

# PMUA NEWS

Fall 2007

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER...

This newsletter is published quarterly to provide Plainfield residents with news and information about the PMUA, its solid waste and sanitary sewer services. For questions or comments regarding our newsletter, contact PMUA Public Information at: (908) 226-2518 or reachpmua@pmua.org

PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

*Celebrating over a Decade of Service to Plainfield*

The Focus

Talkin' Shop

Plainfield Says

The Well

Kidz Corner

Spotlight

Perspective

Everything you need to know about keeping it clean in the City of Plainfield.

## PMUA CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF ROCK AVENUE TRANSFER STATION RENOVATIONS

The PMUA is celebrating the completion of its newly renovated Transfer Station, with an Open House ceremony scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

The Transfer Station – in discussion to be renamed the Plainfield Environmental Resource Recovery and Recycle Center - has been updated to feature a redesigned and innovative tipping floor, to help streamline PMUA operations. The new facility will be more cost efficient on manpower, fuel expenses, and help reduce wear and tear on PMUA vehicles.

Another focal point of this project is the Convenience Center. "This provides a great safety mechanism for both the Authority and self haulers", says Robert Kearney, PMUA Transfer Station Superintendent. Residents' vehicles will be re-routed up to the Convenience Center, away from commercial customers - creating a new traffic pattern for all self haulers, which will result in better control of the traffic flow in and out of the station.

Of course, the PMUA also has an eye for more significant reductions in waste disposal tonnages by facilitating a more efficient approach to ensuring all dumpers are properly discarding their recyclable materials. "Visitors will not only be presented with separate containers for both their waste and recyclables refuse, now (because commercial and non-commercial groups will be trafficked to separate dumping areas) we'll be able to better monitor what each vehicle is discarding."

**New Pilot Program to boost recycling efforts - now through Dec. 31, 2007, the New Convenience Center at the Rock Ave. Transfer Station will be open to Residents and Business Owners from Mon. - Sat. 11am - 2 pm for drop-off disposal of CLEAN paper and co-mingled (bottles & cans) recycling items at NO CHARGE. The Pilot Program requires a call ahead for authorization and confirmation of an appointment PRIOR to visiting the Transfer Station.**

**For appointments, and other info call customer service (908) 226-2518. Customers not having an appointment will be charged for disposal of recyclables.**



*The new tipping floor will help streamline PMUA operations.*

# JOHN S. WASTON JR.

## DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF NJDEP



John S. Waston Jr. holds the position of Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

On behalf of the NJDEP I applaud the work that the PMUA does and I would like to discuss why individual environmentalism is so important in the context of addressing the significant environmental issues that we face today.

New Jersey is recognized as one of the most progressive states in the nation. Having the distinction of being the most densely developed and densely populated state, it makes it critical for us to take care of our environment. We see daily the pressures of an urbanized state. There are a lot of us here which means:

- More development-losing fifty acres per day to development.
- More cars on our roadways-New Jersey's roads see 200 million miles driven every day! That is a lot of fuel burned and a lot of exhaust in our air and water!
- And our water-we use 970 billion gallons of fresh water every year in our state!

Because of our large population this puts a strain on our environment and our limited resources. Fortunately, we have aggressive programs designed to protect our health and ensure

a high quality of life in the State of New Jersey.

We have programs that regulate land and water use so that people are responsible and respectful when they build. We have aggressive programs that go after polluters and make them clean up their mistakes and compensate our residents for lost use of a resource. We also have programs that protect the air we breathe and strict measures to reduce diesel and other air emissions that affect our health. We have one of the most successful open space preservation and park development programs in the nation. Many of Plainfield's parks, including Milt Campbell Field and Hanna Atkins Park, have received funding from this program.

New Jersey has a remarkable landscape comprised of vast forests, wild and scenic rivers, 127 miles of ocean coastline, and more historic sites per square mile than any other state. Species like bobcats, bald eagles, rattlesnakes and red knots are prevalent across our landscape. In Cape May, we have one of the most important migratory bird stopovers in the entire northern hemisphere. We have globally rare plant species that are known to exist only one place on the planet-right here in New Jersey!

