

# Press Release

## **Recycling Society Wins “Most Humorous” Award in 2011 Labor Day Parade**

Greenbelt MD, 5 September 2011: The all-volunteer Greenbelt Recycling and Sustainability Society (GRASS) won the *Most Humorous* trophy at the 2011 Labor Day Festival, in support of their theme encouraging residents to be familiar with which items can be recycled.

Their entry was called “Which Bin?” and was staged as a rolling gameshow which quizzed members of the public about whether specific items—such as a book or metal faucet—are recyclable in Greenbelt’s single-stream weekly residential recycling pickup program. (All books—hardcover, softcover, catalogs, and phone books—can be placed in the recycling bin. Metal parts small enough to fit in the recycling bin are also recyclable, including faucets.)

Alan “Zip” Duda, who led the group as the gameshow host, said he enjoyed his role. “When it was clear we had expert contestants, we challenged them with more difficult items like an aerosol can or battery.” (Aerosol cans are recyclable once they are empty. Household alkaline batteries can be dropped off at My Organic Market in College Park, or at the city’s Electronic Recycling Events held every three months.)

Johanna Goderre Jones played the role of a recycle bin, and Frank DeBernardo was a trash can, competing for each item. Once the audience settled on an answer of which bin would receive an item, judge Luisa Robles sounded her verdict with a bell or vuvuzela horn. Robles is employed as recycling coordinator for the City of Greenbelt, and said “I enjoyed answering participants’ questions, like explaining that individual plastic bags and other thin plastic material clog machinery at the recycling plant and must not be put in the recycling bin. But they’re easily processed when stuffed into a single bag, and should be recycled.”

Karen Wallace constructed many of the 20 giant props used to quiz contestants. “I enjoyed the challenge of creating a three-foot tall orange juice carton and a CD strong enough to survive the

**For immediate release.** Video and photos of the team, as well as an electronic copy of this press release, are available on their website: <http://spril.com/Recycling>

rugged demands of the parade.” (Orange juice cartons and other gable-top containers are recyclable. Compact discs can be recycled at Best Buy or the city’s electronic recycling events held every three months.) The largest prop was a five-foot Generous Joe’s Pizza Box. (Pizza boxes are recyclable, once wax paper and leftover pizza are removed.)

Kim Kash—who calls Greenbelt home but currently lives in Saudi Arabia—distributed recycling flyers to the crowd so they could master the “Which Bin?” game every day at home. Those fliers are available on the web at [spril.com/recycling](http://spril.com/recycling) along with more photos of the award-winning parade entry.

Other society members in the parade were Martha Heil and Tom Jones. The society was formed to march in the parade with a creative theme, but holds no regular meetings. Several team members were part of last year’s Get My Drift Society, 2009’s Greenbelt Sun-Dried Garmenture Society Drill Team and 2008’s Greenbelt Reel Lawnmower Society Precision Drill Team.

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