



TALKIN' TRASH

Actual News
You Can
USE!



Macomb and Monmouth Made Changes in June!

Both Macomb and Monmouth have made some changes in how they're doing things. From collection bin style...to changing to a private hauler, both these communities have been taking action to make life better for their residents.

Macomb Has "Bin" There, and Done That

The City of Macomb started a curbside recycling bin program June 1. McDonough County used landfill-tipping fees to provide the City of Macomb with over 4,000 yellow 18 gallon curbside bins. For the last ten years, Macomb has been using the "clear bag system" to collect recyclable materials from its residents. Now, Macomb joins Bushnell, Good Hope, and Colchester in putting it in the bin.

The bag system resulted in too many non-recyclable items being collected. The new bin system will allow the recycling truck drivers to pre-sort the materials, and leave behind the unacceptable items. By doing so, residents will receive a curbside lesson on what is, and what is not recyclable.

All of the recyclables in Macomb are going to Bridgeway Training Services for processing. It is the hope that the new bins will not only produce a better "product", but raise the total materials diverted from the local landfill to about 500 plus tons a year.

No More Haulin' for Monmouth

The City of Monmouth has ended its role as a solid waste hauler. June 1 will mark the first time the City has used a private hauler to pick up its residential trash. The residents will pay \$8.50 a month for weekly pick up and receive one annual city wide clean up. A letter of explanation of the new program from the city and waste hauler, along with a new recycling card, has been mailed out to all of the residents.

The cost of replacing equipment and providing a city wide clean up are being sited as the reasons for ending this service. Waste Management will be Monmouth's new residential service provider and will continue the same pick up schedule.

However, Monmouth will remain in the garbage transfer business. The City operates a solid waste transfer station that is open to the public. Garbage, demolition wastes, and white goods can still be deposited at the Transfer Station located at the "old landfill site."

Monmouth will maintain its curbside recycling and yard waste programs with its present service providers. The City will also continue to operate its compost site.

Making changes in communities when it comes to waste management is not an overnight proposition. Some changes and adjustments take years, others may not be that long. In most cases, the change is for the better. If you think your community could use a trash "overhaul", or you are interested in learning about what it takes to start a program, give Solid Waste Coordinator Chad Braatz a call at 309/837-3941.

July, August 2002
Volume 6, No.3

Must Do...Dates

TCR&WMC

June 3

Warren County Courthouse

7:00 pm

McDonough County

Environmental Comm.

July 9, August 13

McDonough County Courthouse

7:00 pm

Mercer County

Board Meeting

July 2, August 6

Mercer County Courthouse

7:00 pm

Mercer County Recycling Board

August 22

CES Office, Aledo

7:00 pm

Special Events

IRA Conference

July 14-17

Hyatt Union Station

Cleanup

City of Monmouth

July 15-19

Library Story Hours

Macomb Public Library

July 8

10:00 am

Sherrard Community Library

July 11

10:00 am

Bushnell Public Library

July 23

2:00 pm

Viola Public Library District

August 7

2:30 pm

Story Time

With

Anne & Elisha



A Tale of Two Trash Cans & More!

"If each one of these tires were placed a quarter of a mile apart on the roadside---they would have stretched across the U.S.A. TWICE!" *

-Chad Braatz



Scotland Township Gives Trash the Old Heave-Hoe

Scotland Township held its first annual clean up on May 31 and June 1. Over the two day period, three - 30 cubic yard containers of oversized trash and one - 30 cubic yard container of metals, including white goods, were removed from the township. Approximately 70 residents participated in hauling items from their homes to the township shed for disposal. The event was sponsored by the McDonough County Board which uses landfill tipping fees to pay for the disposal.

Township road commissioner Kent McClure used his personal "high hoe" (pictured) to help consolidate loads of couches and mattresses for shipment to the landfill.

Watching Your Wasteline

Recycling seems to be the answer that everyone is given in order to reduce waste, but consuming less stuff is also part of the solution. Buy products that contain less packaging. Buy in bulk. Look around the store and compare items. For instance, pizza comes in a chipboard box with the pizza shrink-wrapped. It can also be packaged on a piece of cardboard with shrink-wrap. The latter pizza container creates less waste because the cardboard can be recycled and the shrink-wrap is the only piece going into the landfill.

Buy plastics that are only #1 and #2. Local recycling facilities only accept these numbers. Check the bottom of the plastic container for the recycling symbol. Buy fruits and vegetables loose, not prepackaged in shrink-wrap and plastic #6 polystyrene. By becoming smart shoppers, we can look for products and packaging that are made from recycled materials. Look for packages that are labeled "packaging contains post-consumer content recycled paper." This means that the packaging contains a percent of our paper that we, as consumers, sent to the recycling center.

The next time you go grocery shopping, think about how much landfill space you can save by watching your waste.

Macomb IEPA Tire Collection - May 10-11, 2002

Counties	Tires
McDonough.....	3249
Fulton.....	1106
Knox.....	335
Hancock.....	309
Schuyler.....	222
Warren.....	131
Henderson.....	75
Peoria.....	35
Total.....	5,462

Monmouth IEPA Tire Collection - May 24-25, 2002

Counties	Tires
Warren.....	3654
Knox.....	1551
Mercer.....	1337
Henry.....	1922
Rock Island.....	915
Henderson.....	372
Fulton.....	357
McDonough.....	155
Total.....	10,263

Two Illinois Environmental Protection Agency sponsored residential used tire collections were held in the tri-county area during May. Approximately 730,250 pounds of tires were collected over four days. Thanks to McDonough County Soil and Water Conservation District, IDOT, the City of Monmouth and the Environmental Management Corporation for the use of their facilities and personnel. A special thanks to the residents of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Knox, McDonough, Mercer, Schuyler and Warren counties, and Peoria for taking the time to bring their tires.

