Transportation in the Prairie State

By Abe Scarr, Director, Illinois Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)

Our car-centered transportation system is deeply flawed. Our network of roads and highways is virtually inaccessible to the young, the poor, the old, and the disabled without the means to own or operate their own vehicle. Cars contribute significantly to global warming pollution as well as to air pollutants that cause asthma and other respiratory diseases. Our communities have been designed to accommodate cars and commuters, which leads to sprawl and the loss of open space. The built environment fashioned to accommodate automobiles discourages healthy activities like biking and walking that can improve our health and quality of life.

There is no mystery how this came about. For years, our tax dollars have been disproportionately allocated to building new roads and expanding existing roads to accommodate ever increasing automobile traffic. Numerous other subsidies, such as commuter tax credits and zoning rules with minimum parking requirements have further publicly subsidized car travel over other forms of transportation. At the same time, we do not allocate enough money to keep our current infrastructure in a state of good repair, leaving us with crumbling roads and bridges. On our current course, 40 percent of Illinois highways and one in seven bridges will be in unacceptable condition within six years.

Nor do we invest in alternative transportation options, such as walking, biking, and transit. For years, this disproportionate spending of taxpayer dollars on new and expanding roads was justified by ever increasing traffic, and by the myth that roads “pay for themselves” through the gas tax and other user fees like tolls. As Illinois PIRG Education Fund research shows, the steady increase in driving ended over a decade ago, and the “roads pay for themselves” myth, while never true, has never been less true than it is today.

Continued page 3

The Future of Recycling in the U.S.

By Teagen Andrews

Homewood Disposal is a family-owned and operated waste facility serving approximately 110 Illinois and Northwest Indiana communities. The company began operating in 1956 and now has three full service Material Recycling Facilities (MRF) and transfer stations. It is also parent company for Diversified Recycling, NuWay Disposal, Kankakee Disposal, Star Disposal of Indiana and Heartland Disposal.

This story is similar to many of the more well-known solid waste haulers; however, unlike many companies that focus primarily on logistics as opposed to waste management, Homewood Disposal has a dedication to material recycling that transcends the generations of owners.

As Homewood Disposal began to grow and diversify they also saw an opportunity to corner a very promising industry in recycling. Beginning in 1980 with cardboard recycling, Homewood watched the various recycling markets trend upward and began offering dual-stream recycling to residents.

Then in 2000, the owner of Homewood Disposal flew to the Netherlands to meet with the Manufacturer, Bollegraaf, to learn how to create a state-of-the-art MRF. Now with one of the largest MRFs in the Midwest, Homewood successfully processes up to 450 tons of recyclables every day!

This MRF uses a system of constant conveyor belts to quickly move recyclables from bailer to bailer for efficient sorting. With the use of screens, sorting personnel and optical sorting machines, recyclables are moved along the conveyor belts and dispersed at various stages to be bailed and shipped. Materials are sorted according to newspaper and other fibers, cardboard, plastic containers #1, plastic containers #2, mixed plastics (#3 through #7), glass, tin, aluminum, and milk cartons.

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Members of The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County receive the newsletter as a membership benefit. Basic memberships start at $50. For information, questions, comments on membership or address changes, please contact our office at (815) 338-0393 or e-mail us at mcdef@owc.net.

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The Decline in Driving

Americans drove more miles nearly every year between the end of World War II and 2004. By the end of this period of rapid increases in per-capita driving—which we call the “Driving Boom”—the average American was driving 85 percent more miles each year than in 1970. There were many reasons for the driving boom, but whatever the reasons, the driving boom ended in 2004 when for the first time in over fifty years, we saw a sustained decrease in driving.

While some claim this decrease in driving is simply a reflection of a downturn in the economy, our research demonstrates that economic conditions, while contributing to the decline, are not the sole cause. Rather, a host of factors have led to the decline of driving, including baby boomers leaving the work force, higher gas prices, new technologies making it easier and more desirable to use alternative forms of transportation, and millennials having strong preferences for living a “car-light” or car-free lifestyle.

