The Montgomery County
RECYCLETTER

May/June 2001 Number 57

Master Recycler/Composter Volunteer Program Wins a NACo Acts of Caring Award

Montgomery County was recently recognized with an Acts of Caring award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in the Environment category. Our program was among 20 selected from across the country for outstanding achievements in improving the quality of life.

The Acts of Caring Awards program is part of NACo's Counties Serve America campaign, a national initiative to address public confidence in government and to raise awareness and understanding about what county governments do and how they serve their communities. Counties nationwide nominate volunteer programs that have benefited their communities. Award categories include: Arts & Culture, Civic Education, Criminal Justice, Elderly Services, Emergency Management, Environment, Health & Human Services, Libraries, Parks & Recreation, Programs for Children & Youth, and Social Services.

The Master Recycler/Composter Volunteer Program (MRCVP) in Montgomery County's Division of Solid Waste Services has been in existence since 1991 when the County began its curbside pickups of blue bin materials. Program volunteers serve as peer education specialists regarding recycling and solid waste issues, and they represent the County at special events.

"Montgomery County is proud of its

programs," said County Executive Douglas M. Duncan. "They reflect the enthusiasm and commitment of our employees and volunteers, and I'm pleased that NACo recognizes their efforts."

"All of the programs are outstanding acts of caring, and they illustrate the fact that volunteers are essential to meeting community needs and challenges," said Larry Naake, Executive Director of NACo. "By joining forces with county government, volunteers make a lasting impact."

The six page application was impressively written by Susanne Brunhart Wiggins, former manager of the program. Susanne must be recognized for her years as a volunteer and five years as manager. It is, in a very real sense, her accomplishments in building and maintaining a force of interested and enthusiastic volunteers that continues to benefit the county and the current program management.

The award was presented at a breakfast ceremony on April 26th at the Hart Senate office Building in Washington, D.C. In attendance were Congresswoman Constance Morella, Robert Merryman, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation; Scott Riley, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer; Susanne Brunhart Wiggins, Jim Welch and volunteers

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Greening and Cleaning Your Indoor Air

The overall qualirty of indoor air in our homes and offices has been declining steadily during the past three decades. Concerns regarding energy conservation during the 1970s led to superior insulation materials, tight-fitting windows and doors, and other construction features that have effectively bottled up our living and work spaces. Unfortunately, while keeping out cold drafts, those design elements also have sealed in a host of potentially harmful air pollutants, leading to "sick building syndrome" and other health issues.

Some of the offending pollutants include biological contaminants, such as black mold, or gases like carbon monoxide and radon. However, "off-gassing" is another modern

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News Brief

Neighborhood Outreach:

Case Study on Recycling Performance

We would like to share with you the results of a study carried out during four weeks in a neighborhood located in upper Montgomery County.

Jim and I started visiting the neighborhood at a resident's request. This resident had called Customer Service in the County's Solid Waste Division to complain about the poor recycling efforts that he had observed in his neighborhood. We started visiting the neighborhood on the days when recyclables and trash were collected. We saw a lot of cardboard close to residents' trash containers on trash collection day and a very small number of blue bins the following day.

Jim and I decided to go further. We designed a four week study to measure the current recycling participation. We started visiting the neighborhood on its trash and recycling days around 8:30 a.m., before the trash and recycling trucks appeared. We checked in all the trash containers that had been set out and recorded whether we found recyclables in them. The next day we counted blue bins at the curb and containers with mixed paper and cardboard.

In those four weeks, we found that this neighborhood was doing a very poor job of recycling. A total of 102 households, an average of only 37 households set out their recyclables each week, meaning that only 36.3 percent of the households were recycling. The number of households that had recyclables in their trash was high. How high? Well, for example, according to the data from the first week, mixed paper and cardboard were found in the trash of 73 of 83 households and commingled recyclables were found in the trash of 39 households. That same week, only 36 households set out their blue bins and mixed paper. Data from the next three weeks showed a similar pattern.

We were pleased with our study but not with the results. We needed to do something to improve the recycling efforts. And we have. We have visited each house and have responded to residents' questions and concerns about recycling in Montgomery County. Whether they needed a new blue bin or an extra one or they wanted information about how to recycle mixed paper and cardboard in Montgomery County, we offered help. We also used these visits to address concerns that some neighbors had expressed to us when we were checking their trash. Some residents did not like our intrusiveness, most understood and approved of our efforts, Others were just plain surprised that anyone cared enough to do anything.

