



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **COUNTY COMMENDS THOSE WHO “PUT IT IN THE BLUE!” *Awards Given In Recognition of Local Recycling and Waste Reduction Efforts***

FREDERICK, MD —The Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) has announced the winners of two recent awards programs that recognize and promote the value of recycling and waste reduction. The announcements are part of the county’s participation in “America Recycles Day”, a national event to promote recycling, which occurs each year on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The “*Put It in the Blue!*” *Recycling Photo Contest* challenged local residents to show their support for recycling by submitting a photo of their big, blue recycling cart. Entries featured scenes from across the county, showing people and even pets doing their part to recycle more and waste less. The grand prize winner is Sophia Smith, a 16 year old student at Frederick High School. Her entry, which depicts her toddler nephew recycling, was selected by DSWM staff both for the artistry of her photograph and its portrayal of recycling as something that anyone can do.

All photographs were posted online for several weeks of community voting. Anna Peterson, who donned a colonial costume in her photo, was selected as the People’s Choice winner for her entry titled, “It’s Never Too Late to Start Recycling!”. Additionally, the best photo in the Under-Age-13 category features Jaziah Thompson doing his part to recycle while proudly modeling a “Put It In the Blue” t-shirt. Contest entries remain online and can be viewed at: [www.Facebook.com/FrederickRecycles](http://www.Facebook.com/FrederickRecycles).

The residential photo contest was made possible by the generous assistance of businesses that support Frederick County’s recycling initiatives: Liz Hough Photography, TownePlace Suites by Marriott, Frederick and Waste Management Recycle America. Interest in recycling extends beyond the neighborhood curb and many local businesses have also begun to recycle and reduce the amount of waste they generate. Frederick County Government commends such efforts.

In addition to the residential photo contest, DSWM awarded the winners of its annual *Frederick County Waste Reduction and Recycling Award*, a recognition program for local organizations that strive to decrease the amount of waste they produce. This year’s winners were announced during Thursday’s Board

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of County Commissioners work session and are: Cowork Frederick, the Frederick News-Post, Musket Ridge Golf Club, Unique Optique, and Zavos Architecture+Design. Each of these organizations has demonstrated leadership by implementing integrated waste management practices such as composting, materials reuse, bulk purchasing, packaging reductions and recycling. Additionally, their applications attest to an overall commitment to resource conservation, with practices including “green” building design, energy conservation efforts, and environmentally-friendly landscaping projects.

“These organizations serve as models, showing that “green” practices not only benefit the environment but also are generally good for business,” remarked Lori Finafrock, Frederick County’s Recycling Program Manager. “We commend these businesses; their waste reduction and recycling efforts demonstrate a commitment to resource conservation and the long-term sustainability of our community.”

Today’s award announcements coincide with the 15<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of America Recycles Day, a national event dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and buy recycled-content products. The U.S. recycling rate has increased every year since 1980 and is currently 34%. To sign a pledge to recycle more, visit the America Recycles Day website at [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org). Frederick County’s recycling rate is 44% (according to the most recent data approved by the MD Department of the Environment). For further information about local waste reduction and recycling programs, please call the Department of Solid Waste Management at 301-600-2960 or visit their website at [www.FrederickCountyMd.gov/recycle](http://www.FrederickCountyMd.gov/recycle).

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*Standing, left to right: Bonnie Swanson and Kyle Roberson of Musket Ridge Golf Club; Allison Duvall and Callie Hart of Zavos Architecture + Design; Dr. Maria Higgins of Unique Optique; Will Randall of the Frederick News-Post; Julia and Glen Ferguson of Cowork Frederick; and Lori Finafrock, Frederick County’s Recycling Program Manager.*

*Seated, left to right: Commissioner David Gray, Commissioner Paul Smith, Commissioner Blaine Young, and Commissioner Billy Shreve.*