

# Law says landfills must meet standards

Second of six articles on recycling.

**C**URRENTLY 80-85 percent of Michigan's solid waste is disposed in landfills.

The construction and maintenance of landfills is outlined in Michigan Act 441 — "The Landfill Law" — passed in 1978. The law requires landfills, including old ones, public and private, to meet safety requirements that prevent leaking.

A type of sanitary landfill is not the same as a sanitary dump, as many people like to think. Open dumps are illegal in Michigan.

Some landfills now are being constructed primarily above ground with only a hole depth of about 20 feet. This above-ground construction makes looking easier to detect than below-ground landfills.

Landfills have many disadvantages:

1. They are a priority land use compared to housing, agriculture, etc.
2. Landfills waste valuable natural resources. Many of these resources are nonrenewable and once buried are lost for reuse forever.
3. Improper disposal of solid waste in landfills has created 13 percent of all known groundwater contamination in Michigan and 47 percent of the expected contamination.
4. Landfills waste all the potential energy that could be created from the incineration of solid waste.

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There is a NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) syndrome. No one wants a landfill located in their neighborhood, which makes new sites very difficult to find.

Landfills require perpetual care and maintenance during one and after closing. Hydrologists believe much of the pollution occurs after closing of closed landfills has stopped.

Many existing landfills cannot meet the 441 standards, which results in pollution of both air and water. Resource recovery alternatives can provide solutions to Michigan's solid waste pollution problems.

A recently passed amendment to Act 441 sets a 70 percent recovery rate for waste generated by the year 2005 for sanitary through resource recovery alternatives.

This chart compares current disposal methods to the new standards:

Current disposal method	New standards
Incineration	49 percent
Resource recovery alternatives	20 percent
Recycling	31 percent
Landfills	84 percent
Composting	1 percent
Other	15 percent

New sanitary standards for landfills:

- 10 percent recycling, 25 percent incineration, 49 percent composting, 19 percent resource recovery, 8 percent other.

The Consumer Mailbag answers your questions. Address mail to The Consumer Mailbag, Consumer Detroit, One Renaissance Square, 4th Floor, Detroit, 48226.

Spokesmen include Philip H. Seaver Jr. of the Michigan State Police, and related members of the Michigan State Police Association.

Registration should be mailed to the Oakland County Bar Association at 1200 N. Telegraph, Suite 212, Pontiac, 48053.

Both ticket holders and Livonia police are waiting for news today from St. Merrill. Oral theater general manager, regarding whether he has been able to save the Livonia performing arts center from the financial trouble.

For the three cancelled Phil Anis shows, scheduled for last weekend, ticket holders can file a complaint with Livonia Police, said Lt. Bobby Dore.

Spokane is a small town in Idaho, with a population of about 10,000. It is known for its scenic views and outdoor recreation.

# Bar studies real estate financing

**T**he peak performance will be expected in "Housing, Your Probable Skills," a comprehensive seminar scheduled Tuesday, May 24, by the Probate Study and Real Estate Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association.

The seminar is scheduled for 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 10, at Somerset Inn, 1931 W. Big Beaver, Troy.

Fees are \$20 for OCBAA members and \$25 for non-members. There is an additional \$5 charge at the door for those who are not pre-registered.

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# Senate moves to ban teen 'keg' parties

**T**he Michigan State Police is currently reviewing the bill. The bill is expected to be passed in the next few days.

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# Ticket quota bill stalled in Fessler's committee

**A** state Senate committee is continuing a House bill aimed at prohibiting traffic ticket quotas. Police chiefs favor it, but union leaders are opposed.

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# Cavanagh seeks court slot

**M**ike J. Cavanagh, an attorney from Rochester Hills, will run for the 11th judicial circuit slot in the Michigan Court of Appeals 24 District.

The circuit includes Oakland and other southern Michigan counties.

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# Omni refunds contingent on owner's action

**B**Y MARIA CHESTNEY Staff writer

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in June, May 5, 1988

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