We invite you to follow our progress in the next issue. Any comments or feedback wil be appreciated. Helping the county to reach its goal of recycling 50 percent of its waste is what we do. Any volunteer who wishes to help can assist us in other neighborhoods to be studied this spring and summer!

—Sara Zavala

World Environmental Day:

June 5th is World Environmental Day. This day is used by the United Nations to enhance political intention and action, and to stimulate worldwide awareness of the environment. Let's put our energy together and celebrate this year's World Environmental Day by joining the Master/Recycler Composter Volunteer Program. Lately our program has been fueled by new volunteers and by the ones who committed to assist us again this year. We are very grateful to them and are looking forward to working together with them this year, helping our County recycle.

Mission Statement

The Montgomery County Master Recycler/Composter Volunteer Program, a part of the Department of Public Works and Transportation, Division of Solid Waste Services, encourages environmental stewardship through its public outreach on waste prevention, reuse and recycling. Volunteers provide County residents with practical solutions to their waste-related concerns. In educating themselves and others, MR/C volunteers stimulate thoughtful and effective action towards sound environmental practices which protect our shared environment and help the County achieve its goal of 50% recycling.

Jim Welch,
Editor-in-Chief

Diane Reinke,
Editor

Mickey O'Bradovich,
Layout

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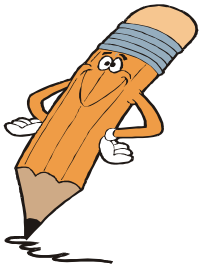
A Note to You



Spring is here at last! This is the season of regeneration, rebirth, and renewal. Spring delights us with the blooming of daffodils, flowering of cherry trees, and return of robins. Is there anyone, anywhere, immune to spring fever? I wouldn't choose to be vaccinated against it even if I could be.

For a gardener, such as me, spring means that seeds must be planted and gardens must be prepared for them. On one warm afternoon last month, I used up all the compost I made last year. But another pile is heating up to temperatures over 100 degrees, and soon there will be fresh material to add to it. Something that I just learned at our "Behind the Scenes" courses in April is that there is a limit to how much compost can be legally made at the facility in Dickerson. Our county provides a wonderful service to homeowners by collecting our leaves and grass and turning it into the compost we call Leafgro. But if it weren't for home composters and grasscyclers, the yard waste of Montgomery County would exceed this limit. And as our Master Composters well know, it is rewarding both spiritually and financially to make your own compost.

Another 10 square feet of my lawn has been eliminated with a new garden I started. Even with all the compost I try to make, I still had to buy peat moss, topsoil, Leafgro, and sand for the new garden. It is going to take many years to remove all the grass from my lawn, but as I've said many times before, I'd rather pull weeds than cut the grass. If I had enough money, I'd buy compost and spread it all over my yard. That way the lawn could really flourish.

It's been more than 25 years since fertilizers or weed killers have been applied to our grass. Sure, it's got a lot of weeds in it, but it's green. And weed growth is reduced by letting the grass grow long, cutting it weekly to 2½ inches tall, and leaving the clippings where they land. The cut grass is the only fertilizer the lawn ever gets, and I never waste water on the lawn. Still, the crabgrass is insidious and sends its runners into the nice soil of my gardens. But you won't catch me putting weed killer on the lawn where I walk barefoot and my dogs run and play. I cringe when I see golf-course-quality lawns in my neighborhood with little flags warning of pesticide use. This old-fashioned passion we have for great expanses of pure grass is as outdated as is the indiscriminate use of pesticides and fertilizers. Let us never forget that what washes off our lawns into the nearby streams is then carried to the Chesapeake Bay. And as we all know, the Bay is in trouble. Even the hearty blue crab is having a tough time of it these days.

Well, here's hoping that this season will be all you want it to be.

-- Jim Welch

Toter Pilot Program: A Big Success

We call them "toters," but they are large rolling carts used for mixed paper recycling. Although they are marked on the side with "All Paper/All Cardboard," occasionally they are contaminated with bottles, cans, yard waste, and trash. But the little bit of contamination we are finding cannot take away from the outstanding success our pilot program is achieving!