Our preservation programs help us ensure that we continue to protect these places, our wildlife and provide us with places to play. This fall, Ballot Question #3 is an opportunity to add more funding for our state's preservation programs. While we preserve land where we should preserve, we also provide funding, incentives and technical assistance to clean up abandoned industrial sites in our cities for adaptive reuse and return them to the tax rolls. This is green growth!

However, while we have the NJDEP, the Federal EPA, and the PMUA...it is really individual actions that we take that ultimately determine our fate. We must ask...Are we doing our part?

- Are we recycling and using recycled materials as much as we can?
- Are we buying products that are en-

vironmentally friendly? (energy efficient appliances, gas efficient vehicles)

- Are we choosing to use trains, buses, and bicycles or walking when we don't absolutely need to drive?
- Do we recognize and acknowledge the connection between the light switch in our homes to the smokestack at the power generating plant?
- Are we watching our water use and realize that water is not an unlimited resource?
- Are we doing all we can to keep our neighborhoods and streets clean from litter and debris?
- Are we teaching our children that what goes down the storm drains on our streets ends up in our streams, rivers, and ocean?

Answering these questions put us on the path to doing our part because it's not the DEP, EPA, or PMUA. It is you and me. It is our individual choices that determine our long-term environmental condition.



John Waston speaking to the audience at the 2007 Environmental Fair.

## Low Generator Service

Custom collection services designed for Small Businesses.

(908) 226-2518



## SHARRON MITCHELL-BROWN SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

*Sharron Mitchell-Brown, Director of the Plainfield Senior Center, is a woman who should be recognized for taking care of seniors by overseeing services and programs that improve their quality of life. Holding a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Rutgers University, Ms. Brown says "I am blessed and feel like I am here to help".*

### What challenges face our senior population?

Explaining the Medicare Part D Prescription Plan requires a lot of homework and information gathering. At age 65, you must sign up for some type of plan, (if you do not you are penalized). Because insurance decisions are based on an individual's situation, we need to help them make the best personal choice. Another aspect we face is spending much time correcting problems if a person did not choose the appropriate plan because they did not have all the information. Because the enrollment date, November 15th is quickly approaching, we want to help all seniors by providing the necessary information and educating them on their choices. This is one way to relieve stress on our seniors.

Another great challenge is making sure that their voices are always heard. Letting them know about the programs that are out there for them. Programs such as food stamps or helping them apply for prescription plans designated for low income people. We work hard to make sure that we can answer all of their questions.

### What type of free programs and services does the center provide?

The center hosts several art programs. We are also in partnership with the YWCA where seniors do aquatics and exercise classes. The center provides transportation to the food store and to the local nursing home so people can visit their friends. We have weekly visits each Wednesday from the Social Security Administration and have a podiatrist, Dr. Poonai come to the center to see people as well as

visits from the nursing staff at Muhlenberg Hospital for blood pressure checks. Forming a partnership with Union County College has allowed us to offer a Biology class and a Theatre/Drama class where the professor directs a play put on by the seniors. We also host a health initiative class on subjects such as being heart healthy and stroke prevention. Being part of the Senior Network we get DVD's and materials on eating healthy, exercise, arthritis etc...

The senior center holds a monthly birthday party and the Mayor comes for a visit the first Tuesday of the month to bring our seniors up to date on issues and to answer questions they may have. The Plainfield senior center has a pool room where we hold tournaments with other senior centers. Our card room is a lively place always filled with laughter and we sponsor a bowling league for men and woman where they bowl each week.

### As the director, what is your main priority at the moment?

My main priority is hearing what our seniors want to do and making a way for it to happen for them. I get volunteers and work around budget constraints, apply for grants and do what it takes so all of our seniors can benefit.

### A ground breaking for the new senior center has taken place. Describe the new center and how it will benefit Plainfield seniors.

The new center will be double the size of our current space and will have an examining room for doctor visits, a library/T.V. room, and a multipurpose, billiards, and music/drama room with a piano. Additionally it will have a sewing, exercise, and art room with a kiln. A working kitchen, updated computer room and a room for our thrift store. This is where donated items are sold to residents and the money raised goes back to the senior center.

