

PMUA NEWS

Spring 2008

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.

COULD ILLEGAL DUMPING SEND COSTS AND RATES UP AGAIN?

Improper disposal of waste increases operating and service costs.

The continuance of varying acts of illegal dumping around Plainfield - most recent of which includes disposal of type 10 (household) waste into and around the public receptacles lining the streets of our city - may greatly effect the likelihood of another rate increase in the not so distant future. Lately, there have been unusual amounts of household debris - including recyclable materials - found in some public garbage cans throughout Plainfield. As a result, these containers quickly overflow, creating unsightly, unhealthy, and costly pollution on the sidewalks and streets. Areas including the intersection of North and Park Avenues, Watchung Avenues, E. Front Street and other locales are all frequently plagued with this activity.

Major concerns surrounding this issue are focused not solely on its threat to our quality of life and public health; equally as detrimental - the financial ramifications arising from the costs associated with collecting this excess tonnage on a daily basis. These and other illegal dumping hot

spots contribute significantly to the overall waste tonnage being collected at higher disposal costs to the PMUA and subsequently, the Plainfield citizens.

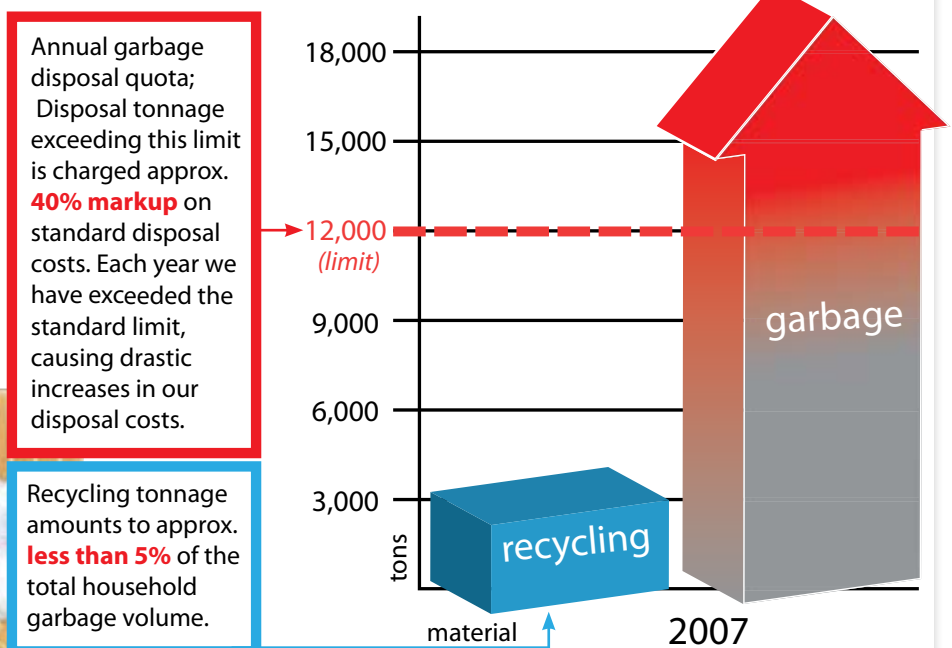
Right on the heels of what was the first PMUA service rate increase in two years (the preceding increase was in 2005), the Authority and it's greater City constituents are yet to be assured that - and in tandem with the state of the economy, and skyrocketing opera-

tion costs - another jump in customers' service rates will be an avoidable or delay-able measure. There are many factors outside of the Authority's control, which dictate the cost of business operations, services rates, and other financial obligations for everyone. Realizing this, it's important to identify those areas which we can immediately affect, to help counter rising costs.

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VITAL STATS: how garbage and recycling influences costs

Note: Increasing the recycling of plastic, glass, aluminum and other appropriate materials helps to decrease excess garbage - in turn lessening the cost to dispose of waste tonnage exceeding the annual quota.



Annual garbage disposal quota; Disposal tonnage exceeding this limit is charged approx. **40% markup** on standard disposal costs. Each year we have exceeded the standard limit, causing drastic increases in our disposal costs.

Recycling tonnage amounts to approx. **less than 5%** of the total household garbage volume.



RAYLAND VAN BLAKE

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDER



Rayland Van Blake holds the position of Freeholder for Union County

What plans are in the works to facilitate the progression toward a more environmentally conscientious/responsible society?

