

"one man's trash..."

Solid Waste District of La Porte County

Your guide to reducing, reusing, and recycling

Celebrate America Recycles Day

Every November since 1997, America Recycles Day has reminded us why we need to recycle. This November 15, join people across the country in celebrating recycling. After all, recycling allows us to create jobs, save energy, conserve resources, and reduce pollution!

This America Recycles Day, take the #BeRecycled Pledge to:

- Recycle at home, work, school, and on-the-go.
- Buy products manufactured with recycled content.

- Educate and encourage friends, family, and neighbors to take the #BeRecycled Pledge.

To celebrate America Recycles Day locally, join us for our annual Plastic Bag Exchange. To find out what is and is not currently accepted for recycling, please visit our website at www.solidwastedistrict.com and download our printable Recycling Guide.

To learn more about America Recycles Day and to take the #BeRecycled Pledge, visit www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org.

Join us for our annual



219.326.0014 | solidwastedistrict.com

PLASTIC BAG EXCHANGE

Bring your plastic bags to one of our recycling events and we will trade you a reusable bag to use in the future

November Events

Tuesday 11/12
Al's Supermarket
La Porte

Wednesday 11/13
Al's Supermarket
Karwick

Thursday 11/14
Al's Supermarket
Franklin Street

Saturday 11/16
Wanatah Town Hall

All events are 10am-4pm, while supplies last. Plastic bags and plastic films can be brought year round to our office located at 2857 W. State Road 2, La Porte.



Turner Talks Trash

from the Executive Director's Desk

Renovation of the new and improved Zigler Road Green Waste Site is now complete!

At the Zigler Road Green Waste Site, you can drop off leaves, grass clippings, brush, and logs, and we will transform them into nutrient-rich compost and useful mulch. La Porte County residents can drop off yard waste at no charge at the site, which is located north of the Fairgrounds, across from NIPSCO, at 724 Zigler Road in La Porte. Businesses may also drop off yard waste but will be charged a tipping fee. Green waste is currently being accepted Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The site is closed on Sundays.

If you collect your yard waste in the large paper yard waste bags available at home improvement stores, they do not need to be emptied because the bags are compostable. However, you must empty all plastic bags or bins that you use to haul your leaves or clippings; you must take the bags and containers home to reuse or dispose. Leave only yard waste, please. NO trash is accepted at this facility.

All loads will be inspected before you are allowed to drop off your yard waste. Call Vince Sherman at 219-363-8962 with any questions. Please remember that the Westville Correctional Center compost site is now closed. Thank you!

Clay

"AUTUMN IS A SECOND SPRING
WHEN EVERY LEAF IS A FLOWER." ~ ALBERT CAMUS

Kudos to 4-H Club members at the fair!

We would like to give a loud shout-out to the awesome La Porte County 4-H Club members who helped us recycle at the fair this summer. During the fair, these wonderful young people went out each day and collected the recycling from over 30 bins. Participating groups included the Junior Leaders, ATV Safety Project members, and Shooting Sports members.

The Shooting Sports 4-H Club began the project years ago, and this year they passed the torch to the Junior Leaders and ATV Safety Project Club. If you know any of the young people in these groups, please be sure to thank them for helping us all recycle at the fair!