Despite this historic and clear shift away from driving, transportation planners at the state and federal level have not updated their projections to reflect this new reality. In fact, the Department of Transportation issued 61 driving forecasts in a row that overshot their mark. In Illinois and in many other states, large highway or highway expansion projects continue to be proposed, based on projections of steady increases in traffic that ignore the evidence of the last decade.

The roads pay for themselves myth

In a recent Illinois PIRG Education Fund report, “Who Pays for Roads?” we exposed the widening gap between how we think we pay for transportation – through gas taxes and other fees – and how we actually do. We found that gas taxes and other fees paid by drivers now cover less than half of road construction and maintenance costs nationally, with the balance coming chiefly from income, sales and property taxes and other levies on general taxpayers.

General taxpayers at all levels of government now subsidize highway construction and maintenance to the tune of $69 billion per year, exceeding the expenditure of general tax funds to support transit, bicycling, walking and passenger rail combined.

Regardless of how much they drive, the average American household bears an annual financial burden of more than $1,100 in taxes and indirect costs from driving, over and above any gas taxes or other fees they pay that are connected with driving.

With the nation’s transportation needs changing and general taxpayers bearing an ever-greater share of the cost of transportation, it is time to invest transportation dollars in projects that are likely to deliver the greatest benefits.

A new direction

We may be at a tipping point. This spring the Federal Highway Administration quietly acknowledged that the driving boom was over by making significant reductions to their driving projections. Just this week, Governor Rauner effectively killed the Illiana Expressway, which had become the state’s top transportation priority despite widespread opposition. In neighboring Wisconsin, a federal judge recently struck down a highway widening project because the state could not justify the traffic projections used to support the project.

These developments are positive, but there is still much work to be done. More new highway or highway expansion projects are in the works, including in Dupage and Kane counties. While Governor Rauner proposed large cuts to transit and passenger rail, he has proposed more money for road construction. The road building lobby will fight hard to protect their position as the recipient of the super majority of taxpayer transportation dollars.

Illinois needs a 21st century transportation system, where we maintain our current infrastructure and support the increasing number of Illinois residents who want more transportation options. Wasteful highway projects drain critical resources away from urgent transportation needs. In order to get our priorities straight, Illinois must acknowledge that the driving boom is over and that, since we all pay for our infrastructure, we should invest in projects that deliver the greatest public benefits.
**What’s Happening in Springfield?**

Update from the Illinois Environmental Council

**Consolidation of Conservation District**

Earlier this session, we worked to defeat a proposal that would have consolidated the DuPage County Forest Preserve District with the DuPage County Board. Towards the end of the session HB229, a bill that gives certain consolidation powers to McHenry and Lake County board for smaller units of government, moved forward. IEC has opposed HB229 because it would provide consolidation or elimination power to county boards over the McHenry County Conservation District. The only remedy for re-establishment is through a "backdoor referendum." A trailer bill has been introduced - HB245 - that removes the conservation district and we are hopeful that bill will be moved through the House. The Conservation District is a voter-approved body and already has a consolidation mechanism within its enabling legislation. We are concerned that this consolidation/dissolution procedure could be expanded to the rest of state. Conservation districts - which often are funded by voter approved tax referenda - would be uniquely impacted by political consolidation attempts, leaving open space at risk. While we don't oppose attempts at consolidating services or administrative work, units of government that oversee open space preservation need to be managed in a way that carefully continues the permanent legacy of open space that they oversee.

**Bobcat Hunting Final Vote**

In a tense few hours on May 31, the bobcat hunting proposal passed the Illinois House on a concurrence motion and is on to the Governor. During the day, the proposal first failed, having received only 55 votes. Later that day, the proposal was called again and received the needed 60 votes. There was quite a bit of misinformation on the floor and we are concerned about Illinois’ future in protecting predators that repopulate natural areas in the state. This bill will need to be signed by the Governor and then will need to go to rulemaking before a hunting season can be opened.

