

# Recycle Rockbridge

Edition 5

July 2008

## Fairfield Recycling/Convenience Center Now Gated - New Hours

The Fairfield Recycling Center and dumpster Site is now gated. The center will be open Monday through Saturday from 8am until 7pm. An attendant will be present during those hours to assist you and answer any questions. You may also contact the Recycling Office at 463-2437 if you have questions or need further assistance.

### Time for an Upgrade

The recycling center and the dumpster site located on route 11 north is under construction. This construction is being done in order to update the site to a convenience center. The County is updating various sites to convenience centers in preparation for the closing of the landfill. Because the Fairfield Center is located in the Tourism Corridor Overlay, the County of Rockbridge presented the renovation plans to the TCO Board for approval. The TCO Board has approved the plans with the recommendation of front landscaping. During this renovation process we will have to close the site for short periods of time. Prior to any closure we will post signs to let the patrons of the center know in advance. The Recycling Office apologizes for the short notice on gating the site. The hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 8am until 7pm. There will be an attendant present during those hours.

A County convenience center is a gated facility that supplies trash disposal and recycling within the gated area. There will be a compactor on the site to compact the trash as it comes into the center. The center will have all of the recycling options that are currently available plus some added recycling features. Currently

you can recycle glass, plastic (1 through 7), mixed paper, cardboard, newspaper, aluminum, and tin at the Fairfield site. When the renovation is complete there will be an added container for large scrap metal, a building for a book swap and an area for household/construction reuse.

The book swap is a building where you can drop off used books and magazines that you are finished with and then someone else can pick them up and read them. When the books start to where out and the magazines become out dated they will be placed in the mixed paper container for recycling. We will also put a message board in the building for citizens to post notices. The household/construction area will be for items that you are getting rid of but may be of use to someone else, such as replacing a door and the old door is still usable, it would be placed in the item swap area for someone to take and refurbish. This area will be monitored by the attendant and items will be removed after a period of time. Items removed will be recycled whenever possible.

All of these services are being added in order to reduce the waste stream before closing the landfill. When our landfill closes we will be disposing of our trash through a transfer station. The more trash we run through the transfer station, the more it costs. So by reducing the

waste stream we will save money. This is also the reason for gating the facility. By having an open container site we are unable to monitor what is going into the waste stream. A lot of our current waste stream can be diverted to other methods of disposal. Another problem we have with the open container sites is residents from other counties using our dumpsters. Our tax money pays for our trash disposal. It's not free. So by allowing neighboring counties to use our dumpsters we are paying to dispose of their trash.

Renovation began on the site Thursday, July 17. We will do our best to keep you informed as the plans progress. Thank you in advance for your patients during this time of change.



### Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

**A**s we move closer to the landfill closer date of December 31, 2012, we need to work on reducing our waste steam. One way of doing that is recycling and I spend a lot of time talking about recycling. But there are many other ways to reduce your trash and I believe it is time we give the other two R's some publicity.

When I speak of the 3R's I am speaking of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (and let's not forget the 1C, Compost). Reduce is the first R because it should be the first step in waste reduction. Reduce requires us to do something called precycling. Precycling is looking at the items you are about to purchase and thinking about their life span and disposal methods. This should include the packaging. Buying in bulk is

one way to reduce packaging disposal. Another way is to carry reusable bags for shopping. Going to [www.junkbusters.org](http://www.junkbusters.org) and learning how to reduce your junk mail is a good way to reduce incoming paper waste. And composting is a great way to cut back on yard debris and kitchen scraps. There are many ways to reduce your waste stream. It just requires a little thought before purchasing or disposing.

Reuse is the second R in the program. This step is the one I like. You get to be creative and it can save a lot of money. Items such as jars and plastic bottles can make great vases and two liter bottles can be used for many different projects. A two liter, when cut in half makes a good funnel and the bottom half works well for starting plants. I have even used the bottom of a two liter to line baskets so I can place a plant in it without ruining the basket. My dad uses two liters on his young tomato plants. He cuts the top and bottom off and places the remainder around the plant. It protects the plant from birds and makes watering easy. When the plant gets larger, he removes the plastic and then recycles it. Other ways to put reuse into action are to shop at the thrift stores, second hand shops, yard sales, browse the classifieds, and frequent the sites such as [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) and [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org).

After reducing what we can and putting other items to good use we have recycling. Most of our containers that we use on a regular basis are recyclable. The local recycling centers take glass, plastic (1 through 7), tin, aluminum, mixed paper, cardboard and newspaper. Our Lexington Recycling Center, located at College Square Shopping Center, also takes computers and both Lexington and the new site in Glasgow on Sallings Mountain have a container for scrap metal.

As we move to becoming a "Greener" County and new markets open up, we will be expanding the recycling and reuse options at our local centers. When your out and about on vacations or just visiting friends and family take a look at the area's recycling centers and disposal options. If you see something that

might work in Rockbridge County please let me know. I am always looking for new ideas.

Following this article is a list of the recycling centers in Rockbridge County with current hours of operation. You can also visit the County web site at [www.co.rockbridge.va.us](http://www.co.rockbridge.va.us) for detailed information on the individual centers.

**College Square Shopping Center**  
Monday thru Saturday 8am - 6pm

**Fairfield Convenience Center**  
Monday thru Saturday 8am - 7pm

**Murat Recycling Center**  
Monday 7am - 3pm  
Tuesday 8am - 4pm (no attendant)  
Wednesday 10am - 6pm  
Thursday thru Saturday 8am - 4pm  
(No attendant on Thursday and Friday)

**Glasgow Convenience Center**  
Mon, Wed, Fri 8am - 6pm  
Tue, Thur, Sat 8am - 7pm

**Goshen Convenience Center**  
Mon, Wed, Fri 8am - 6pm  
Tue, Thur, Sat 7am - 7pm

## Special Thanks

Rockbridge County Recycling Office would like to send a special thank you to 3WZ 96.7 radio station for running the public service announcement about the Fairfield Convenience Center on such short notice. They began running the announcement as soon as they received it on July 17 and continued throughout the day. Thanks to their quick action and the consideration of the Rockbridge County citizens we had no incidents after closing on Thursday.

**Again, many thanks to all!!!**