Union County has a longstanding tradition of environmental programming, most notably for public parks stewardship, open space preservation, and recycling. This experience gives the County a strong platform for leadership on new programs. Additionally, this year Freeholder Chairman Estrada has announced a six component Go Green Initiative.

Tell us a bit about the Union County "Go Green" initiative.

For 2008, the County's new "Go Green" initiative focuses on the following areas:

County construction and renovation projects will conform to the Green Building Council's highest LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmen-

tal Design) standards. These standards cover every aspect of "green" construction, including strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

The County Hazmat Bureau will remove outdated and potentially harmful chemicals from all school buildings.

Grants will be distributed to schools based on student

proposals for composting, recycling, gardening, and other environmental projects.

The County will use its web site, Public Information Van, and other resources to inform and educate residents about green initiatives.

The County will offer free recycling bins to schools.

The County will use more recycled paper, and the County print shop will offer a recycled paper option to participating municipalities. Using recycled paper is important because products made from recycled paper are responsible for far less greenhouse emissions than products made from virgin wood pulp.

There was mention of the County awarding grants to students with winning proposals for school-based recycling and environmental projects; what kind of ideas would the County be looking for when distributing these funds?

This program is planned for later this year. However, the projects must benefit a large number of students and provide hands on learning. The grants will be awarded for new activities rather than subsidizing an existing one. There will be a grant application process. Students would apply for Environmental Awareness Grants to fund their proposed

school based recycling and environmental projects. As long as the projects meet the above criteria, students have freedom to decide what programs best suit their school. Students are encouraged to exercise a lot of creativity and look forward to the students leading the way with this particular program.

How soon do you foresee the impact of the "Go Green" efforts to manifest themselves in our community? What is/are your measurement(s) for its success? What factors stand to make or break achieving those goals?

We are beginning to see change already. Last year, we began our mobile shredding program. We held six mobile shredding events in 2007. There were 617 participants and 34,409 pounds of paper was shredded. The shredded paper was recycled which has saved more than 275 trees. It was a tremendous success. This year we have scheduled ten mobile shredding events. One of the mobile shredding events will be held on Arbor Day, April 25th, in Plainfield's Cedar Brook Park.

Our recycling programs are very popular. Residents can bring various items including: electronics, household hazardous waste, tires, school lab waste, and more. We also offer a thermometer exchange program. For a full list of recycling event dates and the items to be recycled we encourage people to visit our web site www.ucnj.org/recycle.

Resident participation is critical to the success of all of these programs. Based on the positive response and the increase in resident participation it is safe to say that positive change has already begun.

Low Generator Service

Custom collection services designed for Small Businesses.

(908) 226-2518

JEHEEDA LEWIS

PLAINFIELD H.S. STUDENT DISCUSSES RECYCLING

Plainfield high school student Jaheeda Lewis gave some insight to PMUA News about the positive response coming from the students regarding the new school recycling program.

"I personally always respond to recycling. I think the students are also changing their habits because more students are becoming aware of the program. I am seeing more students paying attention and following the guidelines. I especially notice this during the lunch periods. Students are recycling much more in the cafeteria because they are aware of the designated bins that are there to dispose of our cans and bottles. I think the program has been 95% successful to this point".

Outside of the cafeteria Ms. Lewis comments on the constructive affects of the recycling initiative. "Even in the hall ways, I have noticed an increase in awareness and more people recycling. This is largely due to the fact that there are bins now posi-

tioned in the hallways throughout the school which helps to keep trash out of the halls and allows us to separate our garbage".

Raising the consciousness of others, Ms. Lewis has some ideas on how the school community can continue alerting students about recycling. First she thinks that putting posters up as reminders may help. She also thinks that they should continue the same course of action by talking to the students about the initiative during lunch by giving constant reminders to the students to place bottles & cans in the correct containers. In addition, having a volunteer day where the students can go out into the streets of Plainfield and collect the bottles, cans and junk from the streets would be a good way to involve teens in the mission of keeping Plainfield clean and green. She also suggests that the apartment buildings become more involved by having dumpsters clearly marked for recycling for the people who live



in the buildings. "If dumpsters are clearly marked it would alleviate the problem of co-mingling garbage".

An 11th grader, Ms. Lewis said her favorite subject is biology. She is involved in many clubs at the high school such as the Promise Program, Sister Aspiring Sisters, College Prep and the Johnson and Johnson program. Aspiring to become a nurse, Ms. Lewis continues working hard every day towards her goals.