Tildenwoods in Rockville has been using the toters the longest. A 56-week average is the baseline for our pilot program. The Tildenwoods neighborhood recycled an average of 13.04 pounds of mixed paper per week. Now the average is up to 25.33 pounds per week. Some residents of a neighborhood near Veirs Mill Road and Connecticut Avenue got their toters last October. They had recycled an average of 8.63 pounds of paper per household per week and are now recycling 12.18 pounds per household per week.

The biggest success story comes from a neighborhood in Kensington where residents' paper recycling has more than doubled from 12.15 pounds to 24.51 pounds per household per week. Efforts are being made on a weekly basis to improve performance in the Veirs Mill Road neighborhood with more door-to-door outreach. We never cease to be impressed about how friendly Montgomery County residents can be and how enthusiastic they are about recycling.

New neighborhoods have been selected for a continuation of the pilot program. Volunteers could gain valuable experience and deep satisfaction from assisting with the initial door-to-door contact with the residents of these neighborhoods. Let us know if this interests you. The only thing we're out there selling is "recycling." The converts we're making are changing their old habits of trash disposal and committing themselves to be active, educated recyclers.

HHW: Pesticides

”Bug” is a very useful word in our vocabulary. It’s a specific term for insects with sucking mouth parts and forewings thickened toward the base. It’s a collective word for insects that tend to be pests. It’s a slang term for germs and viruses, miniature recording devices, imperfections, enthusiasts and devotees, and even Volkswagens. As a verb it is also the act of placing small microphones in hidden places. Is it any wonder that we also use the word as a synonym for “annoy,” “bother,” and even “anger”?

Entomologists find them fascinating, and gardeners know that there are beneficial bugs and destructive bugs. Many novice gardeners and homeowners, too, choose to kill all bugs indiscriminately as if “the only good bug is a dead bug.” Chemical companies thrive on our desire to kill bugs with pesticides that the pre-industrial world never had to deal with. In fact, most of us have toxic substances from pesticides in the fatty tissues of our bodies, including DDT (which was banned in the United States in 1972 but is still made here and used in other countries). We have introduced many plants into our yards that are not native to our environment. Some of them have become the favorite food of native bugs. We have also introduced, both intentionally and accidentally, many nonnative insects to our environment. In short, we have disrupted the balance of nature in North America and tried to correct it with pesticides.

If you have termites in your house, then a call to an exterminator is certainly the best course of action. But did you know that if you open up your house to the freezing air of winter, you can freeze cockroaches? Turning the heat up to 130 degrees will bake roaches to death. Of course, you’ll want to remove houseplants and pets first. But if you follow either of these procedures, there will be no pesticide residue lingering in your house. Freezing and baking work for the larvae of clothes-eating moths, too.

Spiders are the major predators of house-dwelling insects. If you cannot tolerate them in your house, catch and remove them to the outdoors. There are only four kinds of poisonous spiders in the United States, but just about any spider can be caught without your getting bitten. Houseflies carry germs and mosquitoes often carry diseases. Keep your garbage sealed in plastic bags inside closed trash cans to reduce fly breeding. To discourage mosquitoes from breeding, change water in birdbaths and outdoor pet dishes frequently. Eliminate standing water in tire swings, saucers under container plants, and anywhere water can collect and stand. Remember! Mosquitoes breed in standing water and they bite near where they breed.

And then there are ants. Every spring they tend to invade houses. Wiping up their trails with soap and water prevents them from following their leader. Cucumber peels are said to repel them. Mint planted just outside the walls of your house is also said to be effective. Mint spreads rapidly and smells good, but ants supposedly don’t like it.

Most people can’t stand bugs in their houses. But by killing them with synthetic chemical pesticides, you may be damaging your own health and the well-being of your family and pets. Bugs belong outside, but who can blame them for coming in?

