

# Center Stream

*Keeping our members current on Kaufman County's waste stream*

A Service of Environmental Co-op

Winter, 2007-2008



## KART and Kaufman County Senior Citizens Center serves the community

Soon there will be anniversary celebrations at The Old Depot by the Railroad Tracks in Terrell, better known for the two community service industries it houses; Kaufman Area Rural Transit (KART) on one side, and Kaufman County Senior Citizens Center on the other. It's not possible to separate the two.

In 2008, KART will mark 15 years of public transportation service to the community in The Old Depot, while Omega Hawkins, General Manager of KART, Executive Director of the Kaufman County Senior Citizens Center, and community servant extraordinaire, will celebrate 29 years with Kaufman County Senior Citizen Center; just exactly the kind of thing that happens when your children run off to school—you go out and find other people to nurture.

"My children, 18 months apart, went to school the same year," Hawkins said, "one in kindergarten, the other in first grade. So, I started volunteering. This is where it led me," Hawkins said, her hands spread and shoulders shrug to encompass the people, the room, the building.

And led her, it did. Co-op members might recognize Omega Hawkins for her association as an Environmental Co-op past Board Director after which she moved on to other areas of volunteer work. Recently resigned from Seagoville Senior Housing, she currently spends her extra time on the Crandall Independent School District School Board.

The public transportation KART was born in 1988 as public transportation for seniors only. It continued to grow through the help of funding dollars via Public Transportation 5311 Rule, and the FT2, which allows KART to receive subsidies to place these vehicles in service.

"With a fleet of 20 vehicles now in service," Omega said, "and because we are funded by Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) which we have to match 20%, KART is required to have alternative fuel vehicles. Last fiscal year, September 2006 thru August, 2007, our buses altogether, the gasoline, diesel and propane, drove 600,000 miles, making 50,000 trips."



Omega Hawkins, General Manager of KART and Executive Director of Kaufman County Senior Citizens Center in the Old Depot by the Railroad Tracks

Hawkins is happy to show off The Old Depot whenever she has an opportunity. "When we were able to buy the Old Depot from Union Pacific, we got to work. We just love to recycle old buildings, and we're so proud of this historical building. If you notice, we don't have any signage; being a historical building, they wouldn't have had signage that long ago."

The Old Depot was completely renovated and has thrived as the offices for KART and Kaufman County Senior Citizen's Center. Together, they have established strong bonds with the community through extensive service to it. KART moves its passengers throughout Kaufman and Rockwall Counties, and transports to adjacent counties for medical purposes in two propane vehicles, three diesel, and fifteen gasoline buses. But using alternative fuel vehicles has not been without its problems. Fueling and storage problems have been ongoing.

(Cont'd Page 2, See KART)

(KART, Cont'd from Page 1)

“There is a challenge with refueling propane vehicles because of the limited number of companies that carry propane in this area,” Hawkins explained. “We’re under contract with local propane distributors to provide the fuel; but we have to take the buses to them, and they have to do the refueling. We’ve had to learn as we go along. We could never function without being subsidized.”

KART works contractually with local nursing homes to carry wheelchair and ambulatory patients because of the vehicle lift capabilities.

Kaufman County Senior Citizens Center coordinates *Meals on Wheels*, and provides an *Ensure Program* for seniors who need nutrition provided in this way. Their *Energy Aid Program* is a pass-through funding program that invests in helping people with energy bills as selective aid. The Old Depot is also the meeting place for a *Kaufman County Alzheimer’s Support Group* that meets twice each month.

Their newest program, *211 Program for Kaufman County*, is still in the building stage. It is a thick state-wide database of information and referrals from which they can put people in touch with Kaufman County agencies that can help them for any number of particular needs.

The Old Depot by the Railroad Tracks in Terrell is more than just a Texas landmark and historical building. It manifests selfless community interests at its best.



### Emlyn Miller is just one of those people

Few people work as volunteers. Fewer still *continue* to work as volunteers. Most few of all are still involved year after year, just because they believe in something.

Em Miller, Precinct 2 Co-op Board Director, is one of those people whose ongoing support and volunteerism during many of our programs and events has collectively represented the Co-op through thick and thin. He uses his own time and energy to benefit an organization that needs strong leaders. **Thank you,** Emlyn Miller, for all your time, all your support, all you do for Environmental Co-op!



### Now is just-the-right-time to compost

When isn’t it a good time to start a compost pile? Any time is the right time. Start now.

It’s the cold winter season that spills leaves to the ground and invites gardening enthusiasts to consider them. Do I bag them up and throw them out with the trash? Do I hope they’ll blow away?

