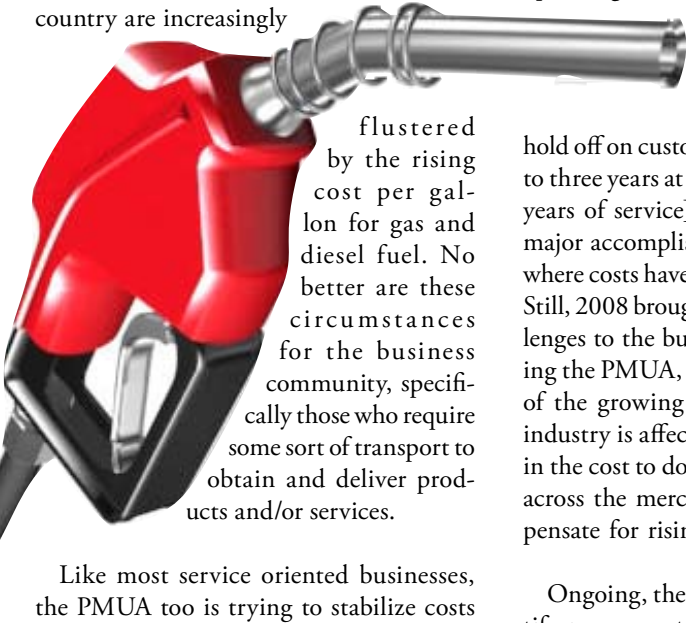


## FUEL PRICE STRUGGLE CONTINUES IN BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Over the last year we've seen the numbers at the pump go from under \$2.00 a gallon to almost \$4.00. Everyone is feeling the shock of it on a weekly basis. From small compact vehicles to super sized SUV's and commercial trucks, drivers across the country are increasingly



flustered by the rising cost per gallon for gas and diesel fuel. No better are these circumstances for the business community, specifically those who require some sort of transport to obtain and deliver products and/or services.

Like most service oriented businesses, the PMUA too is trying to stabilize costs while at the same time providing the same

high quality services to our customers; With fleet and fuel are requisite components in the collection, transport and disposal of solid waste, astronomically high gas prices have had a significant impact on PMUA operating costs. Over the years, the PMUA

has taken various actions to contain inflating expenses. As a result, the PMUA has been able to hold off on customer rate increases to for up to three years at a time [out of nearly twelve years of service]. This in itself has been a major accomplishment in an environment where costs have gone up steadily each year. Still, 2008 brought with it even greater challenges to the business community, including the PMUA, and in large part as a result of the growing national gas crisis. Every industry is affected by it; as such, increases in the cost to do business are following suit across the merchant community, to compensate for rising operation expenditures.

Ongoing, the PMUA is working to identify new ways to streamline its costs from

the inside to optimize sanitary sewer and solid waste operations with efficiency and budgetary restraint. But adjustments from the inside may not be enough to offset the far reaching effects of this economical dilemma. But with no end in site to the mounting fuel prices, combined with several other factors including ongoing illegal dumping and improper recycling, the PMUA is struggling to stabilize costs amidst the drowning surge of inflating expenses.

That being said, we need to deal with the effects caused by growing gas prices. Together we can work on some strategies to combat this situation. One strategy is being mindful when it comes to your own actions. The more you recycle the more you can potentially aid in cost containment. A second strategy would be to re-use items that can serve a dual purpose which will extend the life of the item and keep it out of our waste stream longer. Changing our own actions and habits will go a long way in cost containment efforts.

## STATE PRESSURE TO FOLLOW THE RULES OR PAY THE FEES

Recycling is a mandate by state law that requires compliance. As such, the PMUA is facing pressure from authorities to get (and stay) on the ball in complying with solid waste rules, regulations and protocols. In the very near future, property owners and container service customers found to be non-compliant with proper recycling and other service guidelines, can expect to start receiving citations for

failure to comply. As a Municipal Authority responsible for the waste management within the City, the PMUA is obligated to educate and enforce proper protocols that relate to recycling and general curbside placement. Illegal dumping is a public hazard, against the law, and is a financial drain on all residents. Therefore, violators caught or found to be dumping waste and debris illegally will be prosecuted to the fullest

extent allowed by state and local law.

Follow the rules, avoid the fees. Please refer to the PMUA Recycling Rules, and Do's & Don'ts flyers to refresh yourself on the proper measures you must take while separating your waste and rolling out for collection. If you would like an extra copy of the flyers mentioned or have any questions on recycling and/or other procedures please call the PMUA at 908-226-2518.

## PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

# FINANCIAL FOCUS

Twelve years ago the PMUA was created to accomplish three goals:

1. Upgrade Plainfield's Sanitary Sewer System and reduce emergencies and property damage.
2. Implement a comprehensive Solid Waste System, including upgrade and improvements at the Transfer Station, now the Environmental Resource Center.
3. Generation and collection of revenues to accomplish those quality of life tasks.

The PMUA is proud to have accomplished those goals and to continue to work for the benefit of all of Plainfield's citizens. Over the years, specifically the last few, economic conditions have had impacts on all types of business. The PMUA serves mainly Plainfield, therefore local conditions have a much larger impact on the PMUA and its customers.