The new building, located caddy corner



from the current site on Front Street is estimated to be completed sometime in 2008. The current city administration is doing a great job by supporting our mission and providing the seniors with this new building.

### The PMUA has been focused on increasing recycling numbers in Plainfield. Do you think that recycling has increased among senior citizens?

Yes. Recycling has increased among our seniors. I see it going on at the Senior Center where they separate their trash. They are educated on the importance of recycling and practice recycling rules.

### Moving forward what type of plans could be implemented to improve the quality of life for Plainfield seniors?

Outreach. We need to let them know that they can rely on us. We need to let them know how important they are. We learn so much from them and will lose out if we don't hear the stories from the past. They need to know that "It's all about you". Our new theme at the center, stresses that we want to take care of them. This administration believes it is all about them. If it is in the realm of what we can do, let's do it and do it together.

## PMUA NOTICE

**There is NO recycling collection on the 5th Wednesday of any month.  
Please do not put your containers out on : October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Fall: Saturday Only No Charge Leaf Drop to run October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Contact Customer Service for More Info.**

## 2007 PMUA Environmental Fair



Hearing the laughter, seeing the smiles, and smelling the BBQ, Library Park was the place to be on Saturday, September 15th, where carnival rides, refreshments and fun filled the day at the PMUA 8th Annual Environmental Fair. This day of entertainment and information for Plainfield residents was a chance to say thank you to PMUA customers and to all who support the PMUA's mission.

The fair offers an opportunity for citizens to become more educated on conservation and recycling. This year's theme was "Lead the Way... A Cause to Conserve". Among a host of guest speakers and officials in attendance, were NJ State Assemblymen Jerry Green, Mayor of Plainfield, Sharon Robinson-Briggs, 3rd Ward Councilmen Don Davis, President of Plainfield Board of Education, Patricia Barksdale, and John Watson, Deputy Commissioner for the New Jersey Depart-

ment of Environmental Protection who spoke to the audience about the urgency to preserve our environment and the significance of conservation efforts. *(See page 2 to read more of Mr. Watson's message).*

Each year the fair gets bigger and better. By 10:00 the sun was shining and the park was filled with families taking part in activities, playing games, enjoying the food, and listening to music. Another highlight of the day included the Step and Double Dutch competitions and Children's Choir performances. Also present were several local vendors and organizations that gave out information and discussed services

During the fair, awards were presented to elementary school students who were winners of the spring PMUA Essay/Poster Contest on the importance of conservation. Additionally, awards were given to children who participated in

the Summer Art Contest, "From Trash to Treasure" where campers created art projects from recycled materials. These contests are part of PMUA's out reach efforts to educate Plainfield children on recycling, conservation and taking care of our environment. By educating our youth it leads to educating families by bringing the message home. We were pleased with the efforts made by the children and look forward to even more contest entries in 2008.

The PMUA sincerely thanks those who attended this year's fair and hope a good time was had by all. We look forward to seeing you again at next year's Environmental Fair. Remember to "Lead the Way"... and practice recycling and conservation in your home. If everybody does their part, our world will be a cleaner greener place.

## PMUA Employees Donate Funds For Headstone



Chris Dance

its workers in the field, the PMUA has again rallied together to help a fellow colleague.

This time PMUA employees stepped up and is working together with former PMUA Sewer Division employee, Chris Dance. The mission is to work together to raise the necessary

funds to provide deceased employee, Efrain Garcia with a headstone at his grave site. Mr. Garcia who passed away two years ago, was employed with the PMUA Sewer Division for approximately nine years.

After speaking with Steve Dessino Supervisor of PMUA Sewer Division, and Eric Watson - Executive Director of PMUA, the three men decided to ask employees and friends to donate funds in order to purchase a headstone in memory of Mr. Garcia.

"With only a metal marker at his resting place, it was very difficult for visitors to find Mr. Garcia's grave. This marker often got knocked over or moved. Because of this, we

thought he should have a proper headstone. I wanted to provide dignity to my former co-worker" said Mr. Dance.