Instead, try running a mower over them to help mulch them. It makes them easier to gather and accelerates the decomposing process.

Environmental Co-op will host a state-certification 16-hour Master Composters Class on February 9 and 16. Call Environmental Co-op for details, 972-524-0007.

### Disposing of unused household drugs

That was the day, when we were advised to flush unused, unwanted drugs down the toilet. It did the job – it cleaned out the medicine cabinet and it felt good to rid ourselves of old, ineffective drugs, never to consider them again.



But, now we find we have to wonder what happens when drugs, all kinds of drugs, combinations of drugs, enter our wastewater stream, now a *in our face* problem. So much so, in fact, that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been working to figure out what the best practice would be for their disposal.

Currently that method is: Place the container contents into a piece of aluminum foil, fold it around the pills and dispose the whole thing in your household trash. The foil entombs the material and it will be taken to a landfill where the landfill’s heavy rubber liner will keep the residue from leaching into our groundwater.

We now have to start to re-educate ourselves about what ultimately happens to those little multi-colored pills. The problem of household drugs seeping into and contaminating our wastewater streams is not going to go away by drinking bottled water. All water is contaminated from the ground.

## What happens to *fine* money?

Have you ever wondered what happens to money collected from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) from fines assessed for violations of state environmental regulations? Bluebonnet Resource & Development (RC&D) can tell you. They are the vehicle for distributing these funds.

## Bluebonnet Resource & Development – Little known source of funds

It's not often that you find money sitting on the sidewalk—dollars needing to be spent. In fact, Bluebonnet Resource & Development Cooperative, Inc. (Bluebonnet RC&D) seeks out places for dollars just waiting to be distributed.

Such was the case with over \$80,000 of Supplemental Environmental Program (SEP) money held in reserve by Bluebonnet RC&D, a non-profit organization which represents, and is represented by, 10 northeast Texas counties.

“People think we're a garden club,” said Dennis Reger, Coordinator of Bluebonnet RC&D.

In fact, Bluebonnet RC&D is a non-profit organization approved to receive SEP funds and serve as holder of those funds which are targeted to serve communities, individuals and organizations who meet certain criteria.

SEP funds are received from industrial environmental fines—fines leveraged by TCEQ against ‘permitted’ entities and cities that violated their permits. The fines could have been assessed for serious environmental violations, such as dumping, for insufficient record-keeping, or misrepresentation. They work through the United States Department Of Agriculture (USDA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

As an approved grantor, Bluebonnet RC&D receives 50% of the accessed fine and uses the funds to provide for a variety of community-served programs such as septic system repair or replacement, well plugging, household hazardous waste, illegal dumping, tire cleanup, to name a few; funds that cannot be used to correct problems that created the fine, nor can they be used to improve property of the grant-holders, or property in which they have ownership.

In 2006, Bluebonnet RC&D received and distributed over 650 Dell printers to schools, non-profit and 501(c)3 organizations as Gifts-In-Kind in partnership with Dell Computers, valued in excess of \$60,000, and also, in 2007, distributed over 500 printers. Also, in partnership with Office Depot, Bluebonnet RC&D distributed over \$3,000 worth of school supplies to requesting school districts.

Represented by 10 counties, Bluebonnet RC&D finds itself in a unique position of allocating funds for community improvements. And, as holder of those state funds, it is constantly seeking a better way of spending dollars.

Reger, said, “We have SEP funds to use for waste water treatment—septic tanks—for below poverty level individuals who qualify. We need active participants to help us find these people so that we can provide the aid.”

Leaking or non-functioning septic tanks are subject to \$200 fine per day if repairs to leaking septic tanks are not made.

Bluebonnet RC&D has been instrumental to Environmental Co-op through past funding for the Resource Directory & Recycling Guide, and providing pass-through funding of the Dell Printers Program, to name a few. The Dell Printer Program is still open to any 501(c)3 organization or school. Anyone who may have an interest can call the Co-op for more information.

## Environmental Co-op hosts December regional Bluebonnet RC&D meeting



The Co-op hosted the December meeting of Bluebonnet RC&D at the Kaufman County Senior Citizens Center/KART Old Depot by the Railroad Tracks. The event was represented by eight North Central Texas counties. The meetings are workshops to discuss distribution of SEP fines received from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality benefiting an eight county area in North Central Texas.

