



# Beautiful News

## Alternative Means of Recycling Christmas

### Recycling Your Tree

Approximately 33 million live Christmas trees are sold in North America every year. Have you ever wondered what to do with the bundle of branches you once lovingly referred to as your Christmas tree? There are many alternative ways of recycling your Christmas tree. The first step is to remove all ornaments, tinsel, and wiring before recycling your tree. A tree can be mulched to use around trees, shrubs, and flower beds for protection during the winter. The branches can also be cut into small bundles to cover newly planted perennials during the winter and then removed in the spring.

Christmas trees make a great habitat for fish and wildlife. They provide shelter from strong winds, cold, and predators. A Christmas tree can be placed in your backyard to use as an animal feeder by hanging items such as suet and pine cones covered in peanut butter and seeds. For other who just want to dispose of your tree, you can drop them off at the

**City compost site**

**1402 N. Jeffers.**



### Recycling Your Christmas Cards

If everyone sent one less card per year, we could save 50,000 cubic years of paper. KNPLBC suggests that you send electronic cards instead of traditional paper cards. If you must send paper cards, choose to use recycled content paper and make sure to recycle cards you receive. The follow are fun and festive ways of recycling or reusing your Christmas cards. Turn your cards into gift boxes to use next year. Instructions for this craft can be found at [www.kinderart.com/recycle/cardbox.shtml](http://www.kinderart.com/recycle/cardbox.shtml). You can use your cards to make gift tags for next year simply by using pinking sheers to give a decorative edge, a hole punch, and ribbon. Use can take this craft further and cut the cards into decorative shapes and use them for ornaments. Christmas cards can be turned into new cards by cutting out the picture and placing a nice border on the edge with shoelace, ribbon, or yam. The Senior Center does a wonderful job at recycling holiday card and turning them into new cards. These cards can be purchased at the Senior Center for ten cents a card. Spruce up candle votives by cutting Christmas cards into strips and shapes and then attach to the

votive. You can create napkin rings by cutting cards into colorful strips that can then be stapled to create a ring to go around your napkins. A final craft for Christmas cards would be to cut your cards into letter shapes to use to teach a child their ABC's, play alphabet games, or to spell out your child's name on their bedroom door. If you do not want to turn your Christmas cards into crafts, please recycle them at **Regional Recycling at 810 E. 7th.**

### Recycling Christmas leftovers

If you were wondering what to do with the remainder of your Christmas leftovers, consider the following. Save your gift boxes and tissue paper to reuse next year. Doing so not only keeps these items out of landfills, but it also saves you time and money next season. If you can't save any items for next year, please remember to recycle your card board boxes, aluminum cans, steel cans, paper, holiday cards, and plastic bottles at **Regional Recycling 810 E. 7th.**

# Yuletide Yard Winners!



Thirteen judges braved the cold and logged more than 23 hours and nearly 300 miles to look at over 50 houses to determine the 5 winners of 2008 Yuletide Yards. These beautifully decorated yards help bring a festive atmosphere to North Platte and surrounding communities. They also

help with bringing awareness to the importance of beautification. KNPLCB continues to encourage to use of environmentally friendly LED lights as well as compostable or reusable decorations. The use of timers or unplugging lights at bedtime and during daylight hours help to conserve energy and keep the season 'green'. Here are a few night-time photos– but **you really MUST see these homes in person to appreciate their beauty!**



**Ward 4 –Sponsored by A G Edwards  
Don Shuler 3405 W. 21st**



**Ward 3 –Sponsored by Ear, Nose,  
Throat & Sinus Clinic  
James Cooper 419 N. Hayes**



**Ward 1–Sponsored by U Save Pharmacy  
Mike, Cindy, Erin McCauley 3010 S. Willow St.**



**Ward 2–Sponsored by Eakes Office Plus  
Ron & Sheri Bourne 2220 William Ave.**



**County-Sponsored by  
The Depot  
Winnie Dolph (in memory of  
Barney)  
4701 Valley Drive**



**Thank You to These Families for Brightening the Season for EVERYONE!**



## Illegal Dumping at Recycling Trailers



Please be mindful that the trailers in place at the 24 recycling locations of the Senior Center, First United Methodist Church, & Regional Recycling are for the benefit of the community. **Leaving trash or recyclables outside of the bins is called illegal dumping.** Illegal dumping is a crime in Nebraska and considered a

