

This news-
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Beautiful News

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

WINTER 2005



The Weigel Family was honored by KNOP-TV as the "Hero of the Week" for their work cleaning up over 2400 lbs of litter at a local interstate lake known as Maui Lake.



Changes to Recycling Trailers...
Check out the new options & find out what was behind the changes on page 2!

We all live 'downstream'.

I recently had the privilege of visiting the beautiful state of Florida to attend Keep America Beautiful's National Conference. The focus this year was on litter's impact on our water. I say 'our' water because water is a shared limited resource. We know that water, especially the fresh, potable kind, is limited and precious. We see it on the news and hear it from governmental and non-governmental agencies...Our Water Needs Protection. According to the EPA website, over 267 species of marine wildlife have been reported to have been entangled or to have ingested marine debris (ie. litter). The trends in marine litter show an increasing concentration of plastics. Animals can be killed by the litter

due to suffocation, exhaustion from a constricted limb, or from infection from the deep wounds caused by the tightening material. Animals may also starve to death as the plastic debris clogs their intestines and prevents them from obtaining proper nutrients. Toxic substances in litter (or dumped down the storm drain) can cause reproductive failure or death in fish, animals, or shellfish in a habitat. Living in western Nebraska may seem as far from the ocean as one can get, (besides maybe South Dakota), but the solutions to water pollution and debris are as close as the end of our driveways. Visit the EPA's website to learn more....

www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/debris/index

Quick tips

- Cut your six pack rings up before disposing of them, wildlife really does get caught in the holes.
- The only thing that does down a storm drain should be RAIN. Storm drains run directly into local streams and rivers.
- Keep your property clear of litter that may blow into waterways or wash down the storm drain.
- Pack Out Whatever You Pack in while recreating at water sites.
- Fisherman need to clear their tangled lines, lures, & nets out of the water before leaving a site.
- If you see illegal dumping, get the vehicle make and model and report them to local authorities.
- Join in the 2006 Great American Cleanup!

One Bad Apple Spoils the Bunch

We've all heard the phrase, one bad apple spoils the bunch. Unfortunately, this phrase has become relevant to our recycling trailers. KNPLCB volunteers have made four 24 hour drop-off trailers available to the public, to make recycling more convenient. These trailers have helped to almost double the amount of recyclables being brought in over the last year. However, a few 'bad apples' are ruining the system for the bunch. Most

recyclers know that their items should be sorted into the appropriate bins. We know that by sorting the items ourselves, the bins can be easily unloaded at the local recycling center. When bins are contaminated with an item that does not belong, the center staff must take an extra long time sorting through the materials. This extra time results in increased labor costs, which decreases the value of the items brought in for recycling. Your sorting time saves Regional Recycling a lot of labor time and allows them to continue accepting items for recycling. Please help us sort out the 'bad apples' and keep recycling an option for North Platte.

Recycling Trailer Etiquette

If your regular trailer is full, please use another trailer or return later.

Each trailer is emptied on a different day of the week and an empty trailer should be at the site within a matter of hours.

Follow Bin Labels. If it says cardboard, only cardboard should be placed in that bin.

Flatten boxes and crush bottles and cans to conserve space.

NEVER leave items outside of a full bin. Items outside of the bin are litter waiting to happen. Keep it clean.

Check your plastics for a number & sort accordingly. Look for the chasing arrow symbol. Bins are set up for milk jugs, beverage bottles, and all other #1 & #2 plastics to be kept separate.

Yellow top newspaper bins are for newsprint ONLY. No bags, junk mail, or trash please.



If nothing ever
changed, there'd
be no butterflies.

--Unknown



While our recycling
trailers no longer
accept newsprint...

You can still
recycle
newsprint...

Here's How!

Within City Limits

Call Municipal Light & Water for a FREE curbside Yellow Top bin to share with your neighbors.