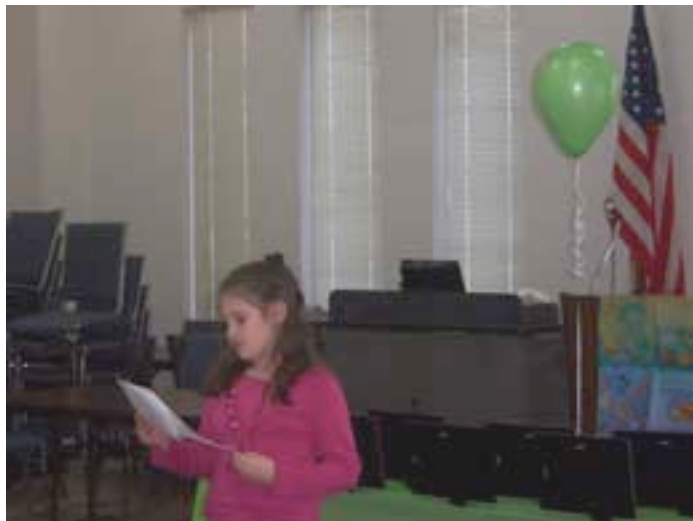
### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OP'S 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Ten years is a mile-marker. We want you to join us. If you can't make it for the 6:30 p.m. dinner, come for the meeting. We just want you there!**

**Watch for details.**

## Texas Recycles Day promoted contest

Jasmine Mann from Kemp Primary School wrote a winning essay for the “*Why Everyone Should Recycle*” contest promoted by Environmental Co-op in partnership with Kaufman County Library for Kaufman County 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade school students. Winners received a certificate of accomplishment and fleece jackets. All participants received ice cream divots contributed by Dairy Queen of Kaufman.



Jasmine Mann reading her essay

### “Why Everyone Should Recycle”

By Jasmine Mann  
Kemp Primary 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Americans represent only 5% of the world’s population, but generate 30% of the world’s garbage. In 1987, Americans generated almost enough trash to fill a 24-lane highway one foot deep from Boston to Los Angeles. Some recent statistics show that Americans have taken recycling to heart and have adjusted their habits accordingly.

We all know that litter is a health hazard and can harm animals. It can make a place look ugly and can be smelly. So the people who recycle **really** care about our earth. The top three recycling categories in the year 2000 were yard trimmings at 56.9%, paper at 42.8%, and metals at 35.9%. Only about one-fourth of the paper, aluminum, iron and steel used in the world is recovered for recycling.

We could help our environment by recycling at home and at school. We need recycling bins for cans, paper, glass and plastic. We could save enough electricity to operate a TV for 3 hours by recycling one aluminum can. But the most important reason for recycling is to show the Creator of the earth that we appreciate our home. **DO YOU RECYCLE?**

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Try increasing page margins to ¾” in order to save more paper than you would realize!**

## Texas Recycles Day cleanup results



### Trinity River Trash Bash

The Kaufman County Trinity River Trash Bash September event collected 765 lbs of trash and recyclable material along the Trinity River in Crandall. This event, sponsored each year by Environmental Co-op, partners with *Keep Kaufman County Beautiful* and the City of Crandall, and is supported by the *Texas Waterway Cleanup Program* in partnership between *Keep Texas Beautiful* and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The program assists community organizations, scout and youth groups, schools, local governments, businesses, and concerned citizens across the state as they host inland freshwater area cleanups and environmental education activities.



Crandall High School cleanup student volunteers (left to right) Rudy Cortez, Brandon Mobley, Middle School Principal Gail Barnes, Kaylea Wells and Cassie Girouard

### Cedar Creek Cleanup

This event, sponsored by The Greater Cedar Creek Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, *Keep Texas Beautiful*, Texas Dept. of Transportation, KCKL 95.9 FM Radio, Cedar Creek Pilot, Food Rite IGA, Henderson County Precincts 1 & 2, The Monitor, Gunn Barrel City, Tarrant Regional Water District. Environmental Co-op collected 875 lbs during the Cedar Creek Cleanup September *Texas Recycles Day* event.

TEXAS  
WATERWAY  
CLEANUP  
PROGRAM



## How do you measure recycling success?



Sorting and processing at Vista Fibers Recycling Facility in Garland, Texas

Mid America Recycling Company hosted a grand opening at the Garland Single Stream Facility, Vista Fibers, their newest recycling and sorting facility located in Garland, Texas. The facility processes residential recyclables at a rate of 25 tons per hour, incorporating latest optical sorting technology.

In the 150,000 sq. feet building newspaper, cardboard, plastics, glass, steel and aluminum cans is sorted. Mid America Recycling, one of the nation's largest recycling companies in the U.S. processes 1.5 billion pounds of recycled products annually at their facilities.