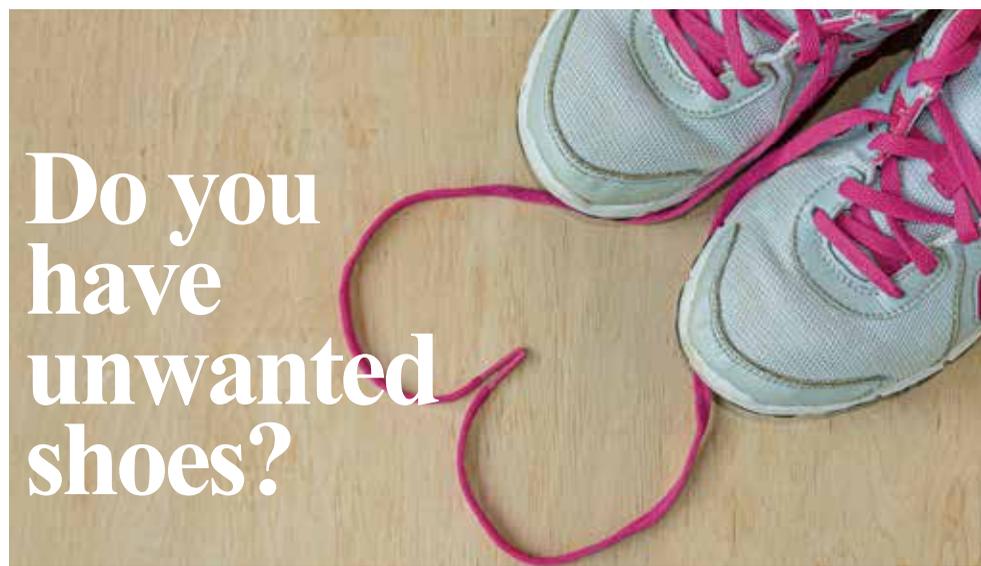
Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Michigan City, Marquette Mall, West
Parking Lot

Household Hazardous Waste Only

Household hazardous waste includes household, automotive, and lawn and garden chemicals. Batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paints, sharps, medications, motor oil, cooking oil, and ammunition are also accepted. NO electronics, appliances, or tires will be accepted.

Mark your
calendar!

Last
collection
for 2019!



We'll take them! The District has partnered with Krueger Middle School environmental science students to collect unwanted shoes to be given to people who need them. Donated shoes will be sorted by the students and sent to the Indianapolis-based Changing Footprints organization. This group will clean the reusable shoes and recycle the others. The students will also research what kinds of shoes are needed here in La Porte County. Changing Footprints will then exchange the ones the students collected for the types of shoes that are needed locally.

What a great student project! For more information, please call us at 219-326-0014.



Are your old cell phones living in a junk drawer of sadness?

Is there a cell phone graveyard lurking in your home? Maybe it's a box or a drawer where you put old devices just in case you need them. They were once so valuable to you, but now they just sit there.

In the United States, nearly 1.4 billion cell phones are sold every year, with average Americans swapping theirs out every two years. Smartphones today not only contain all of our personal data, but they also serve as our computer, camera, wallet, video screen, and music player. They are so advanced and valuable to us that it is no wonder many people find them intimidating to repair and painful to discard.

In the eight-minute video "Why Your Old Phones Collect in a Junk Drawer of Sadness," conservationist and visiting University of California professor Dr. M. Sanjayan notes, "Technology today is innovating so fast and built in such a way that it actually promotes disposability. But as people are becoming more aware, companies are becoming more sensitive to this issue."

Companies such as iFixit are providing video tutorials and other resources on how

consumers can fix devices themselves. Oftentimes replacing a battery or cracked screen is all that is needed. Manufacturers such as Fairphone are experimenting with designing modular phones that can be easily taken apart and repaired or updated, while other businesses are researching new types of batteries.

So what should you do with the items in your cell phone junk drawer of sadness? First, make sure you completely remove your personal data from all devices. If your phone works and is less than five years old, it can likely be traded in for a new phone or sold on websites such as Gazelle or through local online marketplaces. Never place a cell phone into the trash. Please recycle older or broken cell phones, as they contain many hazardous and useful chemicals that can be used to make new phones. Cell phones are accepted with other electronics for recycling. To find the cell phone recycling drop-off location nearest you, visit www.solidwastedistrict.com/cell-phones.

To watch the video, go to <https://youtu.be/eyUqqA8wA0A>.