PMUA NOTICE

NO GENERAL TRASH COLLECTION on Monday May 26th due to the Memorial Day Holiday. Please check your collection schedule for additional dates in 2008.

NO-CHARGE DROP-OFF RECYCLABLES at the PERC/Transfer Station: Plainfield residents ONLY! Must call PMUA at 908-226-2518 to schedule drop-off appointment.

NO-CHARGE LEAF/VEGETATIVE WASTE DROP-OFF at the PERC Transfer Station: Saturdays ONLY, from April 1 - May 31, 2008, from 8 am - 2 pm: Plainfield residents ONLY!

NO RECYCLING COLLECTION on the 5th Wednesday of any month: No Collection April 30th, July 30th, October 29th and December 31st 2008.

RECYCLE RULES REMINDER - Plastic bags SHOULD NOT be discarded with recyclables: Co-mingled items should be discarded loosely in your blue recycle container. Do Not use plastic bags to hold co-mingled items inside your recycle container OR Please remove any plastic/garbage bags from your blue recycle cart prior to roll-out for collection.

Illegal Dumpers Costing You Money?



East Front St.

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Household refuse should only be disposed of via your personal and PMUA-assigned garbage and recycling containers, and following the appropriate PMUA "Do's & Dont's" and "Recycle Rules" guidelines for curbside collection. If a situation arises where you

have extra trash that cannot be properly fit into your cart, please retain the excess refuse for your next scheduled garbage collection day, or contact our PMUA call center. Other options may also be available to accommodate the disposal needs of residents and contractors (eligibility/qualification rules may apply).

We advise all residents and visitors to please be conscious of the potential hazards and legal implications associated with this type of illegal activity. Please refrain from using these public cans to improperly dispose of any amount of bulk, vegetative, or personal household trash. Dumping household refuse in public cans is against guidelines set forth by the PMUA and greater legislative authorities. If you witness any act of illegal dumping, please notify the Plainfield Police Department at (908) 753-8477 (callers remain anonymous).

New Drop-Off Sites for Recycling Cartridges & Cell Phones in Plainfield

The Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority has rolled out a new program which will facilitate the collection of ink and toner cartridges and cell phones for recycling throughout the City.

Spearheading the initiative, PMUA will be placing several collection boxes throughout Plainfield in hopes of encouraging residents to recycle their ink/toner cartridges and old cell phones by making drop-off locations convenient.

City buildings that use large amounts of ink and toner such as City Hall, the Public Library, Municipal Annex Building, School Buildings, and the Police Department will also be receiving collection boxes. This program is part of our greater campaign efforts to boost city-wide recycling, improve our environmental quality of life, and continually focusing

on ways in which we can maintain service rate stabilization.

The PMUA is reaching out to all the people who live and work in Plainfield to participate in this new initiative, and to continue being mindful about proper recycling protocols. Please remember to use these drop-off sites to recycle your ink and toner cartridges and your old cell phones. Preserve our resources and protect the environment. For more information, or to participate in this new initiative, please contact our office at (908) 226-2518.



Spring Cleaning Do's & Don'ts

With warmer weather around the corner, and spring cleaning fever in the air, the PMUA Inspections team will be curbside, checking to make sure all residences are adhering to proper protocols when putting garbage out for collection. Please remember to follow the guidelines for curbside garbage and recyclables disposal listed in PMUA's **Do's & Don'ts flyer**, including:

- DO** - put GARBAGE ONLY in the BLACK cart.
- DO** - put co-mingled RECYCLABLES ONLY in the BLUE cart.
- DO** - always place your cart out before 5:00 am the morning of pick-up or after 5:00 pm the day before.
- DO** - move the cart in off the curb before 8:00 pm the day of collection per Rules and Regulations.
- DO** - face the handle of the cart toward the street.
- DON'T** - place excess garbage bags on the top of the cart or alongside the cart. (\$25 service fee per bag)
- DON'T** - place your carts in the street.
- DON'T** - fill the cart with construction debris; toxic/hazardous materials.
- DON'T** - take the cart when you move, the cart belongs to the property address.
- DON'T** - put vegetative waste (leaves, grass, branches, etc) in the carts.

