

Districts Talking Trash During Annual Spring Cleaning

INDOT's yearly spring cleaning, Trash Bash, could double as a competition among districts for the strangest items found along Indiana roadways.

For instance, in 2014, among the items picked up in the LaPorte District were a high school letter jacket and a canceled federal tax check from 2006. The Seymour District reported finding part of a toilet and a medical stethoscope. Fifteen fish heads were collected in the Vincennes District. And, things got "hairy" in the Fort Wayne District with the discovery of a toupee.

This year, the Seymour District has discovered a billiards ball near a dollar bill. Who knows what else will turn up? Trash Bash, which started April 11, continues through May 3.



Crews from the Seymour District's Bloomington Subdistrict Martinsville Unit found a billiards ball near a dollar bill while picking up trash along State Road 37 in Johnson County in mid-April.

Trash Bash is an annual cleaning of Indiana highways by INDOT workers, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, and Indiana Department of Corrections crews. Hundreds of tons of trash are collected, and Indiana interstates are spruced up in time for the summer driving season.

"After winter, a great deal of trash is revealed on the highways," said Bill Fielding, roadside services coordinator. "Trash Bash is instrumental in making our roadsides and communities more attractive, uncovering the state's natural heritage, and building upon Indiana's reputation as a great place to live and work."

Fielding also pointed out that volunteers look for potential safety hazards or other roadway issues that INDOT maintenance crews can work on later.

Trash Bash clean-up crews in 2014 collected 16,471 bags of trash and 9,394 cubic yards of loose debris from 1,486 miles of state highways and rights-of-way.

More than 2,400 Adopt-A-Highway volunteers logged 10,270 hours in the 2014 effort, along with additional hours by INDOT



Highway Technicians Jeff Stainbrook (driving) and Donald Lawson, of the Seymour District's Madison Subdistrict North Vernon Unit, haul away bags (see photo below).

and DOC crews. The cost savings for Indiana taxpayers for these Adopt-A-Highway volunteers totaled more than \$102,000.

Statistics for the 2015 Trash Bash efforts soon will be posted on the [Trash Bash](#) webpage.

The North Vernon Unit hauls away dozens of bags of trash collected by the Indiana Department of Corrections crews located at the Madison location. The bags were brought to the North Vernon Unit and put into its trash dumpster for pickup.



Crews from the Martinsville Unit inspect the right-of-way along State Road 37 in Johnson County while picking up 22 large bags of trash.