Several good bills on environmental issues passed through the Illinois General Assembly this year. You can research and read more about each of these bills:

- **HB437 – Organic composting drop offs:** Allows temporary and permanent sites to collect organics for composting.
- **HB1326 – Clinton Landfill:** Prohibits certain MGP waste from landfills. Intended to protect the Mahomet Aquifer.
- **HB1362 – Compost usage reporting:** Requires agencies to report on their compost use and examine whether they could use additional end product compost in land maintenance activities.
- **HB1445 – Exceptional quality biosolids:** Allows certain high standard biosolids to be sold as soil amendments.
- **Initiative of MWRD (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District).**
- **HB1455 – Electronic Waste Recycling:** Increases electronic waste recycling goals, provides a lower cost and environmentally safe disposal option for CRT glass and removes costs to local governments.
- **HB2486 – Cottage Food Operations:** Expands the use of local food in new cottage food products and sales locations.
- **HB2495 – Compost labeling:** Indicates Illinois’ support of composting and biodegradability labeling requirements.
- **SB1707 – Green Infrastructure:** Expands revolving loan fund uses for water infrastructure.
- **SB679 – Mercury Thermostats:** Increases collection to include loose thermostats and requires safe disposal of thermostats when commercial buildings are demolished.
- **SB681 – Exotic Weeds Act:** Adds new invasive species to the list of plants that cannot be sold or distributed.
- **SB793 – Sharps in Recycling:** Bans sharps from recycling containers to protect workers and keep recycling clean.
- **HR367/SR330 – Sick or Injured animals:** Encourages coordinated efforts to educate the public about what to do when encountering a sick or injured animal.
- **SJR9 – Designates May as Invasive Species Awareness Month.**
- **HB3240 – Increases the penalties for building on river and stream banks without a permit.**
- **SB1518 – Composting infrastructure:** Expands a pilot program to allow food scrap at landscape waste transfer sites in Elgin, Stickney, and Lake Bluff.
- **HB1429 – Recycling Procurement:** Requires procurement of recycled materials if they are the same cost as non-recycled and increases education of recycled materials preference by the state.
Big Summer for BYOBag

By Cynthia Kanner

If you live or like to shop in Crystal Lake, remember to bring your own reusable shopping bag, especially since July is BYOBag month in the City of Crystal Lake! With a formal “BYOBag July” proclamation signed by Mayor Aaron Shepley, and grant funds for BYOBag signs for grocery and retail stores, our message is successfully moving along and we’re grateful to the City of Crystal Lake and their Clean Air Counts Committee for their support and assistance. So, keep your eyes open for our BYOBag logo throughout stores in Crystal Lake!

Woodstock is also embracing BYOBag and had already considered such a campaign before the Mayor and The Defenders connected on the issue. Mayor Brian Sager is all for moving toward a more sustainable approach to shopping. The Mayor and I recently met with a Woodstock High School class to discuss the issue with young people who are, of course, the leaders of tomorrow. Whether you stop by the grocery stores in Woodstock or the popular Farmer’s Market, if you shop in this historic town, you can help our BYOBag campaign continue to grow here and elsewhere by simply bringing your own bag.

With our grant money from the McHenry County Community Foundation going toward signs to communicate the BYOBag message where it counts—at the stores—be on the lookout for window cling signs at most retail shops throughout the county this summer and fall. Our hardworking BYOBag committee will be delivering hundreds of these signs, specific to every town in the county, and we look toward the leadership of those towns to work with us on delivering the BYOBag message. In addition, special standing BYOBag signs with rungs for reusable bags so stores can promote their own, will be delivered to all grocery stores in the county!

If you’re interested in joining our committee and helping get the word out on this important issue, please contact me at: cynthkanner@gmail.com We’d love to have your help and ideas.

And, remember, wherever you shop and whether for clothing or groceries, please consider BYOBag and have a sustainable summer!