Vista Fibers: Bundled plastic milk jugs ready for transport to a buyer



Living Earth: Board directors and staff from Environmental Co-op toured recycling plants as guests of the North Central Texas Recycling Alliance, which sponsored visits to Vista Fibers Recycling Co. and to Living Earth, a Dallas composting facility, shown above.

## Co-op Calendar *For more information or for volunteer opportunities, call the Co-op office at 972-524-0007.*

Feb 9 and 16 - 16 hr. Master Composter State certification course; Co-op office and at First Christian Church, 405 N. Adelaide St., Terrell, 9 am - 5pm
Feb 19 - E-Business Meeting, NUCOR, Terrell, 10 am
February 20 - Organic Co-op Meeting, Terrell; 6:00 pm
March 11-12 - Environmental Odyssey, Kaufman ISD and Terrell ISD 2 <sup>nd</sup> graders, Terrell, 9 am - 2 pm
<b>March 13 - 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting, 6:30 dinner and meeting</b>
March 18 - E-Business Advisory Council, Place to be determined, Terrell, 10 am
March TBA - Garden Booth at Wal-Mart Electronic Recycling Event at Wal-Mart Parking Lot

## Place to recycle your paper and cardboard



By placing your recyclable paper and cardboard in the Terrell City Hall recycling bin *you help us help you!* A paper recycling bin is located at Terrell City Hall next to the Fire Department. This container is provided as a community service for your convenience in recycling paper and cardboard products. Remember, please break the cardboard boxes flat before placing them in the container and do not dispose of phone books in this container.



## Season of Change

**Donita Everett—**  
Members will recognize Donita Everett for the many hats she has worn throughout the past year. Please welcome Donita Everett, now, as she moves into the position of

Office Manager that Kathy Bates will vacate December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Pam Corder—** Texas Forestry Service

A Texas Forestry Service grant allowed the hiring of Pam Corder as an Urban Forester that will promote Urban Forestry in Kaufman County.



The program includes improving the understanding of the benefits of preserving existing tree cover, providing educational and technical assistance to local organizations in maintaining and expanding forest cover, providing organizations for urban forestry projects, implementing a tree planting program, promoting the establishment of demonstration projects to illustrate the benefits of forest cover, and enhancing technical skills of individuals involved in establishing or maintaining urban forest. Please welcome Pam Corder to the Co-op.

# Environmental Co-op supporters

Shiels  
Engineering, Inc.

GEOSCIENCE & ENGINEERING CONSULTING

PO Box 1199  
Kaufman, Texas 75142  
817-462-8112  
817-462-4888 Fax

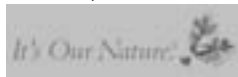


## *Environmental Co-op Resource Directory & Recycling Guide for Kaufman County*

Come by Environmental Co-op office to get the new 2007 *Environmental Co-op Resource Directory & Recycling Guide*. Available for free.

*A big thanks to NUCOR Building Systems for sponsoring the printing of our newsletter!*

**NUCOR Building Systems**  
600 Apache Trail  
Terrell, TX 75160



**A special THANKS to these businesses that supported the printing of Environmental Co-op Resource Directory & Recycling Guide for Kaufman County**

Madix, Inc.  
Shiels Engineering, Inc.  
U-Rent-It Sales & Service  
McHone Metal Fabrication, Inc.  
NUCOR Building Systems, Inc.  
Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative  
Wal-Mart Distribution Center of Terrell  
Bluebonnet Resource & Development Cooperative

**Environmental Co-op, a non-profit organization, has an opening on the Board of Directors. The position will replace and finish the recently vacated term of a resigned Board member.**

**Some Board involvement in programs is necessary. The Board of Directors meets on the third Thursday of each month. Dedication of approximately 4-5 hours each month would be required.**

**Your business card ad supports the Co-op for just \$25 per quarterly newsletter**



Life is like a piano, what you get out of it depends on how you play it.

*C. Michael Stevens*

11887 County Road 352  
Terrell, TX. 75161

(972) 551-3863  
(214) 770-3866 cell  
lafinca@peoplepc.com

### **Have Fun. Be Safe.**

*Anything's better than black eyed peas. I mean, is there anything better than black eyed peas?*



**RECIPE: Open bag. Rinse. Season. Boil. Eat. Spread the joy and recycle what's left by making your, I mean, sharing with parents, children and neighbors.**

**Count 2008 as a lucky year for all.**

**NOTICE: The City of Terrell will recycle/mulch your Christmas Trees at Ben Gill Park from December 26, 2007 through January 19, 2008. Drop the trees by the swimming pool area in the park. The mulch will be used around City parks.**

## Help the Co-op go paperless

It has been our endeavor at Environmental Co-op to send out as much information via the internet as possible in order to reduce waste along the paper stream. Most of our members like receiving the newsletter and notices over their email accounts. We continue to mail newsletters to those who don't.