Note: The above is only a partial list. For a complete list of all curbside rules, please review our PMUA Do's & Don'ts flyer, or contact the PMUA at 908.226.2518 to have one sent to you.

Bulk Waste Service

Spring cleaning or moving? Call on PMUA to take your bulky waste away.

(908) 226-2518

Let's Go Green

Brass
Rags
Asphalt
Metals
Leaves
Cars
Zinc
Newspaper
Motor Oil
Steel

Jars
Plastics
Office Paper
Aluminum Cans
Copper
Paper
Concrete
Wood

P
M D S
M B E I E
K N W I T V R
M P U L O J A V R
K L P P P C O K L P M
X G E I V T E H D H S N G
O B R A S S K M O T O R O I L
O H C A D K T Z I O E V G O Z H A
T Z C A G O L D Z I N C A R S Y M W S
C P A E O S W J C A L U M I N U M C A N S
D Y L Z S Y P D W O F F I C E P A P E R V P S
Q E Q W D J P A P F N X J M D W R W Q J Z V B I S
H X E C U Y P S H N I
C A E R H S Y A D J J
O D L E F A X L P C J
R M N T I R E S N E A
R O N E W S P A P E R
U A T V S T E E L F S
G Q S I F N X T A U U
A Y I Z N O Y F S M T
T K H R S C Q Z T M D
E S R D O J A W I O W
D E Y M X N R N C T X
K V H L E A V E S T V

How can you go Green?

Use your imagination to create a story, essay, poem, song, collage, poster, or video that talks about ways to go green to protect the environment.

All entries **MUST** include a cover page with:
Student's name; School; Grade; Parent/Guardian name; Current home address & phone number.

Deadline: May 23rd 2008

Contest winners will be notified by the end of June. Prizes to be awarded at the 2008 PMUA 9th Annual Environmental Fair (date to be announced)

For more information, contact PMUA Public Information at 908.226.2518



Stephanie Johnson
Administrative Assistant

Ms. Johnson is an Administrative Assistant employed with the PMUA for three years. "My position is important because I assist the Executive Director and the Assistant Executive Director. I help make sure that things run smoothly. Currently, I am preparing for our monthly board meeting where there are many tasks that need to be completed to make sure everything is put together properly".

A life-long Plainfield resident, Ms. Johnson is a graduate of Union Catholic High School. Prior to joining the PMUA she was a supervisor at a woman's apparel shop. Stephanie also attended Union County College where she studied Business Administration.

One of the things that Ms. Johnson enjoys most about working at the PMUA is how much she enjoys meeting new people and getting to know the political figures in the community. "It is nice to get to know what they stand for and what they are doing for the City and not just to read about them in the paper".

In her spare time, Stephanie likes to read and what most people do not know about her is her love of writing poetry. She also likes to play pool, go bowling, go to the movies and is a loyal NY Giants fan.

Ms. Johnson said "in the future I would like to go back to school for business administration while advancing my career here with the PMUA".

Favorite Movie: *Five Heartbeats*

Favorite TV Show: *King of Queens*

Favorite Food: *Italian*

Favorite Reading Material: Fiction – Mysteries and Drama

Favorite Place: Virginia Beach where we used to take family vacations when I was a kid.



Bulk Waste & Roll-off Services Guidelines for Clean-ups

You can schedule your own "On Call" curbside bulk waste pick-up as part of the PMUA comprehensive residential collection service. Please note the following program limitations:

- Collection volume is limited to 3' w x 6' l x 3' h
- Weight is limited to 1,000 lbs
- All appointments must be reserved and confirmed.
- Appointments are assigned on first available date and are on a "first come first served" basis. (For rush appointments ask about On Demand service.)

Special Container & Collection Service is sometimes needed by rental and commercial property owners who need more specialized bulk waste or other collection and container services. This is often necessary if the amount of garbage exceeds normal collection volumes and/or weight limitations – or if available pick-up times are not convenient with your own schedule. For these instances, PMUA offers more "customer convenient" options such as On Demand bulk waste collection and Roll-Off Container Services.

When remodeling or renovating our Roll-Off Container Service may be the way to go. Unlike a bulk waste pick-up, our Roll-Off container Service is geared toward clean-ups that require the disposal of high volumes of building materials and construction debris. We can have a roll-off container delivered and placed conveniently on site almost immediately, and contract times are flexible depending upon your needs.

PMUA Offers Premium Side Yard Service



For a fee, residents can opt for PMUA Premium Side Yard Services.

