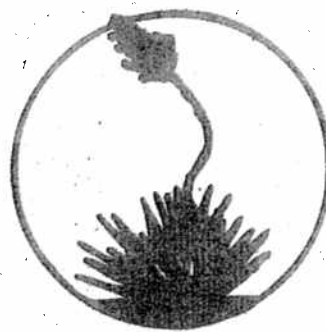


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THE OFFICIAL PAPER FOR MARBLE FALLS, TEXAS

SERVING THE HIGHLAND LAKES REGION SINCE 1959

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## Recycling programs sprouting in county

By HAL BROWN  
HIGHLAND LAKES NEWSPAPERS

Ken Odiorne, who runs the Bertram Recycling Center located in a remodeled municipal water tank, said he's glad recycling seems to be expanding.

Bertram is Burnet County's recycling leader, but recycling is taking hold in the rest of the county, too. Capital Area Council of Governments grants have gone to Burnet, Burnet County, Bertram and Granite Shoals—and Marble Falls will soon begin a curbside recycling program.

"I hope it takes some pressure off," Odiorne said.

"When I started to mess with this eight or nine years ago, they would come and pick up once every three months or so. Currently they're having to pick up about every two weeks."

Established in 1993 as an outgrowth of a recycling program at Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Bertram center is used by lots of people outside of Bertram. Part of the reason is that Bertram takes in a broad range of material, including glass, which a lot of recycling programs do not.

Bertram is receiving a \$9,826 grant from CAPCOG. It should make the

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## Recycling: Sprouting

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center, which is a metal water tank with a doorway and a small window cut into its sides, more user-friendly.

Burnet is sticking a toe in the recycling waters. It received a \$21,700 grant for a recycling trailer.

Burnet Director of Economic Development Crista Goble Bromley said the trailer is a first step, and a test to see if Burnet will support a larger recycling program.

The Burnet project is comprised of two key elements. They will locate the recycling trailer at the City Maintenance Facility on SH 29 West. Citizens will have access to the trailer during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, except during scheduled runs to empty the trailer.

The trailer would have eight to 12 bins with a twin-bin for cardboard. Products to be collected and recycled include aluminum, steel, newspapers, magazines, cardboard, and No. 1 and No. 2 plastics (fizzy drink bottles, oven ready meal trays, milk bottles and washing-up liquids).

Interface Recycling, a local nonprofit recycling and training center for mentally challenged adults, will collect the recyclables. Sales of the recycled materials will go to Interface.

The second component of the Burnet project is to conduct a public education and notification program, which will announce that the recycling program is available and provide information regarding the city's semi-annual city-wide cleanup efforts and education regarding illegal dumping. This will be achieved through newspaper advertising, public service announcements, and brochures and flyers to be distributed through Burnet schools, City of Burnet

outlets, and a direct mail campaign to all City of Burnet utility customers.

Bromley said the program will begin later this fall.

Marble Falls has already taken the curbside step. Recycling is to begin there Wednesday, Oct. 1.

Granite Shoals' grant for \$18,384 will go to maintain citywide cleanup events.

Each year for the past six years, Granite Shoals has budgeted for two city-wide cleanup events, in April and November, and response to the event has grown each year.

City officials told CAPCOG the overwhelming response to the clean up event in November 2007 consumed more than the city's allotted annual budget.

In April 2008 the clean up event was funded by CAPCOG/Texas Commission on Environmental Quality grant money and community response filled 20 dumpsters, consuming the allotted grant money for calendar 2008.

These clean up events are offered to all citizens of the City of Granite Shoals as well as to Burnet County residents outside the city who are city water customers.

Writing to CAPCOG in support of the grant, Granite Shoals officials noted that Precinct 4 County Commissioner Joe Don Dockery "is very supportive of the cleanup efforts. There is an ongoing need for these events and Granite Shoals would like to continue providing the cleanup events but needs assistance in funding those efforts in fiscal 2009. In addition, the city is committed to cleaning up the existing illegal dump sites around the city and in city parks, and to pursuing methods for stopping the illegal dumping."