. Composting is nature's way of recycling leaves, grass clippings and garden trimmings and turning it into a nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be used in gardens, mixed with potting soil, or used as a top dressing on lawns in the fall.

Recycling volunteers and County residents can pick up a compost bin at any of our distribution sites located throughout the County. Many of these locations offer evening and weekend hours. For a complete list of locations, visit our website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim).



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## Recycling Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Ceremony

This past Earth Day, April 22, 2017, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Solid Waste Services hosted a Recycling Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Picnic, to show our appreciation to each of you, for your efforts and dedication to our Program. Recycling volunteers were welcomed by William Broglie, Acting Division Chief, Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) and Ms. Eileen Kao, Section Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, DSWS. Each volunteer received a Certificate of Appreciation for their outstanding contributions over the past year. Special service pins were also awarded to volunteers who contributed 20 hours or more of their time during the past year to support our programs.



Thank you for  
your support and  
commitment!



Volunteers are pictured in above photograph along with Ms. Michelle DeVillo, Recycling Volunteer Coordinator (center), and Mr. William Broglie, Acting Division Chief, DEP/Division of Solid Waste Services (back row, 1st from left).



## A Greener Holiday Season

### REDUCE

While the holidays are a time for sharing and enjoying time with family and friends, we sometimes lose sight of how much waste is generated. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) an extra 25 percent of waste is generated between Thanksgiving and New Year's. There are many ways you can reduce waste this season. Start the festivities off by making creative centerpieces and decorations out of things around your house or yard, such as pinecones, sprigs, leaves, branches, etc. When setting the dinner table, use reusable tablecloths and avoid using disposable utensils,

dinnerware and glassware. Buy food in bulk to reduce packaging and use reusable containers for leftover food. And remember to recycle everything you can.



### REUSE

This is the perfect time to remind ourselves, our family, friends and neighbors to reduce, reuse and recycle everything that can be recycled. It's also a great time to add a personal touch to gift giving by making handmade gifts using items you may already have at home. Personalized handmade gifts speak volumes, thoughtfulness, joy, and love. Furthermore, knowing that you are helping to preserve our natural resources each time you reduce, reuse and recycle makes gift giving even more

rewarding. You can also get creative when wrapping gifts by reusing brown paper bags which can be decorated and personalized with old buttons, yarn, or with items found outside such as sprigs and pinecones. There are also many other craft making materials that can be used when wrapping gifts. Old maps, comics and magazines make for chic wrapping ideas, too. You can find many fun and creative ideas online!



### RECYCLE

#### Christmas Tree recycling collection:

- \* Residents of single-family homes can place their Christmas tree at the curb on their regular recycling collection day.
- \* Residents of apartments and condominiums should check with their property manager or landlord for specific Christmas tree recycling instructions.
- \* Businesses that have live Christmas trees should contact their property manager or lawn care provider.



#### Helpful tips to prepare your tree for recycling:

- \* Remove the stand and all decorations such as lights, ornaments, tinsel and garland.
- \* Do not place the tree in a plastic bag.

Do you have broken or burned out holiday lights? Here are some mail-in recycling programs:

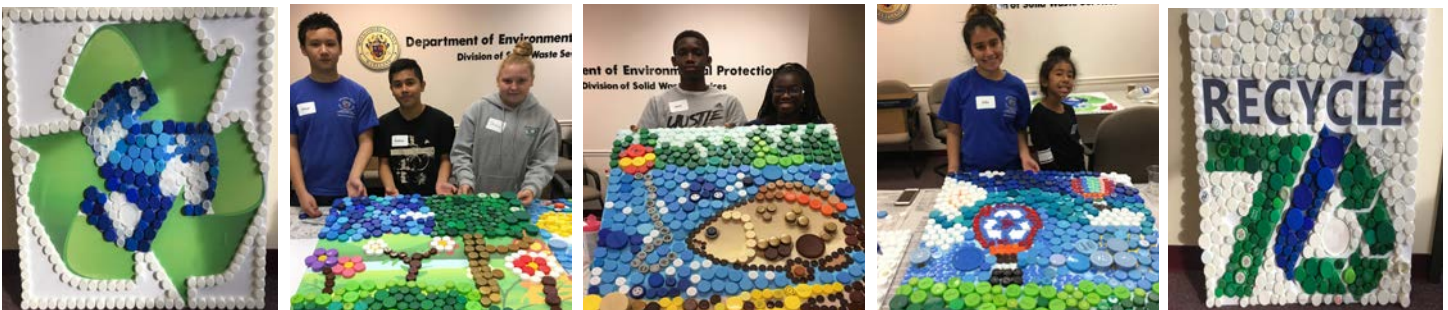
- **Christmas Light Source**  
Recycling Program  
4313 Elmwood Drive  
Benbrook, TX 76116
- **Holiday LEDS Recycling**  
13400 Watertown Plank Rd. Suite 34  
Elm Grove, WI 53122
- **The LED Warehouse**  
Attn: Christmas Light Recycling  
109 E. Prairie St.  
Vicksburg, MI 49097



# 2017 Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade



Recycling volunteers, along with Rocco the Recycling Retriever, encouraged residents to reduce, reuse and recycle for clean land, air and water during the 2017 Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade in downtown Silver Spring.



Recycling volunteers created beautiful artwork made from reused plastic bottle caps for the 2017 Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade. Special thanks to Christian Blom-Tu, Monica Cheng, Julia Coreas, Rocio Coreas, Andres Cortes, Oscar Li, Anna Nardone, Eric Nguessan, Jonis Palmer, Karina Palmer, and Louisa Wang, and Shona Wilson.

## Events Calendar

For more information, please contact the Recycling Volunteer Program at (240) 777-6484 or e-mail us at [michelle.devillo@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:michelle.devillo@montgomerycountymd.gov). All activities are Student Service Learning approved.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 15, 2018	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service	N. Bethesda

Montgomery County, Maryland  
 Department of Environmental Protection  
 Division of Solid Waste Services  
 Waste Reduction and Recycling Section  
 101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor  
 Rockville, MD 20850

Customer Service: 3-1-1 or 240-777-0311, TTY: Maryland Relay 7-1-1  
 This information is available in an alternate format by calling Michelle DeVillo at (240) 777-6484