Dr. Brian Sager, Mayor of Woodstock, meets with seniors from Bill Donato’s class at Woodstock High School to discuss the importance of not using single-use plastic bags. Bill Donato is former president of the Defenders’ Board of Directors, and is a science instructor, as well as Green Club and Student Council Advisor, at Woodstock High School.

Spring Education and Advocacy Efforts

By Nancy Schietzelt

The Defenders carried out the following educational and advocacy efforts during Spring 2015 in addition to other activities that are covered in more detail in this issue. Many thanks to all the volunteers who help make these efforts possible!

• Continued to facilitate monthly Green Drinks events
• Screened the documentary “The Ethics of Fracking” at MCC
• Continued to provide support for the Silver and Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition
• Successfully advocated for the creation of a Water Resources Specialist Position in the McHenry County Planning Department
• Continued collaboration with CMAP in the development of a watershed plan for Boone and Dutch Creeks
• Provided educational information about the environment at Garden Fest, at the Earth Day Celebration, and at International Migratory Bird Day
• Continued our participation with the McHenry County Solid Waste Task Force
• Co-hosted the McHenry County Food Scrap Seminar for businesses in collaboration with the MCC Sustainability Center and others
• Continued to facilitate the McHenry County Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby
• Activated our members to contact their legislators to support bills related to exotic weed control, clean jobs in energy creation in Illinois, and making composting easier in Illinois
• Activated our members to contact their legislators to oppose including MCCD in a local government consolidation bill and to oppose bobcat hunting in the state
• Continued to provide the Northwest Herald with an Environmental Tip for weekly publication
• Helped with the Youth Groundwater Festival organized by the McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program
Styrofoam Recycling Tour

Defenders’ members will have a unique opportunity to tour Chicago Logistic Service (CLS), a trucking business located in Elgin that also accepts clean, used Styrofoam for repurposing as part of their commitment to improving our environment.

CEO of CLS, Ken Santowski, who is also a Defenders’ board member, has spearheaded this effort for a number of years. Ken, along with fellow volunteers, Dwight Dalton and Gary Johnson, collect Styrofoam from the following locations: Barrington Hills Village Hall, Algonquin Township Highway Department, Algonquin Public Works Department, Nunda Township Highway Department, Lakewood Village Hall, and Lakewood Public Works Department. Styrofoam is also collected at The Defenders’ regular monthly recycling drives in Woodstock and McHenry. The Defenders encourages you to recycle Styrofoam that you have at home, whether from packaging or take-out meals, at these locations. After collected, it is processed through a densifier (shown at right) and sent to companies for upcycling. The Defenders helped to purchase the Styrofoam densifier in collaboration with Chicago Logistic Services.

There are two tours scheduled to learn more about Styrofoam and to observe the densifier in action. We hope that one or both of these timeslots work for you. Please RSVP to The Defenders’ office in advance of each date by emailing mcdef@owc.net or by calling 815-338-0393.

Summer Parades: Come March with Us!

July 5 - Crystal Lake  ~  July 19 - McHenry  ~  July 25 - Algonquin

The Defenders’ promotes preserving the environment by taking up a position on the parade route in some of our county’s summer parades. We encourage parade onlookers to recycle their bottles of water and cans of pop by helping to collect recyclables during parades AND we promote the work of The Environmental Defenders in our county at the same time. If you can volunteer to march with The Defenders, please contact Sue Jensen right away at: tomsuejensen@ameritech.net.

Parades are just “around the corner!”

Defenders’ Environmental Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Defenders’ organization is proud to announce the recipients of its annual scholarships to two “most deserving” McHenry County high school seniors. Trevor Lawson, a senior at Jacobs High School in Algonquin, will receive a $1,000 scholarship. Trevor plans to pursue a BS degree in Zoology with a minor in Environmental Studies at Southern Illinois University. Katelynn McManus, a senior at McHenry High School-East Campus, intends on using her $1,000 scholarship to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies, with a focus on sustainability and international business. She has not yet decided on her school from a handful of options. These deserving seniors will receive their checks at the June meeting of The Defenders’ Board of Directors. Congratulations Trevor and Katelynn!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Garage Sale - July 16-18
Clean house and drop off your used items July 11, 13-15! Clean house!!