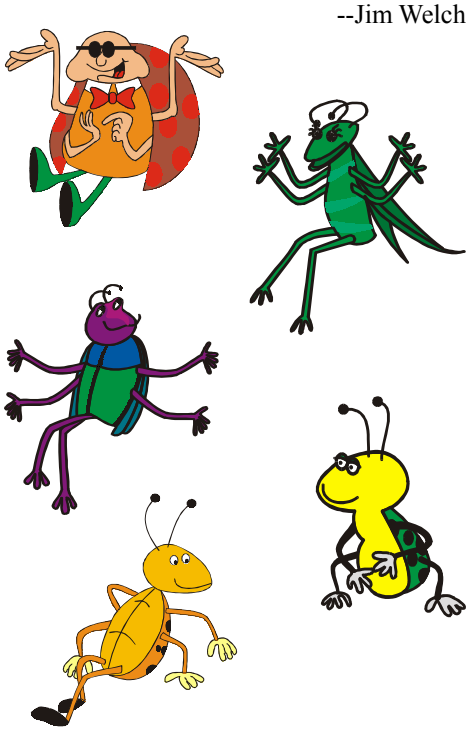
Composting helps a garden soil become rich with organic matter, which leads to vigorous, healthy plant growth. Healthy plants can better fight off diseases. Most plants, if healthy, can also create their own pesticides (without even being genetically engineered)! Companion plants help protect one another. Marigolds repel many insects, as do tansy and even dandelion. Many herbs and flowers either repel insect pests or attract insect predators.

We tend to buy and use pesticides both indoors and outdoors as a quick-fix solution to insect problems. But another problem arises. Some pesticides kill beneficial insects as well as destructive insects. Ladybugs are ferocious predators, and so are their larvae--strange-looking black and orange alligator-like bugs. Praying mantises wrap their crunchy beige egg cases around a tree branch. They prey on larger insect pests, such as grasshoppers. Green lacewings and predatory trichogramma larvae can be purchased from gardening centers or catalogs. But all predatory bugs need a nontoxic environment to perform at their best. There is no sense in purchasing predatory insects and then killing them with pesticides.

When you’ve tried everything else (including dish soap, which is often overlooked), there are organic insecticides you can try. Neem, from a tree native to India, won’t hurt beneficial insects. You can also make a spray from tobacco because nicotine is extremely toxic, but only for a few hours, and in that time its work should be done. Rotenone, from tropical plant roots, and pyrethrin, from chrysanthemum flowers, are two other nonsynthetic pesticides. They are useful when nothing else seems to work, but they may harm beneficial bugs. Alternatives are out there if you care to research them and find them in stores and catalogs.

So, if you’re a gardener, take pleasure in the special season we call “spring.” Learn how to distinguish the good bugs from the bad bugs, and this year lay off the chemicals. You will feel better, the environment will benefit, and the birds and animals that eat the insects will be healthier (because the poisons tend to accumulate as they rise up through the food chain). Take those old pesticides to a household hazardous waste collection and get rid of them once and for all. Make your property a “poison-free zone” both in the house and in your yard. Mother Nature will thank you.

--Jim Welch



The Six Most Unusual Public Requests at Midshore Regional Landfill

1.. A man called saying he had inadvertently thrown away two $50,000 bonds, and asked landfill personnel to look through that day's waste to see if they could find the bonds. The bonds were retrieved and returned to the man.

2.. A woman called to say she had thrown away her divorce papers and would the landfill personnel see if they could find them. The papers were found and returned.

3.. A woman called the landfill to say she had gotten angry at her live-in boyfriend, and threw his clothes away, but that later in the day she had a change of heart and wanted his clothes back. She asked landfill personnel to see if they could find his clothes. They did and the clothes were returned to the woman.

4.. A man from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum at St. Michael's threw away a package containing drawings of old boats and called to say that he had mistakenly thrown the package away. He was very upset and asked for assistance to find the package in that day's waste. The package was retrieved by landfill personnel and returned to the man.

5.. A man who fixes up antique cars had spent quite a bit of time collecting antique parts to be used for restoring those cars. Somehow, the box containing what he considered to be priceless parts had been thrown out in that day's waste. He asked landfill personnel to look for the contents, but they were not successful.

6.. A woman called to say that she had mistakenly tossed out a bag containing $17,000 worth of assorted jewelry pieces. Landfill personnel were unable to find the bag or its contents.

--Gregorio Africa, MESNEWS

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

The MR/C Volunteer Program appreciates the many hours of assistance we receive from our volunteers. March and April activities included:

The first Household Hazardous Waste collection of 2001 was held on March 11. The Weekend and Evening Volunteer Group supplied many helpful individuals including **Angel, Lidia and Gabriel Reyes, Zach Diamond, Sam Robinson, Emily Bass, Vanilda Salinger** and **Bernadette Tejores. Shari Waddy** was the team captain. From the Behind the Scenes classes came **Keith Ross** and **Nancy Hashim.** Our own perennial volunteers **Bob Mabie** and **Joe Connor** helped too.