Class III crime. A person who commits this crime is subjected to up to \$500 in fines, up to 3 month in jail, or both. If the bin that you are using is full, please take your recyclables to one of the other bins. **If those bins are also full, please take your recyclables directly to Regional Recycling at 810 E. 7th St.**



### 24 Hour Recycling Locations

#### Senior Center

900 E. 10th

#### 1st United Methodist Church

1600 W. E St.

#### Regional Recycling

810 E. 7th



## \$\$ Cans for Cash Results \$\$



North Platte competed in the national Cash for Cans challenge. This contest was created and sponsored by The United States Conference of Mayors and Novelis Corporation. Due to nearly \$1 billion worth of aluminum cans thrown away annually, this program challenged cities across the country to take the initiative to collect and recycle aluminum cans. The challenge lasted four weeks, from October 1st to October 30th. This challenge appeared to have an effect on the community of North Platte.

October is normally a slow month for recycling. However, the citizens responded to the challenge and 9,797 lbs of aluminum cans were recycled during October.

*“Nearly \$1 billion worth of aluminum cans are thrown away annually.”*



## Great American Cleanup: Start Your Engines

KNPLCB is gearing up for the 2008 Great American Cleanup. The slogan this year is ‘Campaign for a cleaner, greener America’. KNPLCB will have their kick off February 28 at noon. The Great American Cleanup is the largest community improvement program in the U.S. that

takes place from March 1st to May 31st. In 2007, the estimated 2.8 million volunteers and attendees donated over 7.7 million hours to clean, beautify, & improve more than 17,000 communities during more than 30,000 events in the U.S. These activities included beautifying parks &

recreational areas, cleaning seashores & waterways, handling recycling collections, picking up litter, planting trees & flowers, & conducting educational programs & litter-free events. KNPLCB is currently looking for volunteers for this year’s event. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the office at 534-8100.



## To Litter or Not to Litter: That is The Question

Research and experience has proven that litter- intentional or unintentional pollution resulting from consumer waste products being carelessly handled or improperly disposed- attracts more litter.

Litter is caused by 7 primary sources:

- 1) Pedestrians or cyclists who do not use receptacles.
- 2) Motorists who do not use car ashtrays or litter bags.
- 3) Business dumpsters that are improperly covered.
- 4) Loading docks and commercial or recreational marinas with inadequate waste receptacles.
- 5) Construction and demolition sites without tarps and receptacles to contain debris and waste.
- 6) Trucks with uncovered loads on local roads and highways.
- 7) Household trash scattered before or during collection.

*“ People tend to litter because they feel no sense of personal ownership of the problem.”*

Littering is an individual behavior problem or a business problem that can become a problem for our community. **Litter is the result of too little attention to how waste is handled.** People tend to litter because they feel no sense of personal ownership of the problem. Changing a societal norm like littering begins with each of us. Each person must accept responsibility for their actions and influence the actions of others around them at home, at school, in your place of business, and in the community at large. By modeling proper trash and waste disposal, you will cause others to consider changing their behaviors and embodying appropriate actions.

Here are some examples of what households and motorists can do to prevent litter in your community.