*7,302.5 miles

To Bid or Not to Bid-- That is the Question



One of the first questions faced by a village board or city council when considering solid waste management is how to establish a hauling service. The standard procedure is an "invitation to bid". Currently, the Village of Viola is issuing an invitation to bid for its solid waste services. At this time, four waste haulers provide residential pick up in that community. The village would like to decrease the number of haulers to one, and increase the residential services to include curbside recycling and village wide clean ups.

After the bids are in and reviewed, there will be a town meeting to explain the process to the residents and the results of the bid process. The Village board will then make a decision to reject or accept the bids.



An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be a can 500 years from now!

POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

At the TCR&WMC offices, we preach a lot about how easy it is to try alternatives to just throwing your garbage away. One of the best ways to dispose of food and yard waste is composting, especially with worms. Vermi-composting is when you have a bin of worms (red wigglers are best) and add damp shredded paper along with a bit of soil. This is the bedding with extra microbes (in the soil) that will aid the worms in decomposing the waste. If you have one pound of worms, you can put about one pound of food scraps in with them. After they procreate, you will be able to put more food (no meats or dairy) scraps in to accommodate the population increase. The worms will leave behind castings (droppings), otherwise known as "black gold" to gardeners. The castings and casting liquid "worm tea" is a potent fertilizer for your indoor and outdoor plants.

Feed some worms, dispose of your waste, and give back to the Earth---what could be better?!

We love it when people practice what we teach! Here are two families making a difference.

Worm Alert!

Dave and Stacey Dorsett
Keep a Can O' Worms



You're in Good Hands

Anne and Elisha want to thank all of the tri-county area teachers for inviting them to their classrooms. "We have had a great year meeting the kids and teachers. Elisha and I loved giving away the hand chairs and flower pots, and we want to let the kids know how much we have enjoyed their thank you cards and pictures--we save all of them and display them in our office!"

A reminder for all those teachers who may have considered scheduling a presentation but haven't yet, we have to stop giving away hand chairs to first-time classrooms by November 1.* So give us a call early in the fall to schedule solid waste units, and get that chair!

**As of November 1, to receive a hand chair, you must schedule at least two units to be presented to your class.*



The Dorsetts maintain a lovely variety of flowers, trees and other foliage around their home. Stacey Dorsett explains why her gardens grow so well, "My mother says I have a green thumb, but I know better -- I compost!"

The Dorsetts keep the day's worth of food scraps, then they put it in the compost bin adding some grass and leaves. "I toss in anything that is not meat based," said Stacey.

Dave and Stacey recently decided to add "red wigglers" to their composter. Worms will decrease the time it takes for the organic waste to break down, making ready-to-use compost in less time.

The Worm Free Way

Jeff and Rose Elam
Compost - Tumbler Style



The Elam family won't have to put their yard waste out by the curb or their food scraps down the disposal--they have a compost tumbler!

Composting is a great way to put your food waste and yard clippings to good use as fertilizer!



Do you have a Can-Do classroom?

To celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15, 2002, the TCR&WMC is sponsoring an aluminum can recycling contest.

All fourth grade classes in McDonough, Mercer and Warren counties are invited to enter. All entries must be submitted by August 30th. So there is no time to delay.

To receive a brochure, or to discuss the contest, call the TCR&WMC office at 309/837-3941 and ask for Elisha or Anne. They can tell you all the ins and outs of the contest.

E ducation

Tips for Managing Household Hazardous Waste

- Buy only the quantities you need.
- Keep Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) in its original container, and store it according to label directions.
- Avoid contact with skin and vapors.
- NEVER mix different products. Violent chemical reactions may occur.
- Use the product up. If a product exceeds your needs, give it away to friends or neighbors.
- Dispose of product in an approved manner or take it to a HHW collection event.
- Mercury thermometers are hazardous waste.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) conducts free Household Hazardous Waste collection events in various counties from spring to fall. To find out when an event is happening near you, call the IEPA at 217/785-8604, or look up the HHW schedule on their website.

www.epa.state.il.us/land/hazardous-waste/household-haz-waste/hhwe-schedule.html

McDonough County

Bridgeway

900 Deer Road
Macomb, Illinois 61455
309/837-4876

Waste Management

13988 E. 1400th St.
Macomb, Illinois 61455
Kevin Norville
309/833-4779 or
800/201-1360

Mercer County

Eagle Enterprises Recycling, Inc.

Route 34 East
1325 SE 2nd Street
Galva, Illinois 61434
309/932-2936

Mercer County Recycling Center

700 NE 7th Ave.
c/o Jo Lawson
Aledo, Illinois 61231
309/582-7089

Warren County

Maple City Area Recycling Center

614 South 3rd Street
Monmouth, Illinois 61462
Kevin Lovdahl
309/734-8423

TCR♻️WMC

*c/o The Western Illinois Regional Council
223 South Randolph, Macomb, Illinois 61455
309/837-3941 FAX 309/836-3640
Email - wirc@wirpc.org*



Address corrections requested. Please send corrections with the mailing label to the above address.

