

Fundraising event held to promote recycling in Marathon

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Some 80 people gathered at Eve's Garden Organic Bed and Breakfast in Marathon last Saturday for an evening of music, food and conversation, and to make donations toward setting up recycling in the unincorporated community.

Alaine Berg, daughter-in-law and co-owner of Eve's Garden with Kate Thayer, spearheaded the initiative, and said the \$600 raised is being turned over to Della Shackelford, owner of Lechuguilla Liquors, who is in charge of the Marathon Chamber of Commerce's plans to set up regular recycling pickups through Texas Disposal Systems.

Texas Disposal already operates the recycling system in Alpine at the Hal Flanders Recycling Center on Cemetery Road, and they make regular pickups from the Fort Davis recycling center in Jeff Davis County. Ryan Beard of Texas Disposal said the company expects to provide separate recycling bins for cardboard, paper, glass and aluminum cans on midtown Marathon property owned by the French Company Grocer, Marcie Roberts, where Marathon residents and merchants will be able to separate their waste that can be recycled into the clearly-marked bins.

Earlier community efforts to stimulate recycling were hampered by people using the bins for trash disposal. Shackelford said a sign notifying that persons dumping trash can be fined up to \$500 will be posted at the site, which will be locked except during the hours the local grocer is open — from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. It is not yet clear how often Texas Disposal will be driving the bins into Alpine to empty them.

Marathon ISD superintendent Neal Harrison said he plans to promote recycling from the school, and last week he sent home via his students a pamphlet explaining why recycling makes sense — because it creates jobs, saves money, reduces pollution from greenhouse gas emissions, and protects area landfills.

Martha Latta, who is in charge of Alpine Recycles, said that operation has already kept 356,360 pounds of glass out of the Brewster County landfill, making it available to local businesses or landowners who want to use free tumbled glass for architectural or gardening purposes.

Marathon's Gage Gardens, the site of many weddings and other activities arranged through the town's largest business, the historic Gage Hotel, used free tumbled glass on all pathways through its eight acres of manicured parkland, said Janis Jobe, who is in charge of Gage Gardens.

The Alpine Recycles website also states that since February of 2007 the town's recycling efforts have saved 6,125,578 pounds of waste from being dumped into the county landfill.

Aguilar's Fina, the Burnt Biscuit Bakery, Eve's Garden, Front Street Books, the Gage Hotel and 12 Gage Restaurant, the J&G Shell Station, James Evans Gallery and French Company Grocer, Guzzi's Pizza, Brown Dog Gardens of Alpine, Holly Holland's Hand-Made Jewelry, Johnny B's Soda Fountain, John Sufficool, Lechuguilla Liquors, the Marathon Coffee Shop, Pitaya Verde, Willebob Ink and ZBar Farms all provided door prizes awarded at the Saturday night event.

Neil Chavigny contributed extra chairs.