



# TALKIN' TRASH

Actual News  
You Can  
USE!



## Colchester Continues Commitment to Recycling

"I think the City of Colchester has been amazing with its recycling efforts - and it's a family affair. The children in the Can-Do Contest at Colchester Elementary definitely had parental involvement as well as community commitment to help them succeed. With this type of participation, it can only be a win-win situation."

-Anne Lobdell  
TCR&WMC Educator



Pictured is the Colchester 4th grade class that won a trip to Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry by coming in placing first in the Can-Do Contest in McDonough County. Also pictured are teachers Elaine Gates and Stephanie Kerr and Bridgeway employees Suzanne Fuhr and Tom Colclasure.

After five years of successful recycling, the City of Colchester has decided to rededicate itself to its recycling program and sign on with Jackson Disposal of Seaton, Illinois for its solid waste services which includes curbside pickup of garbage, yard waste and recyclables. The new five year contract will begin July 1, 2003.

The City of Colchester can be proud of its citizens and especially proud of its fourth grade constituents. For two years running, the fourth grade class at Colchester Elementary school has won the Can-Do-Contest - a TCR&WMC event designed to educate children

about recycling and celebrate America Recycles Day.

The combination of community participation and dedicated consistent solid waste education has resulted in a successful five year solid waste management program in Colchester.

The recycling program will continue to use 18 gallon curbside bins. However, the current green bins will be replaced with yellow in the near future.

The TCR&WMC congratulates this community for its efforts.

### Recycling Factoid



According to Recycle America's statistics: if only 250 people (including you of course) each recycled one can a day, we would save the energy equivalent of 1,750-3,500 gallons of gasoline every year. Now try that calculation with 250,000 people; just one can a day could save the energy equivalent of between 1.75 and 3.5 million gallons of gas. And that's only 1% of the U. S. population, with a single can apiece.

July, August 2003  
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### Must Do...Dates

#### TCR&WMC

August 6

McDonough County  
Envirofil Landfill Office  
7:00 pm

#### McDonough County

Environmental Comm.

July 7, August 4

McDonough County Courthouse  
7:00 pm

#### Mercer County

Board Meeting

July 1, August 5

Mercer County Courthouse  
7:00 pm

Mercer County Recycling Board  
August 28

CES Office, Aledo  
7:00 pm

#### Warren County

Board Meeting

September 17

Warren County Courthouse  
9:30 am

#### Special Events

#### ILCSWMA Region 3

July 11

WIRC office  
10:30 am

#### ILCSWMA Board Meeting

August

Decatur

10:30 am

Teach Our Children Well



Cinda and Austin Rhoads celebrated Earth Day by planting flowers.

# Education

## What a Year For a Special Fifth Grade Class!

This has been a really great year for Westmer Elementary School's 5th Grade class taught by Mrs. Waters! Student Erika Brown was one of the top three winners in a statewide poetry contest with classmate Averi Wilson receiving special recognition. The contest was sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Association. The entire class won a \$50 grant from the Mercer County 4-H Federation to purchase tools to use when planting flowers at the New Boston Museum each year. In addition, the class won a \$500 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to purchase microscopes and make future field trips possible. The class won a \$500

grant from the Aledo Wal-Mart to be used for environmental projects. The students had a display at the store showing some of the great projects they participated in during the school year. And finally, the class won a \$50 certificate from Boney's Farm Store for placing first in the Earth Day Contest sponsored by the Tri-County Resource & Waste Management Council.

The school itself was responsible for keeping a mile of the Mississippi River clean and helping to take care of the communities that they live in. When reflecting on her class and the school, Mrs. Waters said, "We are proud to be part of the Westmer Elementary School and to be able to help out the environment with special awards and grants. We hope that everyone will join in our efforts to take care of our world!"

I am just one little fish, who has something to say.  
Please don't pollute anymore, because it's coming my way.  
I am just a little turtle, living in a creek.  
Please don't pollute anymore, because it makes me weak.  
I am just a little bird, flying by a lake.  
Please don't pollute anymore, because it makes me shake.  
I am just a little snake, crawling near your town.  
Please don't pollute anymore, because it makes me drown.  
I am just a little girl, not standing here for long.  
Please don't pollute anymore, because it is so wrong.  
So maybe more than one voice is what it's going to take.  
To make you stop and listen, before you make a mistake.  
And end all that we know and love, your family or my friend.  
Please don't pollute anymore, because that's how it all will end.

- Erika Brown

This poem was one of the top three winning entries in a contest held by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. You can view this poem and other contest entries at [www.epa.state.il.us/kids/contest/2003/index.html](http://www.epa.state.il.us/kids/contest/2003/index.html)

## It's Story Hour Time!



Look for Anne at these local libraries!

### **Macomb Public Library**

June 27 at 10 AM

### **Blandinsville-Hire Library**

July 9 at 1:30 PM

### **Viola Public Library**

July 15 at 1:00 PM

### **Bushnell Public Library**

July 16 at 2:00 PM

### **Alexis Library**

July 23 at 9:15 AM

### **Sherrard Community Library**

TBA

# Earth Day



# Contest

## WINNERS!

The TCR&WMC educators were delighted with the entrants in the Earth Day Contest. Here are the winners of what hopefully will become an annual event.