Generously, PMUA employees contributed half of the funds to cover the cost of the headstone and Mr. Dance donated the other half of the funds. Working for the PMUA from 1997-2001 Mr. Dance is an example of how PMUA employees, past and present go the extra mile to help when it is needed. His contribution, in combination with the collection taken up by PMUA employees now makes it possible for Mr. Garcia to have a headstone at his grave giving him respect and dignity.



# ANNUAL PMUA CONTEST WINNERS



Deputy Commissioner Jay Watson, Councilman Don Davis, Assemblyman Jerry Green, & Patricia Barksdale - President-Plainfield Board of Education pose with some of the winners of the PMUA's Annual Essay & Art Contests

Kindergarten - Cook  
Madison Gorman  
Anthony Goffe  
Ian Johnson

2nd Grade - Cook  
Jaeline Rosales  
Jennifer Sanchez  
Jordan Trotman

4th Grade - Cook  
Kemdi O'Koro  
Jarrod Haskett  
Titiana Irby

5th Grade - Evergreen  
Daniel Argueta  
Karolyn Gonzalez  
Melissa Arevalo

5th Grade - Washington  
Samantha Bolton

## 4th Annual PMUA Art Contest



"CREATING ART FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS"

### WINNERS

**YWCA OF PLAINFIELD SUMMER CAMP**  
ASHANDA JACKSON      NOMI POYSER  
GLENN HARDY      TYRONE WILBURN



Queen City Steppers pose for the camera before performing for the step show competition



Ruth Fellowship Youth Choir performed uplifting songs for the day's audience



**Yolanda Cox**  
Communications Manager

For seven years Yolanda Cox has lead a successful career with the PMUA - leading to her most recent position, as Communication Manager.

Graduating with a B.A. in Sociology from Montclair State University, Ms. Cox will persue a Masters Degree in Public Administration at Kean University starting in January.

Before coming to the PMUA, she worked in the public sector for the City of Plainfield and Union County.

Today, Ms. Cox is responsible for managing the PMUA Call Center & Dispatch Unit. Overseeing this entire department includes scheduling and management of the unit as it communicates with operations and all areas of the Authority. She makes sure both inter-department and external communications run effectively. Her most recent charge has been spearheading a new initiative to cross train the Call Center staff. In doing so, the entire department has been trained to answer any question on the first phone call.

Yolanda has been part of a PMUA team working on bringing a new asset management/work order system to the Authority. "I look forward to the integration of dispatchers and call center representatives as a result of the new system which will give them dual role capability", said Ms. Cox. - *note: Ms. Cox has since left the PMUA to persue new career paths. We thank her for all her hard work and contribution to the Authority, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.*