The Defenders’ annual summer garage sale will be held Thursday-Saturday, July 16-18 from 9 AM to 4 PM. The sale is located at the Algonquin Township Road District complex, 3702 U.S. Highway 14, between Crystal Lake & Cary (next to The Hollows.) Drive back to the big beige garage on the right! We always have a great assortment of things, including housewares, small appliances, dish sets, glassware, books, DVDs/CDs, furniture, tools, bicycles, toys, electronics and things you didn’t know you needed.

Donations for our annual Summer garage sale can be dropped off Saturday, July 11 and Monday through Wednesday, July 13-15, from 10 AM until 3 PM. This is a great way to continue your spring cleaning while helping The Defenders with this fundraising event!

What types of things can you donate? Antiques and collectibles, household items, books, tools, dishes, pots and pans, dressers and tables, etc. Small appliances and electronics must be in working order. We take just about anything that can be re-sold, with a few exceptions: we cannot take clothing, upholstered furniture, televisions, computers or large appliances. If you have questions about what we take, please feel free to call the office at 815-338-0393 or send us an email at: mcdef@owc.net to inquire.

August 5-9 — McHenry County Fair

We need volunteers at one of our most successful fundraisers!

For lining up volunteers at the McHenry County Fair, The Defenders’ receives a donation. This is a very important fundraiser for the organization and we are in need of 75 volunteers. Please contact the office at 815-338-0393 and spend a shift or two at the County Fair this year! There is free admission to the Fair for one day in return for your service. This year The Defenders’ booth will be located in a special tented area dedicated to conservation-related organizations. If you plan to volunteer, please consider promoting The Environmental Defenders at the same time by wearing a Defenders’ t-shirt. If you do not have one, they can be purchased through the following Web site: www.hyperstitch.com/category/clubs/environmental-defenders-of-mchenry-county/. Thank you!!

August 15 — Corn Roast

Join fellow Defenders’ members for our ANNUAL CORN ROAST!

- Pioneer Tree Farm
- and home of The Howentines
- 4614 Pioneer Rd, McHenry
- 4 PM

Bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share and your own non-disposable plates, cups & utensils.

Hayride—Fun for kids—lawn games—more.

Good old-fashioned summer fun!

Summer Guided Canoe/Kayak Trips

What could be better than enjoying the environment you help to protect through your membership with The Defenders?! Please come join us on one or more of our summer canoe/kayak trips (we also welcome standup paddle boards!)

June 28 - Nippersink Creek — Cindy Skrukrud, csrkrukud@gmail.com
July 25 - Rock River — Cindy Skrukrud, csrkrukud@gmail.com
August 23 - Fox River — Cynthia Kanner, cynthkanner@gmail.com
September (TBD) - Kishwaukee — Neill Sachs, neillsachs@gmail.com

Please contact the person listed above by email for details and to sign up. And, if you need a paddle partner, please let the trip organizer know!

September 19 — It’s Our River Day

Please join us for the annual “It’s Our River Day” and Conservation Community Day

Saturday, September 19, 2015

The Defenders and The Village of Algonquin are pleased to once again sponsor this cleanup event along the banks of the Fox River in downtown Algonquin. Conservation group booths are available for information and activities.

Location: Cornish Park at route 62 and S. Harrison.

Time: 1 PM to 4 PM
**Earth Day 2015**

*By Cynthia Kanner*

Sometimes, a photo says it all. Earth Day, as always, was a great success and enjoyed by all generations. Once again, the weather was on our side. Shown here is a young person dancing to the music of Joe Reilly, a very talented singer/songwriter and musician who blends hip-hop, blues, gospel, world rhythm and traditional American Indian styles together to deliver an environmental message everyone can appreciate.

