



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Of Scoundrels and Men!

By Linda Ritz White, Executive Director, Recycling for Newaygo County

Newaygo, MI—March 27, 2015

There is a low-down dirty scoundrel dumping old siding into the recycling bins on Cherry Street in Fremont. If you know or see "him", please ask that he cease and desist, and direct him to RNC for a recycling lesson.

For the second time this week, our hauler had to climb into the bin to manually pull out a load of old white vinyl siding so it wouldn't land in his truck load of RNC's "clean" recycling. We then had to go pick it up and dispose of it. I would almost be forgiving if it was metal and maybe the dumper thought it had value to us—we used to accept scrap metal when we were in the processing business. But for one, we don't get paid anything for the materials going single stream. And for two, vinyl? Come on Scoundrel...and others of similar description conducting similar illicit dumpung! I know you know better. You need to properly dispose of your own construction materials and other non-recyclables!

I realize single stream recycling is new and the containers are different, and change takes some getting used to. Most people are catching on really well, and like it—no more sorting. In the meantime, we're doing our best to inform and educate people and answer questions, put up big signs, put instructions on every bin, articles and ads in the paper, brochures and guides, talks, information on our website and Facebook.

There are always those who don't read instructions, or who take advantage, like Scoundrel. Unfortunately, the few can ruin it for the many. Kent County Recycling, who take our recycling at no charge, have made it clear that if we send "contaminated" loads, they will stop accepting our materials. That would be disastrous as they are the only materials recovery facility in our area.

The other problem is cost. Those two dumpings of old siding cost us \$135 between the time and manpower of the hauler and RNC staff, and disposal fees, where the renovator could have made a trip to a transfer station for \$20. We need to add to our already slim coffers, not spend our recycling dollars on cleanup and trash disposal!

Recycling for Newaygo County is a nonprofit organization whose mission it is, in part, to provide convenient recycling service to residents who would otherwise not have access to any in our mostly rural communities. Our primary funding mechanisms are donations from

Friends of Recycling, membership contributions, and grants. I ask that recyclers stay mindful, and help us help you by respecting the collection sites and reporting abusers to us at 231.924.5822, or to the police. Unauthorized dumping is illegal!

More recycling bins on the way!

In other news, barely two months into single stream recycling at our eight collection sites, use is expanding so quickly that we have had to order nine additional bins to keep pace.

We have increased pickups per week at several sites to prevent messes—and angry neighbors—but this is a short-term solution given the distance and corresponding pickup costs.

All sites are regularly full, and some have at times been overflowing at pickup. Others will soon have an influx of seasonal users, who will need to be accommodated.

The additional containers, scheduled to arrive at the end of March, will be distributed among Hesperia, White Cloud, Grant, Fremont, and Croton.

Earth Day writers and artists, lucky ducks, and survivors

In celebration of Earth Day April 22, RNC has several contests underway open to all students in our service area. Elementary, middle, and secondary school students have been invited to submit a written work, a creative art work, or a video public service announcement on the subject of the 4 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rebuy, and their environmental and economic impact. Winners will be announced in the local paper and on our website and Facebook Page on Earth Day, and their entries will be displayed publically. Rules and details are available on the RNC website.

For the first time in 2015, RNC is planning a couple of fundraising events, and we do plan to keep the “fun” in them. The first will be a Duck Race at the Daisy Creek leading to Fremont Lake on May 24. We have other fun lined up as well, including stations where kids will learn to make fun crafts out of recyclable materials. Watch for ads, flyers, and volunteers selling tickets at your favorite retail outlets.

If you like the TV show “Survivor”, watch for RNC’s own home grown “Survive RNC” in early fall when we’ll be issuing a corporate challenge for day-long adult-level (that means hard) games that will play down to a sole survivor by suppertime. Of course all the game materials will be recycled goods and items. This will be a public event on a Saturday in early September at a location to be announced. The lone survivor and sponsoring business will take home equal glory and reward. Again, watch for ads, flyers, and volunteers selling tickets at your favorite retail outlets.

We are seeking volunteers to help us pull off these fabulous fun days. Call me at 231.924.5822 if you would like to help.

RNC leaders and helpers

Recycling for Newaygo County wishes to enhance its board of directors, education committee, and fund development committee. We are seeking helpers who are skilled in business, education, fundraising, public relations, finances, event planning, and the lending of both brain and brawn. Because RNC is a very small nonprofit with only two staff members, its board is a working board, meaning trustees roll up their sleeves in addition to setting policy.

If you are retired or looking for a new hobby and a great way to do some community service, consider Recycling for Newaygo County. We are entering a brand new phase for RNC, and we need movers and shakers to help us strategize and make it the best it can be.

Single Stream Recycling Reminders:

- All recyclables may be placed together in the same single stream bin. Every bin has descriptions and pictures of acceptable materials. A printable guide for home use is available for download at RNC's website, recyclingfornewaygocounty.org.
- Acceptable materials include:
 - Cardboard/paperboard, i.e. cereal boxes and toilet paper rolls
 - Mail and office paper
 - Newspapers and magazines
 - Gift wrap only if marked recyclable
 - #1-7 plastic bottles, tubs, and jugs
 - #2 and #4 plastic bags
 - Metal cans and foil
 - Glass bottles and jars (remove plastic caps and lids).
- Do not include:
 - Trash, furniture or household items, dishes, electronics, or construction materials
 - Polystyrene (Styrofoam)
 - Large plastics without recycling symbol
 - Sheet plastic
 - Needles and medical waste
 - Waxed paper containers such as juice boxes, paper plates, used paper napkins
 - Zip-top bags, plastic films, cling wrap, and plastic food bags
 - Wrapping paper and tissue unless marked recyclable
 - Pet food bags.
- Break down cardboard boxes so they do not clog up the bins.
- Do not tie bags — empty into bins.
- Do not overfill bins or stretch the corners of lids beyond the chain length. The purpose of the chain is to 1) keep lids from blowing open on windy days, and 2) limit the size of objects that may be placed in the bins.

- Bring polystyrene, old electronics, FL light bulbs, household batteries, and large loads of cardboard and paper to the New Recycling Center, 490 Quarterline Street, Newaygo (Brooks Township site). Public hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from Noon to 5 pm, and Wednesdays Noon to 7 pm.

Recycling for Newaygo County

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