The second HHW collection was held in Silver Spring. Thanks to **Dick Meyer, Heidi Johnson, Ruth Lampi,** and students **Danielle Colburn, Christopher Chriskanth,** and **Katie Kambies.**

MV student, **Jeff Hyde**, assisted at Curriculum Night at Montgomery Village Middle School.

Student **Jamar Coleman** helped on two consecutive Fridays with some office work at the MR/C Volunteer Program office.

On April 1st at the Transfer Station **Danielle Coburn** and **Jamar Coleman** helped with the Household Hazardous Waste collection, as did Behind the Scenes classmates **Mignon Davis** and **Bill Wyatt**. Bill's wife, **Lori**, also attended - an unexpected volunteer who will always be welcome. Bill has recently signed on as an official MR/C volunteer.

At the Arbor/Earth Day in Takoma Park, volunteer **Steve Libbey** explained composting and vermiculture. He brought two volunteers, **Jennifer Garst**, and **George Boker** to wear the Digger the Worm costume. But the star of the day was student **Andres Zavala**, who as Digger, waved to passersby and danced on the sidewalk enthusiastically.

Kristie Welch helped prepare for MR/C's part in the Solid Waste Service's Earth Day event at the Board of Education Building on April 21.

The HHW collection in Germantown was assisted by **Jim Ganz** from the Behind the Scenes course and W/E volunteers **Ann Jenkins, Katty Jenkins, Heidi Giacolone, Michael Giacolone, Ellen Rice**, and **Suzanne Tacoa**, under the supervision of Team Captain **Francisco DeCoro**. **James Ganz** from the Behind the Scenes course assisted, too.

Bob and **Susanne Browning** represented our volunteers, and accompanied us to Washington, D.C. to attend the Acts of Caring Award ceremony.

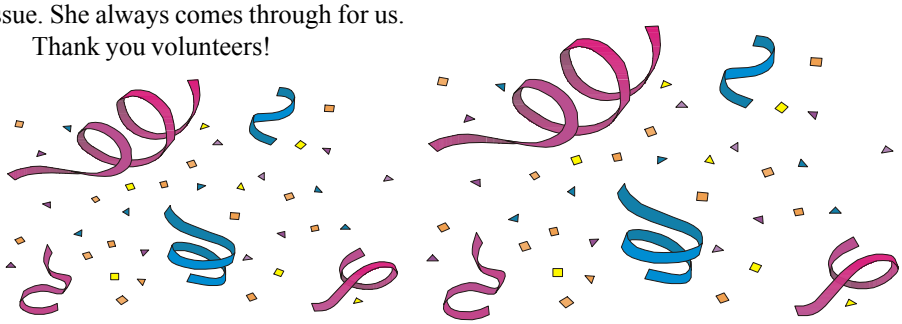
Earth Day at the National Naval Medical Center is an annual event for us, assisted again this year by **Bob** and **Suzanne Browning** who presented worm-composting to the school children in attendance.

Janine Farhat borrowed a worm bin to present vermiculture to one hundred and fifty girl scouts during their "Keepers of Life" event.

Denice Etheridge brought her four boys to the photo shoot for new pictures to be displayed at the Recycling Center (MRF). Her sons are **Jamaal Williams, Mateen Etheridge, Dion Etheridge** and **Tyrik Etheridge**. They were all very photogenic and apparently had a very good time.

Special thanks go out to **Diane Reinke** who edited this issue and our March/April issue. She always comes through for us.

Thank you volunteers!



Greening and Cleaning Indoor Air

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phenomenon that is contributing significantly to indoor air pollution. Off-gassing is the release of various organic compounds by some particularly common sources all around us ranging from furniture and floor coverings to paper products, printed materials, paint and simple plastic grocery bags.

The off-gassed chemicals are basically used as adhesives and binding agents, solvents, coatings, fire-retardants, insulators, and so forth. Among the most common is formaldehyde, which is found everywhere from particle board and pressed wood products, to carpet backing, floor tiles, paper towels and even permanent press clothing. There is also benzene, which is found in paints, dyes, inks and plastic, and trichloroethylene, also used in paints, lacquers and adhesives. There are scores more, but the obvious fact is that we live in a largely synthetic manufactured world and those synthetics are starting to get to us.

