



The official e-newsletter for the ND Solid Waste and Recycling Association

ND Cities of all Sizes Make News

Bismarck

- Below, over 500 residents turned out for **Bismarck's** annual electronics recycling event, bringing in over 56,000 lbs. of e-waste and over 1,000 lbs. of fluorescent bulbs and ballasts. Businesses brought in over 5,000 lbs. of e-waste too. The city partnered with **Green Lights Recycling, Inc.** to recycle the equipment and bulbs. In 2005, the city partnered with **Retrofit Recycling** to recycle the e-waste.



Girl Scouts Take Mercury Out of the Environment

In **Jamestown, ND**, the 4th grade Pine to Prairie Girl Scout Troop 108 is serious about mercury. The group recently held a mercury thermometer exchange where people could turn in their old thermometers in exchange for a digital one. The results included the collection of 122 mercury thermometers:

- 104 household thermometers
- 18 from Jamestown Middle School

Troop leader Sue Mueller, who spearheaded the project, states, "We had many people who just wanted to know their mercury thermometers would be disposed of in an appropriate manner. We had lots of positive feedback." Although the



group was only giving a maximum of two digital thermometers in return, some people had 4-6 mercury ones.

The Medicine Shoppe, Walz Pharmacy, White Drug Pharmacy and Wal-Mart all donated digital thermometers. Goodrich Aerospace of Jamestown provided flyers for the event, the Jamestown Sun ran a story and several radio stations aired PSAs and free ads regarding the exchange. A local dentist provided a mercury spill kit (just in case!) and

Onyx Environmental Services

provided the disposal of the mercury thermometers.

Mercury thermometer exchanges are becoming popular projects for groups to conduct. To learn about how to hold a thermometer roundup in your area, see Health Care Without Harm's document [How to Plan and Hold a Mercury Fever Thermometer Exchange](#) (PDF).

According to the U.S. EPA, the most common way people in the U.S. are exposed to mercury is by eating fish containing methyl mercury. Other exposures may result from using or breaking products containing mercury. Think about opportunities in your community to hold a similar exchange. Whenever we can take mercury out of the environment – that's a plus!

Kulm

- What began as an idea in 2003, is still brewing in 2006. Hauling in waste from the eastern United States and using plasma technology to create energy is what one company and community are looking at. From the President of Providential Investments, "There are still ongoing funding, business structure issues of the new company, there are permitting issues and regulatory issues that are all time consuming. These are all VERY important issues concerning the ongoing success of this project and each one is being handled as carefully and strategically as possible." Read more on the following [Web site](#). According to the **North Dakota Department of Health – Division of Waste Management** Assistant Director, **Steve Tillotson**, no permits have been applied for/submitted currently.



The Cumulative Effect?

Check out Chris Jordan's current work focusing on Hurricane Katrina and the role of consumerism.

Photos of cell phones, circuit boards and more help us realize the cumulative effect of only a small portion of the larger picture.

Visit the [Web site](#) and click on "Intolerable Beauty".

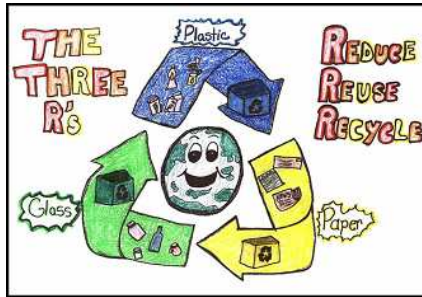
Communities continued on page 2.

Keep ND Clean Poster Contest Winners – See more [online](#).

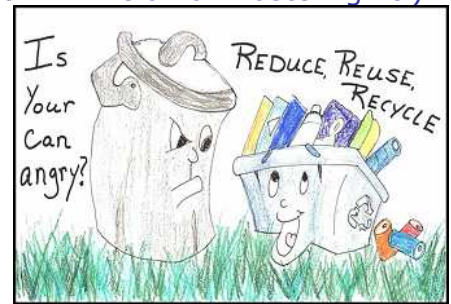
(Sixth Grade Sponsored by the NDSWSRA and the ND Dept. of Health – Division of Waste Mgmt.)



Kelly Carlson - Buchanan, ND



Lexi Bahl - Sherwood, ND

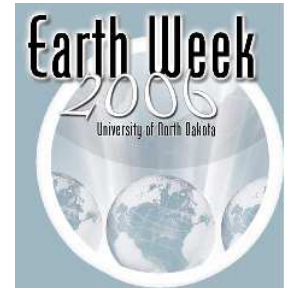


Kerri Ott - Cooperstown, ND

Making News Continued...

Grand Forks

- The city is seeking other outlets (public or private) for their waste once their landfill closes in 2008. See the full article [online](#).
- In April, the City held their annual electronics event. Ninety-three residents (plus equipment from city departments) brought in a total of over 5 tons of electronics. **Waste Management, Inc.** recycled the material at their facility in St. Paul, MN.
- The city and the **University of North Dakota** partnered to provide Earth Week Activities. Speakers, free food and music by "Recyclable Waste" were provided.



Beach

- "Ten years ago Tama convinced her friends and neighbors to adopt the Scandinavian custom of burning used Christmas Trees in a community bonfire, instead of throwing them out with the trash." See more of the story on [KFYR's Web site](#). *Editor's note:* Shouldn't someone talk to them about grinding their trees for beneficial reuse?

Fargo

- It's Cleanup Week in Fargo, which for some, means it's shopping time. See the Fargo Forum [article](#).
- In 2006, construction will begin at the landfill that will include a 27,500 square foot transfer station. Inside, it will house two balers from **Recovery Systems**. The site will also incorporate solar, wind and methane gas to power various parts of the landfill buildings. Enterprise Director, Bruce Grubb, states that the renewable energy components comprise about \$150,000 of the cost of the estimated \$2.6 million transfer station.
- The city's yard waste program was featured in the April issue of [Waste Age Magazine](#).

Misc.

- From KFYR TV's April 5th story: "Fire scorched more than 120 acres of Missouri River bottomland and grassland near Williston yesterday. And firefighters also were battling a blaze near Garrison Dam. Officials say the fire near Williston was caused by someone burning branches. The fire in the Garrison Dam area was believed to have been caused by a farmer burning garbage." *Editor's note:* Seems preventable if the branches were ground up or the garbage perhaps hauled?

Tired of Your Old CDs, DVDs, games and books? Swap them.

[Zunafish](#), a Web site that began operating in January, matches people who want to trade CDs, DVDs, video tapes, video games, paperback books or audio books. Each trader pays Zunafish \$1 through credit or debit card for each trade. The site then calculates the postage costs and creates addressed mailing labels that can be downloaded and printed out. Each trader is responsible for paying the postage and mailing the item promptly. It's just one more way to avoid landfilling good items!

Mark your calendar for the Annual ND Solid Waste and Recycling Symposium: Sept. 12-14!



Board Member Spotlight

Name: Brenda Watt

Position: Manager, Day Support, Friendship, Inc. in Grafton

Duties: Helping people with disabilities be successful in their everyday work lives.

Best Thing about the Job: The opportunity to make a difference in people's lives; there is never a dull moment and every day is different.

Before this Job: Stay-at-home-mom

Grew up in: Adams, ND

Enjoy: Scrapbooking, making cards with rubber stamps, organizing, life, camping, computers, being with family and friends.

