

# Under the News

A blog by a daily newspaper editor somewhere in America ...

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007

## A temporary fix for recyclers

Last weekend, I had a book event in Houston ... so I hauled my glass and plastic recyclables to the West University Recycle Express station at 5004 Dincans (1 block west of Kirby, between Westpark and Bissonnet, very close to Hwy 59.)

Talk about convenient and easy to use! You simply drive up, put your recyclables of all kinds through slots in designated stalls, then drive off! It's that easy. No proof that you live in Houston, no scary attendants. Just an efficient drive-up experience.

It's also gratifying to see so many people using the service and so much material staying out of the landfill. You don't get paid for your recyclables at Recycle Express, but you have the comfort of knowing it's helping the community and the environment.

It also stands as an example of how recycling needn't be curbside-or-nothing. Convincing an existing private recycler or recruiting a new business to Southeast Texas to do this kind of one-stop recycling might be the way to go.

posted by Ron Franscell @ [2:32 PM](#)   [6 comments](#)   [links to this post](#)

## About Me



**Name:**

Ron Franscell

**Location:**

US

I am a newspaperman, author of three books, and an occasional commentator at National Public Radio. My new book, **FALL**, is an intimate true-crime/memoir. Blending the can't-look-away nakedness of a monstrous crime thriller with an accomplished author's life-changing personal experience, **FALL** is a gripping true crime narrative and a poignant exploration of survivor guilt, community justice, the enduring effects of homicide, and how a brutal act forever changed one peaceful American town.

[View my complete profile](#)

**6 Comments:**

At 8:46 AM, January 23, 2007, Anonymous said...

Ron, I serve on the West University Place Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board. Thank you for your positive comments on our facility. Would you mind if we linked your blog to our Website? Thanks.

Steve Stelzer

At 8:55 AM, January 23, 2007, Jill said...

That is encouraging! Now if I had room to store the stuff so that I could recycle!

At 9:15 AM, January 23, 2007, Ron Franscell said...

Feel free to link, Steve! And if you know somebody who'd like to do something similar in Southeast Texas, please send them this way!

Ron

At 11:36 AM, January 23, 2007, Anonymous said...

When you recycle weekly, or even only once a month, recycling isn't about "storage." People put up road blocks to everything, and that's probably why recycling failed in Beaumont in the first place -- people with the attitude of "Oh, it's too hard, I can't do it." Other states recycle ROUTINELY; I don't know what is so hard about it. Just do it.

At 12:32 PM, January 23, 2007, SingingSkies said...

Glad it worked out, Ron!

Hey, Steve! Any way to help us link to a cooperative service provider? I

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worth?

have a feeling recycling might be more successful this time around.

anonymous, please understand that storing does become an issue if you have to then transport it 90 miles to recycle. If you only head to Houston every other month, then you might even begin to wonder if the stuff will fit in your vehicle!

At 12:39 PM, January 23, 2007, Ron Franscell said...

Storage is also an issue for environmentally conscious apartment dwellers who might not have a garage or any other suitable outside space to collect recyclables.

But the overall point is a good one that we haven't yet convinced/educated Southeast Texans how recycling can help them live in a better community, and in some cases, put a little money in their pockets ... thus, the minimal trouble of doing it seems to outweigh the benefits for them.

Believe me, it's worth doing.

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