### **McDonough County**

Northwestern Elementary Pre-K and Parent Program - \$50 gift certificate to Farm King

### **Mercer County**

Westmer Elementary, Mrs. Waters' 5th Grade Class - \$50 gift certificate to Boney's Ace Hardware

### **Warren County**

Warren Elementary, Mrs. Shimmers' 3rd Grade Class - \$50 gift certificate to Farm King

The Solid Waste Educators wish to thank all of the teachers and their students who have invited us into their classrooms this year!

# Community

## Making It Easy to Dispose of Difficult Waste

**The McDonough County Board has supported its communities throughout the county in their commitment to clean up**



**How often do you see a random cluster of trash alongside a country road? The McDonough County Board says "Too often," and supports its communities to rid themselves of trash that has been ditched, literally.**

Bethel, Colchester-Tennessee, Eldorado, Emmet, Industry, Macomb, New Salem, and Scotland townships are having annual cleanups to collect large items and "white goods" (stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers, etc). The McDonough County Board has supported these efforts of the townships by funding the disposal of these wastes for the last seven years.

Bardolph, Blandinsville, Bushnell, Colchester, Good Hope, Industry, Macomb, Prairie City, and Sciota municipalities are also holding at least one annual cleanup for their residents for the same items. Several municipalities fund these special collections through solid waste contracts for their residents that include this service.

The results are noticeable. Fewer "orphan wastes" are found in road ditches in McDonough County. So far this year, over 150 "white good" units have been hauled into the townships in the Tri-County's area. The count is still out on municipal efforts.

## Grant Funding Available

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) awards grants to assist local governments, profit and non-profit businesses, and organizations with their recycling efforts. Grants can be used to purchase equipment, and develop and distribute materials designed to promote specific projects. The maximum grants are \$50,000 for collection programs and \$100,000 for primary processing projects. Grant funds are available from the Illinois Solid Waste Management Fund.

For more information, contact Chad Braatz at (309) 837-3941; visit [illinoisrecycles.com](http://illinoisrecycles.com) or call DCEO Recycling Grant Manager Angie Embrey at (217) 785-2808.

## General Assembly Update

In the waning hours of the Illinois General Assembly, both the Solid Waste Fee and the "Subtitle D Management Fund" fees were raised. The bill that was passed was SB 1903. It looks like the increase is \$1.10 per ton at the landfill gates. These fees in the past have been used to support solid waste management programs at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DECO). A portion of the increase will go to the General Fund, but it is unclear at this time how much. The bottom line is there will be an increase in the disposal cost for solid waste for everyone using an Illinois landfill and a possible reduction of solid waste programs offered to the general public.

How much will your garbage disposal cost increase? Based upon the average yearly household volume of two tons, that SHOULD mean an increase of about \$2.20 a year...but, this increase will open the door for all waste haulers to justify raising their rates.

The TCR&WMC would be interested in hearing about any disposal increases that occur in McDonough, Mercer and Warren counties. Call Chad Braatz at (309) 837-3941 to report increases you may be experiencing.

## Other Solid Waste Bills

**The following bills passed as of May 16, 2003**

**HB 0176** - Animal Creation

**HB 1250** - Facility Planning Area Rules Act

**HB 1165** - Computer Equipment Disposal & Recycling Commission

**HB 2634** - Township voters may authorize road/bridge/town funds to be used for disposal of brush/leaves and disaster relief services

**SB 0880** - Drug Paraphernalia Control Act/Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act

**SB 0268** - Construction/demolition debris exemptions to County Highway Departments

# Business

## 2002 Municipal Waste Data

The TCR&WMC compiled the latest information provided by local waste haulers and recyclers on the amount of residential waste handled in 2002.

### McDonough County population - 32,913

Total tons of residential waste disposed:

8,428.62 tons

Total municipal recyclables:

2,933.82 tons

Recycling rate for McDonough County: 35%

### Mercer County population - 16,957

Total tons of residential waste disposed:

2,743.3 tons

Total municipal recyclables:

662.58 tons

Recycling rate for Mercer County: 24%

### Warren County population - 18,735

Total tons of residential waste disposed:

7,144.8 tons

Total municipal recyclables:

1,994.81 tons

Recycling rate for Warren County: 27%



## Bridgeway Open House

Bridgeway Management Systems Recycling Center held an Open House on Earth Day. Folks who attended the facility received a guided tour and explanation of the processing of recyclable trash.

The TCR&WMC would like to thank Suzanne Fuhr, Tug Thompson, Tom Colclasure and their staff for hosting the event.

## Recyclers

### McDonough County

#### Bridgeway

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

### 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](mailto:wirc@wirpc.org)

[www.tricountyresource.org](http://www.tricountyresource.org)



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

TCR&WMC

