

On a recent rainy Saturday I volunteered an hour at the Dump Recycling Center. No, I didn't feel like doing it when the time came, but I'd promised, so I showed up at the appointed hour.

It's really amazing how fast the time passes there; for one thing, you meet some of the nicest people! They're the ones who take recycling seriously.

A local doctor and his wife brought a load of bottles and cans to the bins. I hadn't seen them for several years and it was grand to catch up on family news.

Friends from Barnstable Village, Centerville, Cotuit and Marstons Mills came along, each with boxes and bags of recyclables. One was a lady I hadn't seen since I was a child.

And a special treat was the chance to welcome back to town a newly-retired fellow who graduated from Barnstable High School a few years before me, and who's been living and working in California for thirty-odd years. He and his wife came to put in their hour of duty when my time was up.

Jane Eshbaugh, through whose effort the Recycling Center exists, has a special reason to urge you all to bring your glass and metal between now and November 8th. She's Barnstable's leader in the latest statewide attempt to bring back the returnable bottle. A petition is on hand at the center, and all registered voters are being asked to sign it when they bring recyclables.

These petitions are being circulated in every town in the Commonwealth. Between now and November 10th, 56,644 certified signatures must be gathered to implement action by the State Legislature on the Bottle Bill.

This bill has been introduced into the Legislature for three consecutive years. It goes to committee and dies there since bottle and can manufacturers and distributors oppose this bill, arguing it will put people out of work. They have a powerful lobby.

Experience in other states which already have similar bottle bills disproves this contention, however, and in Oregon, where the law has been in effect since 1972, while jobs decreased in the manufacturing sector, they increased by a greater number in the distribution and handling end of the beverage business.

The Federal Reserve Bank predicts, after a study, an increase of 88,000 full-time new employees in Massachusetts if the Bottle Bill becomes law.

The bill provides deposits must be paid on beverage containers when purchased, and be refunded when the containers are returned. It also requires cans be constructed so the tops remain attached.

Because the Legislature has failed to respond to bills filed in the past, petitions are necessary to force consideration and action by both houses.

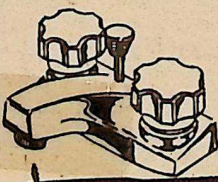
In the event the bill fails, an additional 9,274 signatures will be needed next summer to place the question on the ballot next November for binding referendum.

Those of you already recycling are witness to the surprising quantity of glass and metal collected at the Town Dump. Many truckloads have been carted away for re-use.

Not only does this save landfill space, it saves energy and raw materials. A twelve-ounce bottle, used ten times, consumes only a fifth the raw materials, a third the energy, and a quarter the landfill space of

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over →



**Don't be bothered
with a drip!**

CALL:

George E. Walsh

Reps to visit BHS

The following schools and college representatives will be visiting the Guidance Office at Barnstable High School during the next few weeks.

Monday, November 3 — **Ripon College** (Ripon, Wisconsin), 11:30

a.m.

Tuesday, November 4 — **Westbrook College** (Portland, Maine), 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 5 — **Mt. Saint Mary College** (Newburgh, N.Y.), 10:15 a.m.

...Village View

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a throwaway.

The taxpayer saves again and again. Returnables cost about half the price of throwaways. Roadside litter costs money to clean up. In 1972 it cost \$43,000,000 to pick up beverage container litter in the United States. You, the taxpayer, picked up the tab. In Oregon litter has been reduced by an impressive 92%!

The taxpayer saves again when he doesn't pay medical bills because he didn't cut himself on a bottle that wasn't thrown away.

That may sound like a triple negative, but if you ask your doctor, he'll tell you of the many wounds from broken glass litter and flip-top can-tops he treats each year. That's why doctors are recyclers. Their patients suffer the mangled fingers and toes, the cut arms, legs and faces.

What kind of energy savings are we talking about? Non-returnable bottles waste enough power to operate 1,700,000 cars, averaging 10 miles per gallon, for 10,000 miles; enough to heat two million three-bedroom brick homes in the mid-Atlantic region with natural gas for eight months; or to supply more than nine million people with electricity for a year.

Non-returnable bottles produced in our country waste enough energy to fill electrical needs of Cape Codders (at the present rate of consumption) for seventy-two years! That comes close to home.

Non-returnable beverage containers use 44% of all the glass produced in the United States, 5.6% of all the aluminum, and 2% of all the steel. The energy wasted in this country, on beer and soda containers alone, exceeds the combined energy requirements of fifteen countries in Africa, Asia and Central America. The total population of these countries together is over 185 million people.

The average cost per bottle, per trip, is 4 cents for a throwaway, 6 cents for a can, and only 3 cents for a returnable bottle. If you buy beverages in cans or bottles, the price you pay can be lowered by approximately 10% if the Bottle Bill passes.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates a national consumer-saving of \$27.8 million could be realized if every state passed a Bottle Bill similar to the one proposed.

We know ours is a wasteful nation. Most of us look at statistics and feel numbers are meaningless. When we look at our tax bills, however, those numbers are not meaningless — nor is the cost of fuel.

The Bottle Bill is one way to help lower your tax and fuel bills. It's honestly as simple as that.

Petitions await your signature at each village library in the Town of Barnstable. A petition will be at the Recycling Center each Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Petitions will also be available for signing at the Cape Cod Mall October 27 between 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Jane Eshbaugh will welcome volunteers on that date; if you can serve, please call her at 428-8335.

If you can put in an hour at the Recycling Center on a Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to separate green, brown and white glass, and aluminum from other metals (since aluminum is worth a lot more per pound), please call Jane.

If you don't have time to volunteer and are a registered voter, please find a petition and sign it.

Once again, it's really worthwhile to recycle glass, metal and papers. It saves you, the taxpayer in the Town of Barnstable, money. Cash. Dollars. The program shows a profit with only three per cent of us participating. Think what it would mean if everyone did his part!

Instead of hundreds, Barnstable could be showing thousands of dollars of profit, and saving you tax money. Have you done what you can to help?