Vaping creates new types of waste

Chances are, you've seen someone "vaping" or you've done it yourself. Like most new products and technologies, vaping comes with its own types of waste. If you vape, be sure you dispose of all of your vaping waste properly:

- **Disposable e-cigarettes:** Both used and unused devices should go to a household hazardous waste event because they contain a battery.
- **Pods:** Empty pods can go into the trash. Full or partially full pods must be disposed at a household hazardous waste event because the nicotine liquid is concentrated. (In concentrated form, nicotine can be poisonous if ingested.) Don't litter the caps from pods!
- **E-liquid:** Empty e-liquid refill bottles can be recycled in some cases. Empty plastic bottles can be rinsed and recycled if they are marked with a #1 or #2 on the bottom; otherwise, toss them into the trash. Empty glass bottles can be rinsed and recycled (remove and discard cap and dropper). Unused e-liquid must be disposed at a household hazardous waste event because it contains nicotine.
- **Batteries:** All reusable vaping devices contain rechargeable batteries, usually lithium-ion. Lithium-ion batteries have been implicated in fires on airplanes, in trucks, and at disposal facilities. If you have a vaping device with removable batteries, follow these steps:
 - Remove dead batteries that can no longer be recharged.
 - Tape both ends to cover the contact points and reduce the risk of fire.
 - Keep batteries separate from other metals.
 - Dispose of them at a household hazardous waste mobile collection or at one of the District's battery recycling drop-off sites. For a complete list and additional information, visit www.solidwastedistrict.com/batteries.

- **Devices:** Broken and unwanted devices should be disposed as electronic waste.



What is vaping?

"Vaping" is the term used instead of "smoking" to describe the use of e-cigarettes of various types. An e-cigarette is an electronic device in which a battery heats and vaporizes a liquid (e-liquid or e-juice), turning it into an aerosol that is inhaled. The aerosol is not hot, but it does result in an exhaled puff or cloud of vapor. There are hundreds of varieties of e-cigarettes — some look like traditional cigarettes, others look like pens or boxes, and some look like USB drives. There are thousands of flavored e-liquid options, most of which contain nicotine.

Stop junk mail!

We all do it. We go to the mailbox and then stand next to the recycling bin and toss in all of the junk mail. Although recycling your junk mail is better than throwing it in the trash, preventing it in the first place is even better. Why waste all of the resources and money to make, transport, and recycle that mail? The easiest solution is to call the phone number listed in unwanted mail and ask to be removed from that specific mailing list.

For a systematic and long-lasting approach, check out the strategies to reduce or eliminate unwanted mail at these websites:

- www.directmail.com/mail_preference
- www.dmachoice.org
- www.optoutprescreen.com
- www.ecocycle.org/junkmail
- www.stopwaste.org
- www.cityofattleboro.us/252/Junk-Mail-Reduction



Turning your “trash” into someone else’s “treasure”

Look around your house. Do you see items which are still in good condition that you don't use or need? Instead of continuing to stare at them, offer them to neighbors by posting them on Freecycle. Freecycle is a way to give away — or get — free items, keeping them in use and out of landfills. You can offer up any items you would like to give away, search among items posted by others, or tell people what you are seeking. Best of all, everything listed is FREE!



There are many local groups to choose from, including those in La Porte, Michigan City, Chesterton, and Valparaiso. To find a Freecycle network near you, go to www.freecycle.org.



Making sure we all get home safely

In 2018, 42 trash and recycling collection workers died on the job. According to the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), half of these deaths resulted from a worker being struck by a motorist, followed by collisions and roll-over incidents.

“The industry’s safety record in 2018 was not acceptable, with at least 19 more worker fatalities than in 2017,” noted David Biderman, SWANA’s Executive Director and CEO. “Most of last year’s increase involved collection workers, despite the industry’s success in getting states to pass Slow Down to Get Around laws and efforts by SWANA and others to improve safety on the route, as well as at post-collection facilities.”

