

Volunteers improve world at bustling recycling center

P.S. Eggen

Special to The Herald-Chronicle

About every other Saturday, people from across Osage County gather at a common destination in Lyndon to help make the earth a little greener.

Back in the early 1990s when the concept of recycling was still in its infancy in the nation's bigger cities, a newspaper notice announced a recycling program in the small east central Kansas town of Osage City.

All Osage County residents were encouraged to participate. Folks from Lyndon, about 10 miles away, who had no recycling program, regularly began showing up not only to bring in cans and cardboard, but to help out as well.

When the Osage City sponsor was unable to continue due to ill health, the program was in danger of being discontinued. That is when Ann Robison stepped up to the plate.

"Most of the people (who recycled at Osage City) were from Lyndon," she explained. "So I went to different community clubs in Lyndon to find one to sponsor us. The Lions Club agreed and we started at the city park."

"So we'd just pick a place at Jones Park where people could find us," said Kay Jones, another Lyndon recycling pioneer. "We held the event once every other month."

Eventually, enough people began recycling that the effort had to be moved from the park. A lean-to building at the county offices filled the bill temporarily, but as community involvement grew, so did the need for more space.

Today, the Osage County recycling facility is located in the Lyndon Business Park at 208 W. 17th. The facility was built by the county on land provided by the city. The building is designed to allow recyclers to drive in and drop off items indoors, letting recycling efforts continue regardless of weather conditions.

About the same time that community recycling was beginning to catch on in Lyndon, a non-profit association known as the Lake Region Solid Waste Authority (SWA) was also forming and growing, becoming an "official association" in 1995.

Six counties - Linn, Osage, Miami, Anderson, Franklin and Coffey - joined together under the Lake Region SWA umbrella. The purpose of the SWA is to write a regional solid waste management plan to file annually with the state of Kansas. The group



Above, Kay Jones, Ann Robison and Joetta Asbury, all of the Lyndon area, sort plastic as it is brought in to the Osage County Recycling Center. Asbury said she is a frequent depositor of recyclables at the center, but this was the first time she had helped sort the items. The center encourages those who recycle to drop off their items, and then stay to help sort during the second and fourth Saturday of each month.

Elton Decker, right, Lyndon, known as a primary motivator behind Osage County's recycling efforts, unloads recyclables from a pickup. Decker, who does volunteer work at the recycling facility, even on days it is not open, takes on any necessary work in order to make the operation run smoothly.

PHOTOS BY
WAYNE WHITE



also acts as liaison between the member counties and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Another function of the Lake Region SWA is to assist with implementing waste management programs, including recycling efforts like the one in Lyndon.

While the recycling facility is able to rely on volunteers to provide manpower, without financial support to help defray costs, the physical plant would not exist. Grant

money has played a key role in funding the project, helping to pay for the building and equipment such as two balers (one for plastics, one for cardboard) and a glass crusher.

Chris Anton, regional coordinator for the Lake Region SWA, acts as grant writer for the consortium, helping local communities to procure money for operational costs and improvements of solid waste management programs. Through

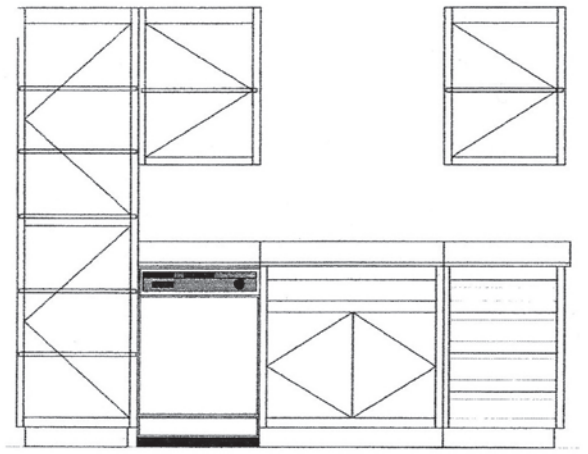
her assistance, Osage County obtained grants to help erect the enclosed facility and purchase equipment. Most of the grants come from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Osage County Recycling events are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month.

Items accepted include tin cans, aluminum cans, aluminum scrap, newspapers,

See Recycling, Page 32

Phil's Cabinet Shop



Computerized Drawings • Free Estimates

Phil's Cabinet Shop

Custom Cabinetry
Plastic Laminating
Countertops
Solid Surface Tops
Kitchen Sinks
Vanity Tops & Bowls

Scranton • (785) 793-2271 • (785) 640-7596

OSAGE COUNTY CHIROPRACTIC & WELLNESS CENTER



Fitness Hours: 5 a.m. -9 p.m. Daily
Cardio & Strengthening equipment

Senior/ Arthritis Class now forming

119 Main • Carbondale • 785-836-7500

M&M Market



Come in & see our in-store Specials every week!

We accept VISION!

531 Topeka Ave.

Lyndon

785-828-3398

7 am - 8 pm, 7 days a week

Reece and Nichols Town and Country

An independently owned & operated member of the Reece & Nichols Alliance, Inc.



In-house mortgage options available! Seeking motivated agents to join our team!

Visit our web site for more listings and additional information

Don Tobler
(620) 343-5545

(785) 828-4481

www.reeceandnicholslyndon.com

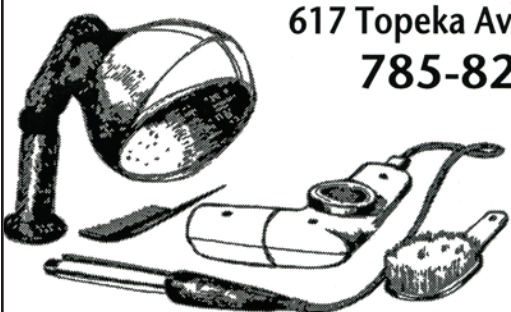
FULL SERVICE BEAUTY SALON

Come see us for all your hair/nail needs

- Hair Cuts
- Manicures/Pedicures
- Perms
- Acrylic
- Sets
- Extreme Glaze
- Color

ANGIE WALKER, STYLIST/OWNER
MELODY BRECHEISEN, STYLIST
JANEL LEWIS, NAIL TECH
MIK NICHOLSON, COSMETOLOGIST

Shear Perfection
617 Topeka Ave • Lyndon
785-828-4894



Call for your appointment TODAY!

Sloop Sales & Hook's Repair, Inc.



FOR YOUR MOWING NEEDS!

Check out our Bush Hog mowers



Bush Hog Estate Series Mowers



And make sure to swing by and check out our great line of Husqvarna tools!

27337 S 75 Hwy • Lyndon • (785) 828-4706 • www.sloophook.com



Shirley Howell
Agent

HOME • AUTO • BUSINESS
MOTOR HOME • CYCLES
RVs • RENTALS • FARM
(785) 828-3350 or (877) 828-3400