Residents can leave their container on the side of their home and the trash collector will pick up the cart, dump the garbage and return the container back to the side of the home. Call PMUA at 908-226-2518 for more information on this fee based program.

IN MEMORIAM JoANN SLOANE 1955-2008



The PMUA mourns the loss of longtime Plainfield activist, and dedicated member of the PMUA's Board of Commissioners, Ms. JoAnn Sloane. From 2005 till her passing in 2008, Ms. Sloane devoted three years of service to the PMUA.

We at the PMUA, extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of JoAnn Sloane. She will be deeply missed and never forgotten.

Harold Mitchell Appointed to PMUA Board of Commissioners

After devoting 16 years of past service in Plainfield's City Government, including positions as a Councilmen and the Mayor of Plainfield, The PMUA welcomes Mr. Harold Mitchell to its board of commissioners. "I am looking forward to working with all the commissioners and the people at the PMUA while serving the public as a member of the PMUA Board".

Describe some of your past experiences which have prepared you for your new position as a commissioner with the PMUA.

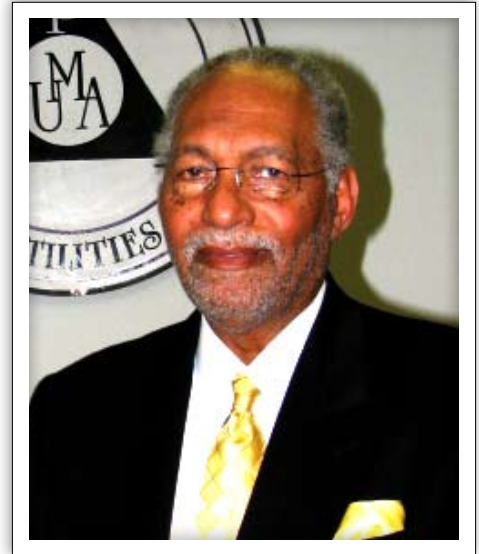
Public health and public safety have always been a concern of mine. Having already worked as an advocate in these areas, being part of the PMUA Board of Commissioners just seems like a natural fit. The PMUA operates to create a safe and healthy environment; this combined with all that I've done in support of health and safety - it all ties together.

What are some immediate areas you would like to focus on with the PMUA.

The key to any business is efficiency and effectiveness. I would like to help set and shape new policies that will work to support the PMUA mission, and in conjunction, ensure that current operation, safety, compliance and other guidelines already set forth by the Authority and our greater municipal government are being carried out.

What specific goal (s) would you like to see accomplished in 2008?

Getting more of the Plainfield business community to partner with the PMUA is something I look forward to working on. This will help us in our effort to keep the City clean.



How would you like to see residents and homeowners work with the PMUA to continue improving the quality of life?

I would like to see homeowners be more diligent in following PMUA guidelines on recycling and curbside collection so that the initiatives that the PMUA has put into place would be more efficient. People need to take responsibility. The PMUA can employ strategies and programs, but we need the residents to follow the guidelines and use correct courses of action. Working with the PMUA, residents will feel the full positive impact of the PMUA and its value and effectiveness.

"I am very impressed with the PMUA operations. Its efficiency and effectiveness is attributed to the fact that the PMUA is constantly working towards its mission to provide a clean and safe quality of environmental life for all

Mobile Paper Shredder Comes to Plainfield

On Friday April 25th, Union County residents will have the opportunity to dispose of their unwanted paper and personal documents using a mobile shredding truck sponsored by Union County from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield.

In celebration of Arbor Day, Union County Department of Recycling is joining efforts with the PMUA to encourage residents, to recycle their paper by bringing it to this "Shred Event" at no charge. The Shred Mobile will be stationed in Plainfield at Cedar Brook Park located at the corner of South End Parkway and Park Avenue.

With the recent increase of identity theft, using the shred mobile, one can dispose of documents in a safer manner.

Once the paper is shredded it is sent to a paper recycling plant for recycling.

PMUA employees will be stationed at the park to assist residents in transporting paper materials from their cars to the Shred Mobile. For more information or details you can call PMUA office of Public Information at 908-226-2518.



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*
Harold Mitchell - *Vice Chairperson*
Alex Toliver - *Secretary*
David M. Beck - *Treasurer*
Eugene Dudley - *Commissioner*
James Green - *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