

# Neighbor

*Neighbor to Neighbor – Waste Management  
is Committed to Keeping You Informed*

*Volume 3, Number 1 March 2007*

## **D**ear Neighbors

We hope the new year is off to a good start for you.

The end of 2006 was a busy one at the landfill and Recycling Center – with the new hours for the Recycling Center, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection event and Christmas tree recycling (see related stories).

Thank you for your support of all of these efforts – the more we recycle, the less gets disposed in the landfill.

We've continued to make landfill improvements, including numerous drainage improvements that are designed to manage storm water run-off and control erosion. We've also planted grasses and flowers on the closed, capped areas of the landfill.

The expansion application process has been referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) where an administrative law judge will conduct a contested case hearing to obtain additional information and facts. Based on the evidence, the administrative law judge will then make a recommendation to the commissioners on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a final determination. The SOAH hearings will likely be scheduled in August.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Ron Morrison  
Williamson County Precinct #4

Steve Jacobs  
Waste Management



*Drainage improvements are designed to manage storm water run-off and control erosion.*

## **Landfill Tours**

Waste Management is happy to provide landfill tours for student field trips, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other groups. Just contact Lynda Rife, Community Relations, at 512-261-5873, to schedule a tour.

## **H**ousehold Hazardous Waste Event a Success

Precinct 4 Commissioner Frankie Limmer and his staff helped clean up the county with an end-of-year Household Hazardous Waste Collection event. They accepted paint, chemicals, pesticides, mercury and other hazardous items from 550 cars over five hours on a sunny Saturday.

A survey of participants who dropped off hazardous household products at the event found that most residents came from Georgetown, Cedar Park and Round Rock. More than 80 percent of the participants recycle, with 57 percent having curbside recycling and 43 percent participating in drop-off recycling.

Many thanks to the following organizations for their support of this event: Keep Taylor Beautiful, Texas Extension Service, Williamson County Precinct 3 Constable's Office, Williamson County Unified Road System, Williamson County EMS, Williamson County Hazardous Materials Team, Georgetown Fire Department and PSC, Inc.

## **In the Community**

### **Brown Santa**

Waste Management has supported Brown Santa for two years. Its support has helped provide toys and books to children from more than 700 needy families in Williamson County.



*Landfill manager Bubba Smith (left) accepts Brown Santa award*

### **Children's Hospital of Austin**

Waste Management was one of the underwriters for the Children's Hospital of Austin Miracle Market. For the second year in a row, Waste Management supported the Market, which raises funds for an integrated operating suite in the future Dell Children's Medical Center. This year's event raised \$45,000 for the children of Central Texas. The new Medical Center is scheduled for completion this summer.



<http://www.wilco.org>

### **Williamson County Landfill**

600 Landfill Road  
Phone: (512)759-8881  
Fax: (512)759-5004



<http://williamsoncountylandfill.wm.com>

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink

## **B**uilding a Landfill Cell

Landfills are designed with “cells” that are lined to protect groundwater. New cells are built as needed for trash disposal. While Waste Management does not plan to build a new cell this year, below is information on how a cell is built to protect the environment.

When Waste Management builds a landfill cell, it follows very stringent building and engineering requirements. During the entire process, an independent engineering firm tests and qualifies the proper construction of the liner system and provides a report to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Here are photographs that illustrate the liner system that is designed to protect groundwater.



*A landfill cell is prepared, first with two feet of compacted clay as the bottom layer. On top of the clay and along the sides of the landfill cell is a black plastic liner, which is made of an extremely durable, 60-mil, high-density polyethylene material. Together, the clay and plastic liners provide a protective barrier between the landfill and groundwater.*



*The cell bottom is sloped to promote drainage of liquids called “leachate” to a collection sump. Leachate are liquids that result when rainfall soaks into trash and by the decomposition of trash. After the black plastic liner is placed, a geotextile composite material (shown here in white) is placed on the bottom of the cell and a geotextile fabric (shown here in light blue) is placed on the sides, both designed to provide a pathway for leachate to flow to the sump for recovery.*

### **New Recycling Center Hours**

Sunday and Monday: Closed  
Tuesday through Friday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday – 8 a.m. to Noon  
Phone: 512-846-2756

The Recycling Center, located north of Hutto off FM 1660 at the landfill entrance, accepts scrap metal, card board, used oil, e-waste, newspaper and plastic.

**★ Free Mulch at the Recycling Center**  
**Bring your own bags and load up!**