This year, The Defenders’ Water Resources, Silver & Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition, and BYOBag tables were very fortunate to be situated all together (and near the wonderful music and food), by the old red barn where puppet shows were offered. The BYOBag table volunteers helped visitors make reusable bags out of T-shirts all day long.

Other activities included recycling drop-off, nature walks through the meadow behind The Conservation District’s Prairieview Education Center (shown in photo at back), and various vendors with their green ways and wares. As always, Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen offered wonderful lunches for all and MCCD provided snacks for volunteers.

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**Algonquin Talks Trash**

*By Teagen Andrews*

The Defenders and Teagen Andrews, Commercial Recycling Program Advocate from Ecossential Solutions, Inc., hosted “Algonquin Talks Trash,” a community event at the Ganek Municipal Center in Algonquin on April 29th, which focused on the benefits of small business recycling.

The event provided Algonquin business owners with information on how to start a commercial recycling program. Questions regarding waste hauler options were answered and misconceptions about commercial recycling in Algonquin were clarified.

Opportunities for recycling specialty items as a local, small business were presented by the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County and Bob Miller, Algonquin Township Commissioner. These opportunities extend from soft plastic and plastic film to packing peanuts and food waste.

There was also discussion on the setbacks that some historic district businesses may face. Solutions included identifying a few locations where recycling containers can be placed and working with those establishments to set up and maintain a recycling program. Businesses were also encouraged to use tote cans instead of dumpsters to save space. Additionally, the Village of Algonquin is willing to work with business owners to find a best-fit solution to their needs.

The Village of Algonquin currently does not regulate commercial recycling for existing businesses, but new businesses must have room in their dumpster corrals for a recycling bin. The regulation does not indicate the business must pay for and use recycling, just that space is allotted for recycling in case the current or future tenants choose to recycle.

Throughout the evening, discussion continued about opportunities, setbacks and what businesses would like to see happen in Algonquin going forward. Each attendee was given an upcycled Goodie Bag with a CD containing information from the event and how to contact the Environmental Defenders for a complimentary solid waste review.
Green Drinks: A Monthly “Must Do!”

By Cynthia Kanner

From butterflies to bicycles, Green Drinks truly covers a wide breadth of all things GREEN. This social and educational event takes place at Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen in Crystal Lake (reason enough to be there), the first Wednesday of every month from 5 to 7 PM. Combine the cool location with interesting and relevant presentations, free food, and nice local wines and beers (there’s even a special Green Drink of the month), and you’ll wish this were a weekly event. But, the months roll around fast enough, so it’s good to just lock this one into your calendar and look forward to the next one. Speaking of which, the July Green Drinks is a presentation on the Fox River Corridor Steering Committee, organized to enhance recreational possibilities and historic downtown areas between Algonquin and Carpentersville along the Fox River.

Sponsored by The Defenders’ and Duke’s, Green Drinks is also a global phenomenon with meetings taking place all over the world from Finland to Ghana. Here are just a few Green Drinks logos from around the world:

![Green Drinks logos]

Pancakes on the Prairie

Those who made it up early enough enjoyed a wonderful morning walk through The Defenders’ 8-acre prairie off of Dean Street in Woodstock, which borders Soil & Water District and McHenry County Conservation District properties and includes the Headwaters of the Kishwaukee River. Some neat birds were on display, pointed out by walk leader and birder, Randy Schietzelt, and a delicious outdoor breakfast was served thanks to our chef, Walt Dembse (seen here with large camp coffee pot!) Our group spanned the generations and included members from Woodstock to Algonquin.
Recycling News

What runs the MRF? The brain behind the operation is a high-tech control panel that monitors the entire system. The touch screen helps monitor conveyor belt speeds and make changes where necessary. It can pinpoint areas of disruption along the system. The panel controls a variety of machines that sort, based on material content and weight. Screens use rubber “stars” to sort materials by size. Optical scanners read a material traveling underneath it and then use a jet of air to blow that material in specific directions. Magnets remove ferrous metals, glass and tin. A ballistic separator uses paddles to remove three-dimensional items, such as plastic bottles and cans, from paper and fiber. A specialized glass clean-up screen was added after the system was complete to remove fine particulates of glass to be recycled.