Outside City Limits

Drop off your newsprint directly to Regional Recycling at 810 E. 7th Mon-Fri 9am-1pm or Sat. 9am-12pm

Changes to Recycling Trailers

We hear it all the time, "If you can make recycling easier, I'll do it." Short of stopping by your home to rinse and collect the items for you, we continue trying to make the local recycling system easier to use. Recycling is a lot like choosing not to litter, it is not always the most convenient option, but it is clearly the best option. In essence, we have to continually make minor changes to the collection system to make it a cleaner, easier system for public use.

A recent caller asked me if I had made the changes to the recycling trailer system in order to justify my job. If not job justification, a bit of 'change justification' seems necessary at this time to answer the looming question...Why'd you do that!? Let us clarify what the changes were and why we chose to make them.

Over the last couple of years, we've had many phone calls letting us know that our trailers were full or gone. This was, understandably, very frustrating for people who had taken the time to bring their recyclables in. The question then became, how do we maximize the time our trailers are at their host site and in service. A few frustrated recyclers even left their recyclables at the site with or without the trailer being present. These items were taken up by the wind and became neighborhood litter. The items that were most likely to be left outside of the bins were cardboard and plastic. It was clear that we needed more bin space for these items. It was clear that the trailers needed to be emptied on a regular basis. In response, we make every effort to haul the trailers on the same day of the week, once per week.

This brought us to our second dilemma, how do we service the trailers once a week and still keep them available to the public to use? Depending on how well the public has done in sorting their recyclables, the trailers may take an entire day to empty at the recycling center. We decided it would work best if a volunteer could haul the full trailer in to Regional Recycling to be emptied and take an empty trailer back to the collection site immediately. In order to do this, all of the trailers had to accept the same items. This would decrease the work our volunteer had to do while also reducing the trailer 'servicing' time to about an hour once a week as opposed to a day or two.

A little research also revealed that more newsprint was being collected at our trailers than through the curbside yellow topped newspaper bins provided FREE by the city. This was a strange discovery indeed— as callers, friends, family, and avid supporters alike had told me they would recycle if only we had curbside pick-up. The city offers curbside pickup of both used oil and newsprint. The Public Service Department picks the yellow topped bins up once a month (with a few delays due to holidays) and hauls them to Regional Recycling. Yet, here we were, filling up much needed cardboard and plastic space with an item that already had its own curbside receptacle. In essence, we were duplicating services. The yellow topped bins are available for anyone to use for newsprint recycling. If you don't need a whole bin, share with a neighbor.

After reviewing the issues, it was decided to streamline the system by making all trailers accept exactly the same items: plastic #1, plastic #2, cardboard, aluminum, and steel cans. Magazines, newspaper, and white or pastel papers must be taken directly to Regional Recycling during their business hours. Regional Recycling is open Monday-Friday 9am-1pm and Saturdays from 9am-12pm. The number of bins for each item on the trailers was decided by a survey of the host sites and Regional Recycling. A yellow topped newsprint bin can be obtained for your home by calling Municipal Light & Water at 535-6702. Be sure to ONLY place newspaper in your bin, as the city will remove bins if they have a continual contamination problem. If you have a bin, understand that others may drop off their newsprint in your bin.

The good news is that we have almost doubled our recycling efforts in the last year. North Platte residents are really working to make recycling happen in their community. Doubling our recycling load leads to changes in how we must set up our recycling system. We know that our system will need to be continually improved and revised to meet community needs. We continue to welcome your comments on the new system and what is working and what is not. As we discover the pros and cons of the new system, we will continue to work to solve those problems to make recycling easier for you to utilize. In the meanwhile, you can help us keep these trailers in service by following the etiquette rules on page 1. We know that recycling, just like brushing your teeth and driving the speed limit, takes a little extra time and effort on your part and we appreciate it. We hope you will continue your efforts because you know that **recycling is the right way to handle your waste.**

Thank you to our 2005 Sponsors & Members!

Sustaining Members (\$1000+/yr.)