- **Always have a litter bag and portable ashtray available in your car.**
- **Make sure your trash cans have lids that can be securely fastened or use bungee cords to hold them in place.**
- **Make sure that all trash bags are secured and tied.**

If your refuse does not fit inside your cart, the following are options available to you:

- **Recycle to reduce your waste load.**
- **Order another cart.**
- **Donate usable items to a thrift store**
- **Only buy what you need.**
- **Get a FREE Residential Cleanup Card 2 times/year for Municipal Light & Water Customers. CALL 535-6706 or pick it up at 1402 N. Jeffers.**



Just a friendly reminder that littering is a crime and you could be prosecuted for your actions. A person can earn up to \$500 in fines, 3 months in jail, or both for their first offense. A second offense can earn up to \$1000 in fines, 6 months in jail, or both. A third offense earns up to \$1000 in fines, up to a year in jail, or both. Are these consequences worth not placing trash in its proper place? If you have any questions regarding information on litter and litter prevention, please call KNPLCB at 534-8100.



# The Future Looks Bright: KNPLCB Vision

KNPLCB continues with an ever forward looking recycling program that positively impacts our environment and meets the needs of the citizens of North Platte and Lincoln County.

KNPLCB would like citizens to know the benefits an improved and expanded recycling program would have on their environment and economy within North Platte & surrounding areas:

- Extended landfill life
- Savings in transportation costs & impacts for processing recyclables out of the waste stream
- Reduced tipping fees
- Reduction in water and air pollution from making goods of recycled content vs. virgin materials
- Reduction in release of

greenhouse gases.

- Energy savings

The process of this recycling program will take 4 years to complete. During 2008, KNPLCB plans include:

- an increase in recycling at drop off locations through the use of new roll-off containers. KNPLCB is currently seeking grants to purchase these new roll-off containers.
- KNPLCB will also work with the local recycling business to provide additional infrastructure to continue the paper route
- Educate committee and other interested parties on recycling options.
- Apply for grant funding for feasibility studies for future recycling plans.

During 2009, KNPLCB plans include:

- Complete feasibility studies.
- Create a future recycling plan that is based on the feasibility study results and determine facility needs.

If you would like more information on the future of recycling in North Platte, we encourage you to join our recycling committee or call the offices for information.

We look forward to working with the City of North Platte, Lincoln County, private business, and our residents to ensure that the vision of increased sustainability and a cleaner-greener future for our children and their children comes to life. We also invite you to join us at the Community Connection "How Do We Do It Better" forum on Jan. 31st from 11:30 am to 1pm at the Holiday Inn Express. Call to RSVP.



*"100 billion plastic bags are dumped each year in American landfills."*



## How to be a Smart Green Shopper

Many of us are wondering what else can we do to help the environment besides recycling plastics, paper, and aluminum. One way is to become a smart green shopper. The following are tips to help you on your way of becoming a green shopper:

- Buy furniture made from recycled wood.
- Use paints with low or no VOC (volatile organic compounds).
- Purchase throw pillows that are made from water-based dyed linen.
- Use eco-friendly light bulbs such as compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Please remember that since all fluorescent light bulbs contain mercury, do not throw them in your trash. Store them in a box until the next hazardous waste cleanup day.
- Buy linens & towels made from organic cotton or fast-growing bamboo.
- Purchase cloth or canvas bags for your groceries. This helps keep plastic or paper bags from piling up & cuts down on the reported 100 billion plastic bags that are dumped each year in American landfills. (continued on back)



- Use products from your shelves to make green cleaners such as hydrogen peroxide for bleaching and sanitizing, cream of tartar for lifting stains from sinks and removing spots from aluminum pots, baking soda for removing stains from glass, tile, and china, and removing baked-on food from pots and pans, borax for an all-around deodorizer, lemon juice for lightening stains and removing tarnish from brass, copper, bronze, and aluminum, and white vinegar for killing germs, removing stains from carpets, and for cleaning



coffeemakers and countertops.

If you have any questions regarding this article or recycling, please call the office at 534-8100 or **join us for the**

**Community Connections' Recycling And How We Can Do It Better Forum on**

**January 31, 2008**

**from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**at the Holiday Inn Express.**

**The public is welcomed and their input is greatly appreciated.**

**See you there!**

Keep North Platte & Lincoln County would like to wish everyone a

# Happy New Year!

Please remember that if you are going to participate in the festivities of the holiday, please be responsible and recycle your paper, plastic, and aluminum products.



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