



Recycle Livingston News

Summer 2016

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Location:

170 Catrell
Howell, MI 48843

Hours:

Wednesdays:
10 am – 4:30 pm

Saturdays:

9 am – 1 pm

Contact:

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Summertime—the
best of what might be!

Inside this issue:

What's New? 1

Message from Julie
Cribley 2

Detroit Zoo Update 2

West Michigan and
Kent County 3

Shoe Recycling and
Livingston County
Christian Schools 4

Mark the Date:

September 24th

Tire Recycling

What's New at Recycle Livingston



Please come Recycle these items with us!

We are accepting for recycling new, used, worn, laundered clothing of all types regardless of size or gender. This list includes jackets, coats, hats, gloves, socks, undergarments, athletic gear, dress up costumes, sweaters, small luggage, purses, wallets, uniforms, scrubs, corporate shirts with logos, bathing suits, and much more!

Household textiles including soft toys, stuffed animals, blankets, sheets, pillows, towels, shower curtains, comforters, drapery, mats, small rugs, and the list goes on.

If the item is still in great repair, wonderful! However stained, torn, worn out clothing or material (think old towels, sheets, etc.) are welcome as well. Those items are now being recycled into filler material for car seats, furniture, child car seats, and many more items!

Please do not bring large items such as furniture or mattresses. Items that will fit into brown paper bags, small cardboard boxes, or clear plastic bags will gladly be accepted. Remember, all items must be clean. All profits from this new recycling adventure go to the Michigan Humane Society!



Hello from Julie

During the month of May, I was able to attend the Michigan Recycling Coalition Conference that was held in Plymouth this year. I am so excited about all the wonderful things happening in our great state. I have included much of it in our Summer newsletter. May we all be encouraged to recycle more materials in the days ahead.

Recycling at the Detroit Zoo

The Detroit Zoo has a goal of becoming 90% landfill free as of 2020. There are 118 recycling and trash containers through the Zoo. The circular openings on the recycling container allow for better sorting of recyclable materials along with instructions on how and what to recycle.

Items accepted for recycling include juice pouches and chips bags along with plastic and metal. The boardwalk at the Cotton Family Wetlands is constructed with material made of 50% plastic bags, 45% recycled hardwood and 5% polymers.

The Zoo hosts an annual electronic waste collection event. The inaugural event in 2011 diverted more than 103,000 pounds of computers, televisions and miscellaneous electronics from the landfills. In August of 2013, the Detroit Zoological Society launched a three year initiative to discontinue the sale of bottled water as part of their green journey. Inexpensive reusable bottles are sold at concession stands, which can be refilled for free at the one of 20 filtered-water stations throughout the Zoo. The society also offers a free holiday light recycling program in partnership with HolidayLEDS.com during the Wild Lights program.

The Detroit Zoo is building a biodigester with MSU that will convert animal waste into compost and capture the methane byproduct to convert into electricity. The Arctic Café is one of only four restaurants in Michigan that is Green Certified.

Hurrah for the Detroit Zoo!

Check Out What Kent County Is Doing!

West Michigan could become a hub for innovative waste processing companies in the coming years.

“It’s time that we in West Michigan and Kent County make a decision to do something different with all the waste being generated,” Darwin Baas, director of the **Kent County Department of Public Works** (DPW), “It’s not sustainable for us to continue to bury all of this material and think it’s OK.”

Baas expects to begin rolling out plans for the 200-acre sustainable business park — which is still in the conceptual stage — in conjunction with a new DPW-led awareness campaign to increase recycling among businesses and residents in West Michigan. The Imagine Trash campaign challenges organizations to reduce landfilled waste 20 percent by 2020 and 90 percent by 2030.

Last year, Kent County generated 1.8 million cubic yards of trash — the equivalent of filling two University of Michigan stadiums, Baas said. Across West Michigan, trash generation from Ottawa, Kent, Allegan and Muskegon counties totaled 3.8 million cubic yards last year, and Baas expects that number to reach 4 million cubic yards in the near future.

Moreover, Kent County’s waste-to-energy facility, which helps divert waste from landfills, is running out of capacity, Baas said. The county-owned facility operated by **Covanta Kent Inc.** converts roughly 200,000 tons of trash per year into nearly \$9 million worth of electricity, according to the county.

That’s where the concept for the sustainable business park comes into play. Instead of investing in additional capacity for the waste-to-energy facility or expanding the Kent County landfill system, Baas hopes to create a space for startups and other companies to develop and house their recycling technology. After gaining support for the Imagine Trash campaign, Baas wants to create a master plan for developing the park and then court companies that are working in gasification, anaerobic digestion or other innovative waste-processing technologies.

Kent County DPW’s announcement of the sustainable business park and the Imagine Trash program comes on the heels of a new, local economic impact report that found businesses and residents throw away approximately \$368 million in usable material per year. While companies are increasing their recycling and sustainability efforts, Baas advocates for the solution to be a collaborative effort involving residents, businesses and government officials.

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Thank You Livingston Christian Schools

Two teachers from Livingston Christian Schools in Whitmore Lake wondered how to make a unit on recycling relevant for their 1st and 2nd grade students. They called Recycle Livingston for ideas. Julie Cribley, the director, suggested that they hold a shoe drive to help donate shoes to people in developing countries. On May 14th, Holly Kimberlin and Denise White came with their students to donate shoes that the families of their school collected. The students wanted to do something to give back to the community. Recycle Livingston would like to thank the teachers and students of Livingston Christian Schools for putting recycling into action.



Pictured above are starting in the front row: Taylor Wiegard, Madigan Neatham, Ezzie Martin, Brock Bushey, Caylin Lindsay, Peyton Weitzel, Chase Abila, Braylon Jenson, Harley Hatt. Back row: Mrs. Kimberlin, Jake Bury, Dexter Shimabery, Amelia Slater, Zedekai Martin, Delanie Autry, Olivia Paul, Logan Martin, Kolten Spirl, Reece Rollins, Mrs. White.



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