Slow Down to Get Around laws, which have been passed by Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and 27 other states so far, require that motorists slow down and move over when they see a collection vehicle on its route. These laws are similar to those requiring motorists to move over when they see emergency vehicles pulled over to the side of the road or school buses preparing to stop.

These laws don’t just protect collection workers — they also protect you and your family. Last year, 101 members of the public were killed in incidents that involved the trash and recycling industry. About



three-quarters of the victims were drivers or passengers of vehicles that collided with collection vehicles.

Sadly, distracted driving causes many of these accidents. The easiest way to ensure that you and collection workers get home safely each evening is to keep your eyes on the road.

Follow these steps to avoid an accident when you see a trash or recycling truck stopped or slowed:

- Slow down when approaching a garbage or recycling truck making its rounds. Stop if necessary to allow workers to do their jobs.
- Look for workers before attempting to pass the truck.
- Check for traffic approaching from the opposite direction before attempting to pass the truck.
- Avoid distractions like texting, talking on the phone, adjusting your entertainment system, or programming your GPS while driving near a garbage truck.

Free Educational Programs for Area Schools

The Lorax (PreK-2nd)
 Superhero Sorters (K-2nd)
 Paper Recycling (K-12th)
 Worms: Earth’s Recyclers (K+)
 Eco-Sculptures (K-12th)
 Edible Landfill (K-12th)
 Plastic, Plastic Everywhere! (2nd-5th)
 Garbology (4th+)
 Smart Consumers – Chocolate (5th+)
 Smart Consumers – Clothing (5th+)
 EnviroJeopardy (6th-12th)

Call 219-326-0014 or email sgeeburns@solidwastedistrict.com to sign up.



**LAPORTE COUNTY
 RECYCLING**
 Solid Waste District

Love living with less

Would you like to spend less time deciding what to wear, less time looking for the things you need, and less money buying THINGS in the first place? Would you

like to have more time and money to achieve your goals and pursue your dreams? With his book, *The Minimalist Home* (WaterBrook, 2018, 239 pages), Joshua Becker provides the system and tools you need to do this and more.

In the book, minimalism is defined as “the intentional promotion of things we most value and the removal of anything that distracts us from them.” In a word, this means “optimizing” your possessions to achieve your desired goals. He differentiates minimalism from organization. If you organize your possessions, you will eventually deal with those items again. If you minimize, then some items leave your house forever; you will not have to think about them again. This allows you to move on, focusing on the next stage of your life.

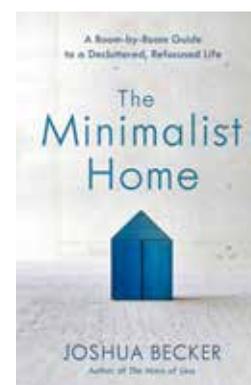
The author believes, “there is more joy to be found in owning less than we can ever find in accumulating more” and that “owning less creates an opportunity to live more.” While he acknowledges there are other books on the subject, he promotes his

“Becker Method” as a way to divide the process into manageable sections, see the benefits right away, and build momentum before deciding the fate of those sentimental

items that you don’t use and possibly have not even seen in years.

Becker advises starting in spaces like living rooms, bedrooms, clothes closets, and bathrooms before tackling more difficult areas, like the kitchen, dining room, office, storage areas, garage, and yard. He encourages you to handle each item and consider how you came to own it. Do you need it? Does it have aesthetic or sentimental value? Do the benefits of owning it exceed the burden? According to the author, “If you’re honest about the relative weights of the benefits you get from your possessions and the burdens they place upon you, I believe you’ll decide that many of your possessions really aren’t worth holding on to.”

Becker encourages his readers to sell, donate, and recycle as many items as possible. However, he acknowledges that some things will end up heading to a landfill. He writes, “Let your regret about how much you have to throw away reinforce your determination not to buy so much in the future.”