The materials are bailed and stored in bunkers underneath the sorting center prior to being shipped off to become something else. Currently, fibers are shipped mainly to China for recycling. Aluminum and tin are sent to local metal processors. Glass bottles and jars are sent to Strategic Materials in Chicago. Plastics marked #1 are sent to a Mohawk Carpeting plant in Georgia. Plastics marked #2 are used in plastic lumber and playground equipment. Other types of plastics are sent to a variety of recyclers.

However, even with state-of-the-art technology, there are still many limitations to effective recycling in this country, leaving some items simply unrecoverable. Recycling program availability differs by geographic region, legislation and markets whereby some municipalities have chosen to simply not include a recycling program in their area. There is much miscommunication to consumers about what is or isn’t recyclable. Just because an item has a number on it, does not mean the waste hauler will accept that material curbside. Even the demand for certain materials can be a setback. Permanent markets are vital for recyclers to maintain operations. Without a stable market of buyers, programs start and end rapidly, wasting time and money.

With China closing its doors to U.S. recyclables, it is time that our country take hold of its’ solid waste footprint and create a closed-loop industry of reuse and recycling. Companies such as Homewood Disposal are leading the way in sorting technology and forging relationships locally that rely on material recycling to keep costs down. It is more cost-efficient and energy-efficient to create products from recycled materials than to use virgin resources, freshly extracted. The question is: can the U.S. come to grips with its garbage?

Complimentary Solid Waste Audits

Is your business looking for a way to easily and quickly cut costs without impacting budgets or staffing? It’s time to talk about your trash! Solid waste alternatives, such as recycling, quickly cut monthly waste management costs which can add up to thousands of dollars saved each year! The Defenders of McHenry County have teamed up with Ecosential Solutions to provide complimentary solid waste audits to assist small- to medium-sized businesses in McHenry County to save money with recycling. Ecosential Solutions, an environmental consulting company, creates sustainable solid waste programs. These programs have cut waste management costs for organizations 20-45%; diverted over 900,000 pounds of waste from landfills; and increased recycling rates for clients.

The complimentary waste audit includes an Introduction Consultation; Waste Stream Audit; Waste Audit Summary Report; a How To Start: Small Business Recycling Pamphlet; and Resources for Equipment and Supplies.

Here’s a testimonial from Eisenmann Corporation of Crystal Lake, which will be saving 20% of its yearly waste costs by adding additional recycling! “When I contacted The Defenders, they directed me to Ecosential Solutions, … [Ecosential Solutions] then visited our facility to see what we had in place and what it would take to get the job done. It was clear that we could have recycling through our waste hauler and that it would be even less expensive than having only a trash container. [The new] arrangement saves pickup cost and truck fuel. The recycling container is for commingled recyclables, just like the curbside pick-up in residential areas. No special sorting is necessary!” Please contact the Defenders at mcdef@owc.net or 815-338-0393 or stop by the office.

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Recycling Drives

**What:**
Fluorescent tubes, rechargeable batteries, car batteries, button batteries, and block white Styrofoam. Packing peanuts and re-useable bubble wrap may be dropped off for no charge. We will also be accepting certain electronics, such as computers, phones, printers, toys, TVs and computer monitors for a donation to the Defenders. T/C Metals in Crystal Lake has been friendly and helpful as can be when we bring aluminum or non-ferrous metals to them. With metal prices up, this has been a steady source of income. Many folks have used the McHenry drive and donated their aluminum cans.

**When:**
Second Saturday of every Month.

**Where:**
- **Woodstock:** The Woodstock collection takes place on the second Saturday of each EVEN numbered month and is held at 2222 South Dean Street (Soil & Water Conservation District property), from 9AM to noon.
- **McHenry:** The McHenry collection takes place on the second Saturday of ODD numbered months at the Metra Station Parking lot, 4005 Main Street in McHenry, from 9AM to noon.