## PMUA Offers Side Yard Pick-Up for the Disabled

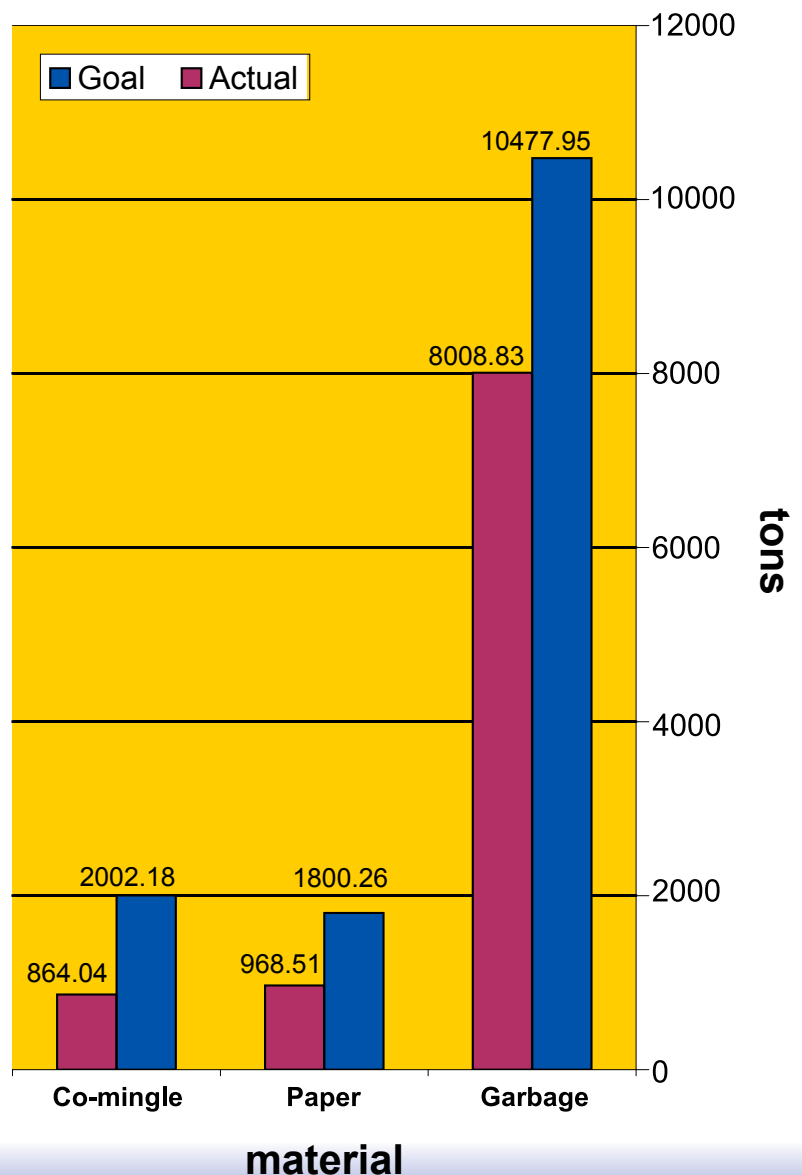


Customers who can not get their garbage cans out to the curb because of a physical disability can take advantage of our side yard pick-up which is designed to help those who are in need. To qualify for this service you must present medical documentation from a doctor stating that your disability hinders ability to perform heavy lifting, carrying or moving heavy objects.

Call PMUA at 908-226-2518 ext. 440 for more information on this service.

## PMUA Recycling Goals

Recycling can benefit all of us. By increasing recycling of paper and co-mingled materials we can reduce the garbage stream. This reduction of household waste tonnage, can help to stabilize PMUA disposal costs and customer's service rates.





# PMUA Board of Commissioners give insight on PMUA achievements

## How did the PMUA get to where we are today?



William Reid  
Vice Chairperson

One of the most significant achievements at the PMUA has to do with its management and the way they have adhered to City, County, State and Federal rules and regulations. The Authority has met all guidelines (which are put upon them) while at the same time being able to keep rates down. Since its inception, the authority has only increased its rates a few times. Considering that costs have gone up each year, the management has consistently worked to keep rates low and most competitive.



Eugene Dudley  
Commissioner

One great accomplishment of the PMUA is the way that they continuously take extra steps to make sure that illegal dumping sites are cleaned up quickly and efficiently. The Authority works very hard to maintain a clean city environment, and is a positive community reinforcement in the fight against illegal dumping. Working with the residents and city officials, the PMUA has been an active participant in collaborating to develop an effective program to curb illegal dumping and help protect vacant lots from falling prey to unlawful dumping.



Alex Toliver  
Secretary

Over 10 years ago three men, Eric Watson, David Ervin and Lou Jones along with others committed to making Plainfield a cleaner, healthier city. In just a decade, the PMUA is recognized throughout the state for the accomplishments that have been achieved with their team of dedicated employees. Employing city residents, providing internships and summer job opportunities for the youth - PMUA contributes to the overall wellness of Plainfield by offering services, employment and educational programs to our citizens which foster a sense of pride and vested interest in their community.



James Green  
Commissioner

The PMUA's constant pursuit of excellence has been a great contribution to a cleaner, healthier and safer Plainfield. There have been many obstacles through the decade. Still, the Authority has taken on each new challenge with tact and tenacity, keeping focus on the best interest of the community they serve. There are other haulers out here however, the PMUA has a genuine vested interest in this city - this remains the driving force behind their dedication through all adversity. What other hauler offers that to our community?



