

# Recycle Rockbridge

Edition 8

October 2008

## National Disability Employment Awareness Month

### Hard at Work

October is recognized as the National Disability Employment Awareness Month so I thought this would be a good time to talk about my recent visit to Rockbridge Area Community Services. I was invited by Amy Huffman who is an Enclave Job Coach. She wanted me to view the recycling program that RACS is running.

When I stopped in, I expected to see a normal office recycling program, such as we have in the County buildings. Wow!!! Was I surprised. Upon my arrival I was taken on a tour to the processing room where all recycling is gathered. On the way down the hall I met Mr. Billy Costanzo and Ms. Mary Anna Braford.



Ms. Mary Anna Braford and Mr. Billy Costanzo  
Recycling Processors

They were busy doing the recycling collection for the RACS's building. They collect recycling from both floors of the building which includes about 150 offices. They collect paper,



Mr. Doug Fitch, Recycling Processor

plastic and other miscellaneous items from the offices. Further down the hall I entered the sorting/collection room. A certain employee caught my immediate attention. He was doing the shredding. His name is Doug Fitch and what makes him stand out is that he is blind. Mr. Fitch safely operates the company's paper shredder. Paperwork that contains sensitive information goes into a locked container and is taken in for shredding. When I walked in the room, Mr. Fitch was hard at work and seemed to truly enjoy his job. Shortly after entering the sorting room Mr. Costanzo and Ms. Braford came in with their collected recycling. At this point they separated the material into the proper categories. After the items are sorted, they are ready to be taken to the recycling center. Currently the Recycling Processors are using the Lexington Recycling Center for their drop off. A lot of the collected recycling is from within the building. However, employees in the building are encouraged to bring their recycling to work with them. This makes it a lot easier for the employees to practice a recycling program at

home and is a valuable time saving benefit for them.

The RACS building collects about 868lbs of paper a week and 48lbs of plastic a week, along with other miscellaneous items and is growing weekly. This comes to a conservative estimate of about 24 tons of recycling that was diverted from the landfill a year. That's just from one office building. Just imagine how much could be collected if all offices had such a practice.



Amy Huffman, May Anna Braford, Billy Costanzo, Doug Fitch and Adam Sass (listed from left to right)

After my tour I had the opportunity to talk to Amy, Enclave Job Coach, and Adam Sass, Supported Employment Manager, about the program. Mr. Sass and Ms. Huffman stressed that the Recycling Processors are employees of Rockbridge Area Community Services and that this program is a group effort. Currently the Recycling Processors are working as an enclave group, which is a group of employees working as a team with a coach from Rockbridge Area Community Services. The team currently works for RACS, Walmart, and Sayre. They also pick up paper from the Eagles Nest's Day Program and the Magnolia Center's Day Program. They are always interested in expanding to offer their services such as shredding and collection to other businesses. The Support Employment Program's mission is "*Integration through Employment*". By hiring a group such as this to do your recycling you will decrease your waste stream and environmental impact on the planet and increase the job availability for these

programs. Currently RACS has about 30 people employed through such programs. With community support by hiring through such programs this number could be greatly increased.

To discuss the services offered and inquire about hiring you should contact Mr. Adam Sass or Ms. Amy Huffman. They are located in the Rockbridge Area Community Services Building at 241 Greenhouse Road, Lexington or they may be contacted by phone at 540-463-3141.

## Fairfield Center

The Fairfield Convenience/Disposal Center is nearing completion.

Rockbridge County Recycling would like to invite you to come help us celebrate the new site and America Recycles Day on November 15, 2008. The center is open from 8am until 7pm. The celebration will be from 10am until 3pm. We will have the recycling bus onsite for the children and we will be handing out balloons and cool stuff. Refreshments will be served throughout the celebration.

We look forward to seeing you there and showing you around the County's newest convenience/disposal center.



To learn more about America Recycles Day please visit the National Recycling Coalition's website at

[www.nrc-recycle.org/americanrecycles.aspl](http://www.nrc-recycle.org/americanrecycles.aspl)

## Mountain Days

**R**ockbridge County Recycling attended Buena Vista's Mountain Days Festival on October 18.



We had the new bus at the festival and handed biodegradable balloons out to the children (and some adults) throughout the day. We stayed very busy talking to residents of Buena Vista about their new curbside recycling program. It was a wonderful day and a great turn out.



To unsubscribe to this newsletter send an email to [recycling@co.rockbridge.va.us](mailto:recycling@co.rockbridge.va.us)

## Lexington Curbside Recycling Program

**T**he City of Lexington has announced that they will begin a curbside recycling program. The collection is scheduled to start on October 20, 2008. Residents who live in the Central Business District will have their recycling collected on Wednesdays. Residents not living in the Central Business District will have their recycling collected on the second trash collection day. Businesses will have their recycling picked up every Monday and Wednesday. Please place all recycling in clear plastic bags. This will make the recycling easily identified. All other color bags will be assumed trash. All paper products such as office paper, newspaper, magazines, books, junk mail and cereal boxes should be put in one clear plastic bag. All container items such as plastics 1 through 7, tin and aluminum cans, and glass bottles and jars should be placed in another clear plastic bag. Please make sure all containers are rinsed out and empty and that the paper is clean and dry. Bags should be placed beside your regular garbage on the appropriate day.

If you have any questions concerning the curbside collection program, please call the Public Works Department at (540)463-3154.



## Suggestions Please

**I** am interested in putting together an Earth Day festival. Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. I hope to coordinate an event to be held near that date supporting earth friendly products and crafts. If you know of a vendor/crafter that qualifies please forward me their information or give them my email address [recycling@co.rockbridge.va.us](mailto:recycling@co.rockbridge.va.us).