As a delicious touch of irony, the solution to our synthetic problems might actually be all-too-natural. Specifically, the answer might be as simple and elegant as the common indoor plant. After all, we have turned to indoor plants to bring a splash of color and vitality to sterile office environments and to brighten windows and corners in our homes. Like the fern-filled parlors of our Victorian ancestors, perhaps we too still feel a certain kinship with nature that prompts us to bring a little bit of the outdoors inside.

Regardless of our motivation for having indoor plants, that humble pothos on a window sill or corn plant stretching up to the office ceiling is working overtime to absorb and otherwise neutralize many of the harmful chemical compounds being off-gassed at our expense.

The majority of the research examining plants as natural air cleaners comes from Dr. Bill Wolverton and fellow scientists of NASA's Stennis Space Center in the early 1990's. NASA has been concerned about the long-term environmental health consequences of off-gassing from the hundreds of chemical compounds found on shuttles and space stations. A two-year study was conducted that involved transparent chambers containing a variety of plants into which different pollutants were introduced and measured.

Amazingly, plants like Aloe vera, philodendron, snake plant (Sansevieria) and golden pothos removed up to 90 percent of the formaldehyde injected into the chamber. Dracaena, peace lily (Spathiphyllum), English ivy and Gerbera daisy helped remove up to 80 percent of the benzene in their closed system. And many of these same plants also reduced TCE levels by nearly 50 percent. In fact, numerous plants were effective at removing a broad range of the most dangerous compounds and other pollutants, including carbon monoxide.

Moreover, while the many thousands of stomata or "pores" on each plant leaf handled much of the filtration process, further research revealed that even roots and bacteria in the plant's soil helped absorb some of the toxic substances. It is also believed that over time, plants and soil microorganisms may in fact adapt themselves to absorb even more and different contaminants, turning to them as a source of nutrient, much like nitrogen and carbon dioxide.

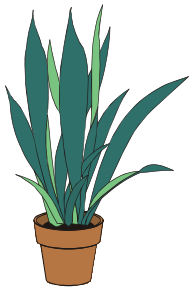
Those of us still trapped on Earth can take advantage of these exciting findings by simply adding one medium-sized indoor plant per 100 square feet, especially using the plants listed below. According to NASA researchers, just 15 plants can help clean the air of the average 1,800 square foot home.

In reality, of course, adding a few potted palms to your home or office will never provide completely healthy indoor air. Greener, cleaner air requires that consumers and building managers select more natural products for home and office, whether in furnishings, floor coverings, wall paints or even everyday cleaning compounds. But, then again, it never hurts to add a few more ficus trees to your lobby or put a couple of cheery chrysanthemums in your kitchen window.

For more information about reducing indoor air pollution with plants and "green purchasing," visit http://askDEP.com or call the Department of Environmental Protection, Indoor Air Quality Program, 240-777-7700

Most effective plants for cleaning indoor air:

Aloe Vera
Bamboo Palm
Chinese Evergreen
Chrysanthemum
Corn Plant
Dracaena Marginata
English Ivy
Ficus
Gerbera Daisy
Golden Pothos
Peace Lily
Philodendron
Snake Plant
Spider Plant



-- Joe Keyser

As copied from the Gazette dated Wednesday, December 27, 2000

MR/C Volunteer Program Wins a NACo Acts of Caring Award

(Continued from page 1)

Bob and Suzanne Browning.

Our friends at the Montgomery County Volunteer Center, who often provide us with groups to assist at Household Hazardous Waste collections (and other events), also received an award. Their award was in the Civic Education category.

Recycling References

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION

16101 Frederick Rd., Derwood 301-840-2370
(Route 355 & Shady Grove Rd.)

PUBLIC UNLOADING FACILITY
Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.;
Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Truck Hours, Monday - Saturday, 7:30 a.m - 5:00 p.m.
(Use Shady Grove Truck Entrance if you are dropping off materials in a truck.)
Accepts mixed glass bottles and jars, cans, and all plastic bottles with necks, all paper, all cardboards, antifreeze, waste oil, auto batteries, tires, and yard trim. Chipped brush mulch is available at no charge.

DON'T DUMP, DONATE!
Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(Use Shady Grove Truck Entrance.)
Accepts unused or used building materials in usable condition, such as: lumber, cinderblocks, wood, lights, flooring, plumbing fixtures, cabinets, toilets, tubs, doors - everything, including the kitchen sink.

CLOTHING & TEXTILE RECYCLING
At Public Unloading Facility
Accepts clothes, drapes, shoes, towels, sheets, belts, handbags, and material larger than 15" x 15" in area. Clothing & textiles must be clean, dry and in plastic bags.

