

KIB Newsletter



Volume 4, Issue 12

December 2014



Brandenburg Elementary students, staff and visitors celebrated Arbor Day on November 14.



Kirby and Smokey were a big hit, and greeted all the students in attendance at Arbor Day.



The YMCA Seniors collected 613 pounds of recyclables for America Recycles Day and were honored on November 21.

Happy Holidays

November Was All About the Trees

Since late fall is ideal for planting trees in Texas, much of the state celebrates Arbor Day in November. That is true in Irving, where each year KIB, along with the Parks Department and the Irving ISD, honors the school with the highest average paper recycling per student. This year the big winner was Brandenburg Elementary, whose students and surrounding community recycled a total of 47,804 pounds of paper, which averages to more than 52 pounds per student. The school received a beautiful red oak, a framed mayoral proclamation and a trophy from KIB. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Smokey the Bear and KIB's toucan mascot, Kirby.

The Irving Family YMCA seniors group saved a lot of trees by participating in America Recycles Day, and collecting as many recyclables - much of it paper- during the first half of November. KIB provided the blue bags and information as to what can and can't be recycled, and the seniors did the rest. When all was collected and weighed, they had brought in 613 pounds of recyclables. They were honored at a breakfast on Friday, November 21. This is the sixth year that the YMCA has partnered with KIB for this nationwide event.



Service Learning students at the Tree Farm

Another partnership involving trees resulted in the addition of 41 native Texas trees to the City of Irving Tree Farm, located at Mountain Creek Preserve. KIB applied for and received a \$5,000 UPS Foundation Community Planting Grant through Keep America Beautiful. This was used to purchase several different types of trees from the Texas Trees Foundation. On a very windy Saturday, November 8, seven volunteers, under the guidance of the Parks Department, helped plant those trees at the farm. These trees will have a chance to thrive and grow for several year before being used to replenish trees as needed at city parks. ICTN was there to capture the action and interview volunteers, and produced another great video.

Coming Up Soon!

December is the time of year when KIB takes a little break from projects and "switches gears" into award mode. KIB staff will be busy preparing end-of-year reports as well as compiling information and writing our award applications for Keep Texas Beautiful. It is a rewarding process, as we get a chance to look back and reflect on all the activities and many partners that we have worked with over the past 12 months. It makes us realize how grateful we are for our volunteers and all they help us accomplish, and we start to look forward to another event-filled year.

Did You Know?

This month our recycling facts are all about paper and trees. Did you know that:

- In 2011, 66.8% of paper consumed in the US was recycled, an average of 338 pounds per person
- Paper can be recycled 5-7 times. After that, paper fibers are too short and must be mixed with virgin fibers to produce new paper

Source: Earth 911