But, it is a constant struggle to keep email accounts updated for so many members, and we can't do it unless you send us that information.

*Doing our part to reduce and reuse.*

## Kaufman Recycling Center

Located at East First North Street and Alton Street  
(From Hwy. 34 N. go N.W. on East First North and then  
North on Alton)

Open: Wednesday – Saturday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
For information call:  
City Hall – 972-932-2216  
City Public Works – 972-932-2216  
County Courthouse – 972-932-4331  
Recycling Center – 972-932-2161  
Pct. 1 Maintenance Barn – 972-932-3684

Materials accepted	Comments
Aluminum cans, tin cans	Should be rinsed
Newspaper, office paper, phone books, magazines	Can be mixed Cardboard also accepted
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	Oil and oi filters can only be recycled at the Pct. 1 Maintenance Barn at 600 N. Nash in Kaufman
Plastic bottles and jugs	Should be rinsed
Glass containers	Should be rinsed

Wood chips are available free of charge. You load.

## Terrell Citizen's Convenience Station

Located on CR 319  
(North of Terrell between FM 429 N. & Hwy. 34 N.)

Open: Wednesday & Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
For information call:  
City Hall – 972-551-6604  
Convenience Station – 972-551-6628  
Pct. 3 Maintenance Barn – 972-563-5362

Materials accepted	Comments
Aluminum cans, tin cans	Should be rinsed, can be mixed
Newspaper, office paper, phone books, magazines, paperback books	No cardboard or packing material
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	Oil and oil filters can be recycled at the Pct. 3 Maintenance Barn at 601 E. Nash St., Terrell
Plastic bottles and jugs	Should be rinsed
Brush	No larger than 4" diameter and 8' length; no wire or nails

Wood chips are available free of charge. You load.

## Kemp ECO-Station

Located at 6520 Plainview Drive off US 175  
(north side frontage road)

Hours of operation: Tuesday – Saturday 7:00 am – 3:30 pm  
For information call:  
Kaufman County Sub Courthouse – 903-498-3492, ext. 1  
ECO-Station – 903-498-4135

Materials accepted	Comments
Aluminum cans, tin cans	Should be rinsed, can be mixed
Newspaper, office paper, magazines, paperback books	Can be mixed Cardboard also accepted
Oil and oil filters IN SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY	At the ECO-Station
Plastic bottles and jugs	Should be rinsed
Brush	No larger than 4" diameter and 8' length; no wire or nails

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW)

Days of HHW disposal are Tuesday – Saturday  
from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Oil based paint (enamels) & thinners	Automotive Fluids
Pesticides, fertilizers	Pool and yard chemicals
Batteries	Household chemicals
Fluorescent light tubes	Craft and hobby supplies

**Not Accepted:** Business or medical waste; explosive or shock sensitive materials, smoke detectors or other radioactive material, compressed gas or explosives, including ammunition

**The response has been good as a result of e-mail notices to members who wanted to take the opportunity to renew membership and make tax deductible donations in 2007.**

**For those who do not choose to renew early, Membership Renewal invoices will be mailed out in late December 2007, payable before the**

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for  
March 13, 2008**



*Environmental Co-op  
Appreciates Your Support!*

## Solid Waste Questions? Find the Answers Here:

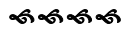
### Environmental Co-op

Marilyn May, Executive Director  
Donita Everett, Office Administrator  
John Ticer, Business Paper Recycling Coordinator  
Pam Corder, Urban Forester  
Phyllis Boerner, Programs  
P.O. Box 1833, 401 N. Adelaide St., Terrell, TX 75160  
972-524-0007 Phone, 972-551-0854 Fax  
[environmentalco-op@cebridge.net](mailto:environmentalco-op@cebridge.net)

### Information on the Web

[www.trashbusters.org](http://www.trashbusters.org)  
[www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us)  
[www.timetorecycle.com](http://www.timetorecycle.com)  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) (we are Region 6)  
[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)  
[www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)  
[www.texasgardener.com](http://www.texasgardener.com)  
[www.earleharrison.com](http://www.earleharrison.com) (Jr. Master Composter Program)

**Kaufman Trash & Recycling Center**  
972-932-2161



**Terrell Citizen's Convenience Center**  
972-551-6628

**Kemp ECO-Station**  
903-498-4135

**To report illegal dumping activity call: Kaufman County Law Enforcement Center - 972-932-4337**

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Environmental Co-op  
401 N. Adelaide St.  
P.O. Box 1833  
Terrell, TX 75160