LARGE APPLIANCE RECYCLING
Monday - Saturday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Use Shady Grove Truck Entrance);
Monday - Friday, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. (Use public entrance off Route 355);
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Use public entrance off Route 355)
Accepts refrigerators, freezers, hot water heaters, window air conditioning units and dehumidifiers.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

All sites operate from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 6	Shady Grove Transfer Station
Saturday, May 19	Briggs Chaney Park & Ride Lot
Sunday, June 10	Shady Grove Transfer Station
Saturday, June 23	Bethesda, NIH

Accepts insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers, paint thinners and solvents, pool chemicals, fuels, oil, photographic chemicals, oil-based paints, button and rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs (limit of 12 bulbs).

FURNITURE

The Housing Opportunities Commission will pick up any reusable furniture item in good condition, such as tables, chairs, sofas, beds, mattresses, and box springs. To arrange for pick up, please call 301-495-0983.

MATTRESSCYCLE

The Salvation Army recycles mattresses at the following locations every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
LITTLE FALLS MALL, Sangamore Rd. and Sentinel Dr., Bethesda
GERMANTOWN COMMONS PLAZA, Middlebrook Rd. off of Route 118, Germantown
CABIN JOHN MALL, Tuckerman Ln. and Seven Locks Rd., Bethesda

SPECIAL DROP-OFFS

ROCKVILLE AREA

Montgomery Scrap Corporation 301-424-3000
15000 Southlawn Lane
Buys back aluminum cans, scrap metal, other metals, and accepts appliances, including refrigerators. (With freon removed)
Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to noon.

Georgetown Paper Stock of Rockville 301-762-6990
14818 Southlawn Lane
Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Buys back aluminum cans in 10 lb.loads, white office paper and computer paper in 100 lb. loads (no newspaper) and accepts corrugated cardboard,mixed paper and paperboard.

SILVER SPRING AREA

Southeast Recycling Corp. 301-589-4002
9001 Brookville Road
Accepts newspapers, magazines and catalogs, telephone books, corrugated cardboard and cereal boxes.

GAITHERSBURG AREA

The City of Gaithersburg provides mixed paper and corrugated cardboard recycling for its residents. Call the Public Works Department at 301-258-6370 for more information.

Office Paper Systems 301-948-6301
7650 Airpark Road
Drop-off bin available 24 hours.
Accepts all types of paper.

WHITE OAK AREA

White Oak Boy Scout Troop 1086 301-622-1273
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 11612 New Hampshire Avenue
Fourth Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. *Accepts newspaper.*

COLLEGE PARK AREA

University of Maryland Recycling Center 301-314-8345
Lot 4A on Paint Branch Drive (near the intersection of Metzerott Rd. and University Blvd.) Open 24 hours a day.
Accepts white, colored, office and computer paper. corrugated and glossy cardboard, magazines, glass, aluminum cans, newspaper, clothing, telephone books, scrap metal, textbooks, aluminum foil, catalogs,and steel cans.

DAMASCUS AREA

St. Paul's Catholic Church 301-253-2027
9240 Damascus Road, Open 24 hours
Accepts newspaper in bin behind church.

POOLESVILLE AREA

Highway Services Depot, Jerusalem Road 240-777-7623
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Accepts used motor oil and antifreeze (up to 5 gallons of each).

Master Recycler/Composter Volunteer Program
16101 Frederick Road
Derwood, Maryland 20855

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLES

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

For more information about any of these opportunities, please contact the MR/C Volunteer Program at 301-840-2852, or MRC@windsor.com. Visit www.MCRecycles.org/volunteer for the most current calendar.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

This activity is approved for Student Service Learning. Collection volunteers direct traffic and hand out literature. Two shifts: 9:30 a.m. to Noon and 11:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Each site operates from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. See dates on page 7. This is a wonderful group activity. Please help us spread the word.

TRAVILLAH QUARRY FESTIVAL, May 5, 2001 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BURTONSVILLE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL, May 19, 2001 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SPRING FESTIVAL AT THE AGRICULTURAL HISTORY FARM PARK, May 19, 2001 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

TASTE OF WHEATON FESTIVAL, May 20, 2001 - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SPRING FAIR AT EASTERN REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER, May 20, 2001 - 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR, August 10, 2001 - August 18, 2001