**Styrofoam Drop-Off**

- **Village of Algonquin:** Public Works, 110 Meyer Drive.
- **Village of Lakewood:** Lakewood Village Hall, 2500 Lake Avenue, Lakewood Public Works garage, 6570 Haligus Road.

**Other pick-ups include:**
- Barrington Hills Village Hall, Algonquin Township Highway Department, and Nunda Township Highway Department.
The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

Green Business/Civic Members

Adele Petersen, Realtor®
Crystal Lake

Advanced Eyecare Clinic
Lake In The Hills

Algonquin/LITH
Chamber of Commerce

Artland Story Group
Woodstock

Alpine Accessories
LITH

Illinois State Senator Pam Althoff

Billy Goat Lawn Care, Inc.
Johnsburg

Computer Recycling Center, LLC
Crystal Lake

Conscious Cup Coffee Roasters
Crystal Lake

Copy Express, Inc.
Woodstock

Crystal Lake Park District
Crystal Lake

Falcon Waste & Recycling, Inc.
Woodstock

Hyperstitch, Inc.
Marengo

Marvin’s Toy Store
Crystal Lake

McHenry Co. Dept. of Water Resources
Woodstock

Napoli’s Pizza
Woodstock

Pioneer Tree Farm
McHenry

USAgain
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Student – $10......................................
Other – Amount affordable to you at this time......

Total contribution: $

Name #1_________________________________
Name #2_________________________________
Address_________________________________
City_________________State_______Zip_______

Township___________________________
E-mail #1___________________________
E-mail #2___________________________
Phone_____________________________

Year moved to McHenry County:______________
Number of individuals residing in household:____

☐ My check is enclosed.

Please return completed form to:

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
110 S. Johnson Street, Suite 106
Woodstock, IL 60098 OR

Join on-line at www.mcdef.org

Questions? Call 815-338-0393

Code: nwsInrSUMMER2015

Photo by Cynthia Kanner

Submit your photos of nature and the environment to:
Cynthia Kanner at cynthkanner@gmail.com.

Preserve

Protect

Educate

EarthConnect | Summer 2015

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### Events & Activities

#### JUNE/JULY
- **Sunday, June 28**
- **June 28 & July 1**
- **Wednesday, July 1**
- **July 16-18**
- **Saturday, July 25**

Nippersink Creek Canoe Outing — trip leader contact: Cindy Skrukrud, cskrukrud@gmail.com.

**STYROFOAM recycling field trips, Elgin. Chicago Logistic Service — Details page 6.**

Green Wednesdays’ **Talk & Reception** – Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM

**Summer Garage Sale — See page 7 for details.**

Rock River Canoe Outing — trip leader contact: Cindy Skrukrud, cskrukrud@gmail.com.

#### AUGUST
- **Wednesday, August 5**
- **August 5-9**
- **Saturday, August 15**
- **Saturday, August 22**

Green Wednesdays’ **Talk & Reception** – Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM

**McHenry County Fair - DEFENDERS’ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Details page 7.**

**Annual Corn Roast membership event. Pioneer Tree Farm. Details page 7.**

**Fox River Canoe Outing** — trip leader contact: Cynthia Kanner, cynthkanner@gmail.com.

#### SEPTEMBER
- **Wednesday, Sept. 2**
- **Saturday, Sept. 19**
- **September (TBD)**

“Green Wednesdays” **Talk & Reception** – Duke’s Alehouse & Kitchen, Crystal Lake. 5-7 PM

**It’s Our River Day, Algonquin. See page 7 for details.**

**Kishwaukee River Canoe Outing** — trip leader contact: Neill Sachs, neillsachs@gmail.com.

#### Big Fall Book Sale!
When: September 20 – October 17, 2015
Where: Algonquin Township Road District, Route 14, next to The Hollows natural area.

Stay tuned for more details! We’ll volunteers to help set up and run the sale.

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**Support The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County through workplace giving!**
For more information on how you can contribute to The Defenders call us at 815-338-0393.