City of North Platte
 Lincoln County
 Wal-Mart Super Center
 Wal-Mart Distribution Center #4078

Sponsoring Members (\$500-999/yr.)

1st National Bank

Supporting Members (\$100-\$499/yr)

KX104/KODY
 Wells Fargo Bank
 Ann Clark
 Red Willow County
 Carroll & Son Auto Repair

Non-Monetary Support

Do-It Center
 Huebner's
 Ace Hardware
 State Farm Insurance
 Wells Fargo
 JC Autowash
 Valentino's
 Subway
 McDonald's
 Pepsi
 Glad Forceflex Bags
 Original Town Association
 Downtown Business Association
 KELN/KOOQ
 KNOP-TV
 KX104/KODY
 The North Platte Telegraph
 North Platte Bulletin
 Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
 National Honor Society
 Troy-Bilt
 Wrigley's
 Nebraskaland National Bank
 Rogers
 Garden Glove Landscaping
 UNL Master Gardener program
 UPS Store
 Lincoln County Historical Museum
 RSVP
 United Methodist Church
 Bloedorn Lumber
 Senior Center

Ink-jet & laser printer cartridge recycling helped us raise over \$1400 in 2005.

KNPLCB 2005 Individual & Family Memberships

Joe & Tammy Maya
 Dennis Murphy

Grant Funding

NE Dept. of Environmental Quality's Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program, NE Dept. of Environmental Quality's Waste Reduction & Recycling Program, the Environmental Protection Agency, United Way, Lincoln County LB640 funds through Community Connections, and the NE Dept. of Education's Learn and Serve program

**For every dollar donated to KNPLCB, our programs returned over \$15 in community benefits.
 All donations are tax deductible.**

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY & HELP US MAKE BEAUTIFUL THINGS HAPPEN!

Name: _____
 Organization/Company: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: (____) _____
 E-mail: _____

Categories of Membership (please check one)

- Individual\$15/yr.
- Family.....\$20/yr.
- Non-profit/Civic Org.....\$30/yr.
- Senior Citizen/Student.....\$10/yr.
- Supporting Member.....\$100-\$499/yr.
- Sponsoring Member.....\$500-\$999/yr.
- Sustaining Member.....\$1000+/yr.

Your paid membership entitles you to several benefits, besides knowing you are supporting a local leader in community improvement. Please indicate the benefits you would like to receive below. Items not checked will not be sent and that part of your contribution will be used on educational programs.

- A reusable KNPLCB tote bag.
 - Quarterly mailing of Beautiful News
 - Periodic Email Reminders on Upcoming Events
- For sustaining, sponsoring, & supporting members:
- Wall plaque (or brass disc for renewals)

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Checks may be made out to Keep North Platte & Lincoln County Beautiful and mailed along with this portion of the newsletter to:
 PO Box 313
 North Platte, NE 69103
 Thank you for your support!

KNPLCB Welcomes 5 New Board Members



Tammy Malone

Tammy is new to our community, but not new to the harsh impacts that litter and community degradation can reap on a city. Tammy currently works as the coordinator at Community Connections Lincoln County Tobacco Coalition.



Wes Meyer

Wes replaces Jim Hawks as our standing city board representative. Wes serves as the city's Public Service Director. His expertise and know-how are greatly welcomed.



Kara Sandman

Kara is a North Platte native with a strong appreciation for her home town. She is an avid outdoor sports enthusiast. She works as a Recreation Leader with the North Platte Recreation Department.



No Photo Available



Michael Tomczak

Michael joins us from Simon Contractors, where he serves as a director. Another outstanding community volunteer, Michael brings expertise in architecture and development to the table.

The KNPLCB board would like to welcome its newest members! KNPLCB decided to expand its traditional ten member board to a larger board. The full slate of KNPLCB activities requires a great team of individuals to put together. Board member, Dan Klimek will be leaving his five year position on the board as he will be moving at the beginning of 2006. The board meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at KNPLCB offices. Please help us welcome these volunteers!



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