Carol Ann Brokaw  
Chairperson

The PMUA has hired more Plainfield residents than from anywhere else. This has been one more way they've sought to better the quality of life of the citizens they serve. They should be applauded not only for their contributions to a steadily improving state of public health and safety, but also for providing a source of financial income and stability for many city locals. The PMUA's investment in the community is manifested in many ways - among the most fulfilling is visible evidence of a cleaner city and increasing population of environmentally aware and active youth.



David Beck  
Treasurer

Stabilizing rates over a 2 1/2 year period (despite tremendous cost increases to their operations during that time) is one of the PMUA's greatest accomplishments. I marvel at the patience required by the PMUA management as they have successfully navigated through many roadblocks that have occurred in an effort to contain costs. I also appreciate the courtesy, friendliness and professionalism of their staff, extended to me as a resident and customer using their services such as weekly waste collection, recycling, bulky waste pick-ups, and many Transfer Station drop-offs.



Jo-Ann Sloane  
Commissioner

One of the PMUA's most identifiable achievements is their excellence in customer service. From call center inquiries to field operation call-backs, the response is quick and the employees are courteous and extremely helpful. "The PMUA provides a service to the community and we must ensure that the community is always served" - working by this mantra is indeed a great achievement in itself. Most impressive are PMUA's youth and civic outreach efforts. Giving back to the community is what sets PMUA apart from other haulers.

## Roll-Off Containers

Remodeling your home or cleaning out your garage? Use PMUA portable containers for disposal.

(908) 226-2518

## DON'T LET YOUR GROUP MISS OUT ON MONEY SAVING TIPS...

Are you a member of a group such as the girl scouts or little league? Do you have a neighborhood block association, or live in an apartment building? Are you part of a senior citizen group or a member of a church in Plainfield? If so, we would welcome the opportunity to come and speak to your group. It is important for people to understand the types of trash that needs to be separated and tips on the easiest way to accomplish this. The PMUA has many ideas on how to make the task of recycling easier on residents. Let us share our knowledge with your group.

**CALL 908-226-2518 EXT. 223 TO SET UP A MEETING FOR YOUR GROUP WITH THE PMUA.**

**GO TO [WWW.UCNJ.ORG/RECYCLE](http://WWW.UCNJ.ORG/RECYCLE) TO CHECK ON ELECTRONICS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIAL COLLECTION SITES**

**21st annual  
Roger K. Cassett  
Back-to-School Jam**

*PMUA donates school supplies at Back To School Jam. Karate demonstration performed by local Dojo at the Event.*



## PMUA: MISSION STATEMENT

To Safeguard our Public Health...

Enrich our Environmental Quality of life...

Regulate, Promote and Encourage responsible actions for a cleaner, litter free city...

Invest in Improving our Infrastructure...

By Providing and Managing environmentally friendly, comprehensive and cost-effective collection, transport, treatment and disposal services for municipal solid waste materials and sanitary sewer.

### PMUA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Carol Ann Brokaw - *Chairperson*

William Reid - *Vice Chairperson*

Alex Toliver - *Secretary*

David M. Beck - *Treasurer*

Eugene Dudley - *Commissioner*

James Green - *Commissioner*

Jo-Ann Sloane - *Commissioner*

### PMUA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eric C. Watson - *Executive Director*

David Ervin - *Assistant Executive Director*

Louis Jones - *Director of Central Services*

James Perry - *Chief Financial Officer*

Herbert Weekes - *Dir. of Human Resources*

Duane D. Young - *Comptroller*

### BILLS MAY BE PAID AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

PMUA Headquarters  
127 Roosevelt Avenue

Bank of America  
335 East Front Street

Rapp's Pharmacy  
611 Park Avenue

### PAYMENTS CAN ALSO BE MAILED TO:

P.O. Box 23310  
Newark, NJ 07189

Please use return envelope for accurate payment processing

### FORM OF PAYMENT ACCEPTED:

CASH (Rapp's Pharmacy and Bank of America ONLY)

CHECK (Personal, Bank or Electronically Issued)

MONEY ORDER



PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
127 ROOSEVELT AVENUE  
PLAINFIELD, NJ 07060

Presorted Standard  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PERMIT NO. 96  
Plainfield, NJ  
07060