Credit: Sullivan Photography

Curbside Recycling Schedule

- A** City of La Porte – South of Hwy. 2 and West of Monroe (Hwy. 4); North of Hwy. 2 and West of Hwy. 35
- B** City of La Porte – East of Hwy. 4 and South of Hwy. 2, including Kankakee Township; East of Hwy. 35 and North of Hwy. 2 to Brighton Street
- C** City of La Porte – East of Hwy. 35 and North of Brighton Street; Town of Westville; New Durham Estates Mobile Home Community; Cass Township; Dewey Township; Hanna Township; Prairie Township
- D** Clinton Township; Noble Township; Scipio Township; Town of Wanatah
- E** Johnson Township; Lincoln Township; Pleasant Township; Union Township; Washington Township
- F** Michigan City – West of Karwick Road; Sheridan Beach; Pottawattamie Park; Village Green
- G** Michigan City – East of Karwick Road; Springfield Township; Long Beach; Michiana Shores; Shoreland Hills
- H** Coolspring Township; New Durham Township (excluding the Town of Westville and New Durham Estates); Weatherstone Village; Terrace Acres
- I** Center Township
- J** Galena Township; Hudson Township; Wills Township; Trail Creek (Michigan City); Rolling Prairie Mobile Home Park

Recycle Toter Reminders:

Place at curb by 6 a.m. of pickup day.
 Locate toter at least 4 feet from items such as mailboxes, trees, or parked vehicles.
 If recycling pickup is missed, please call 219-326-0014 within 24 hours. We will get a truck back out to you!

NOTE: Township is outside of City limits. Never remove toter from assigned address.

October						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
		B	C	D	E	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	F	G	H	I	J	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	A	B	C	D	E	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	F	G	H	I	J	
27	28	29	30	31		
	A	B	C	D		

November						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
					E	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	F	G	H	I	J	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	A	B	C	D	E	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	F	G	H	I	J	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	A	B	C	Holiday No Service	D	E

December						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	F	G	H	I	J	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	A	B	C	D	E	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	F	G	H	I	J	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	A	B	Holiday No Service	C	D	E
29	30	31				
	F	G				



LAPORTE COUNTY RECYCLING

Solid Waste District

District Board Members

- Councilman Don Przybylinski – Chair
- Commissioner Sheila Matias – Vice Chair
- Commissioner Dr. Vidya Kora
- Mayor Mark Krentz
- Mayor Ron Meer
- Councilman Mike Mollenhauer
- Commissioner Rich Mrozinski

Citizen's Advisory Committee

- Justin Kiel – Chair
- Tom Larson – Vice Chair
- Paul Brooks
- Juli Charlesworth
- Amy Feikes
- Jim Irwin
- Jim Micheals
- Jennifer Olson
- Dick Reel

Staff

- Clay Turner, Executive Director
- Lisa Woodson, Office Manager
- Nancy McVay, Recycling Coordinator
- Sacha Gee-Burns, Environmental Educator and Public Outreach Coordinator
- Lyn DeGroote, Controller
- Ryan Kiel, Public Site Coordinator
- Scott Lynn, Program Coordinator
- Vincent Sherman, Compost Site Project Coordinator

www.facebook.com/LPCoRecycling
www.twitter.com/LPCoRecycling
www.youtube.com/LPCoRecycling
www.lpcorecycling.tumblr.com
 Green E-Club: <http://eepurl.com/eiyHs>



We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Solid Waste District of La Porte County
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www.solidwastedistrict.com

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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.

Thinking ahead

You are probably just beginning to think about the holidays. However, before you know it, they will have come and gone. When you are finished making merry around your Christmas tree this winter, remember to "treecycle" it. Bare, real Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Zigler Road Green Waste Site. Collected trees will be turned into mulch or compost. That's one less thing that will be headed to the landfill.



Credit: FatCamera / iStock / Getty Images

Curbside yard waste pickup questions?

City of La Porte Residents
 Contact the LaPorte City Street Department at 219-362-2477.
 Michigan City Residents
 Contact Michigan City Central Services at 219-873-1530.