Most businesses try to reduce expenses during a downturn in the economy. Slower sales mean less cash, slower collections of cash, and tougher challenges in carrying out operating plans. Globally we hear a lot about employee cuts and layoffs due to the slow economy. Each employee who loses a job, or has reduced pay, impacts their local businesses. Plainfield has about 50,000 people in over 12,400 families. Current conditions such as job loss affect households which has a direct affect on the business community in Plainfield because people have to live on tighter budgets.

Impacts such as if fewer homes are built in Plainfield, the PMUA has fewer sanitary sewer and solid waste customers. Likewise, if homes are being foreclosed, the PMUA loses customers, the City loses



taxes and the quality of life within the neighborhoods suffer. People become uncertain during slow economic times and this uncertainty can lead to people paying their bills more slowly which impacts local business.

The PMUA budget has many costs that are affected by economic conditions. Contracts with the City of Plainfield for the lease of the sanitary sewer system increase annually. The transport and processing of sewerage by PARSA/MCUA increases almost annually and is the largest component of sanitary sewer costs.

We are all painfully aware of how much fuel costs have increased in recent years, yet for the PMUA, it's an avoidable expense as fuel is used by all solid waste and sanitary sewer vehicles. Solid waste vehicles are on the roads everyday, picking-up and disposing of garbage, recycling and bulk waste, and keeping the City and its parks and Central Business District clean.

Employee benefits and operating insurance premiums increase in double digits each year. That is the case even with specific programs to reduce insurance costs and keep PMUA employees healthier, reducing health benefit costs.

In recent years the PMUA has reduced its staff, changed health benefits carriers and implemented unpaid furloughs to reduce payroll costs. Vehicle routing usage

has also been refined to reduce fuel costs. Mechanics have been employed to reduce vehicle repairs and maintenance costs. The PMUA has implemented several changes to meet the challenges stemming from current economic conditions.

Plainfield residents can also help in containing costs, which in turn help to stabilize sanitary sewer and solid waste rates. Their largest impact will come from recycling as much as possible from the overall waste stream. Recycled items, papers and bottles and cans cost much less to dispose of than does garbage. That keeps solid waste rates under control, and keeps tonnage from disposal of regular (Type 10) waste to a minimum.

Plainfield's sanitary sewers are in good shape with constant maintenance, and have almost no emergency maintenance. To keep those costs low and to keep the lines flowing, residents should not put grease or any objects into sewers or sewer lines.

Please consider the points mentioned above. The PMUA is working diligently to make fiscally sound decisions and asks residents to do the same. By recycling more and keeping sewer lines clean and grease free, you can help the City, yourself and your neighbors.

## Low Generator Service

Custom collection services designed for Small Businesses.

(908) 226-2518

# LISA TAUSCHER

## DIRECTOR OF THE NEW JERSEY YOUTH CORPS OF PLAINFIELD

A person between the ages of 16-25, who has dropped out of high school, has resources in Plainfield which can help them get back on a positive track. The NJ Youth Corps of Plainfield is a full-time program, combining academic instruction with community service and individual counseling, designed to provide dropouts with services not found in traditional adult education programs.

Lisa Tauscher, Director of the New Jersey Youth Corps of Plainfield talks with PMUA News and discusses the organization, its services and how the benefits of being a member has tremendously helped many of Plainfield's youth turn their lives around.

For over four years now, approximately 60 participants per year have been able to earn a high school diploma, receive counseling, acquire new skills helping to become more employable, in addition to obtaining a sense of belonging and appreciation for their community through participating in this program, which is funded by a grant through the New Jersey Department of Labor.

Statistics support the claim that youth who participate in the program are three times more likely to receive a High School Diploma than those in other programs. Additionally, participants are five times more likely to be placed in jobs or job training and likely to complete four times the hours than that of participants

in a regular adult program.

"The entire program is designated for high school drop outs or people who are not currently registered in high school. Being a member is free. Participants learn employment and life skills while working on community service projects while at the same time taking classes towards their high school diploma at the Union County Vocational School in Scotch Plains".

"We also focus to instill a sense of belonging within the community. We try to create this connection by helping participants connect to the people

*"The entire program is designated for high school drop outs or people who are not currently registered in high school. Being a member is free."*

around them. Connecting to their home environment generates a feeling of caring which leads to taking care of the community because they are improving where they live. We foster this by volunteering at neighborhood and municipal events. Working with the Department of Public Works, the Rescue Squad, The Armory, City Hall and day care centers through out Plainfield on group projects has helped us to instill respect for the community through personal involvement".

"Because our population is small we can give counseling on employment,



education goals and life skills while providing decision making tools and resources on where to go from here at our site in the Plainfield Armory".

Once a member has received their diploma the program assists in job placement. "We have helped secure jobs with UPS, Fed Ex, many Plainfield retailers, as well as within Plainfield's municipal departments" said Ms. Tauscher. "We also see many members continue their education at Union County College or in an adult post-secondary trade at Union County Vocational-Technical Schools". For more information on the Youth Corps of Plainfield call (908) 561-6012 or e-mail: [ltauscher@ucvts.tec.nj.us](mailto:ltauscher@ucvts.tec.nj.us).

## PMUA NOTICE

**There is no Recycle Pick-Up on the 5th Wednesday of Any Month.**  
**Wednesday July 30th And Wednesday October 29th there will be No Recycle Collection.**

**Regular Garbage Collection will be suspended on...**  
**Friday July 4th, Monday September 1st, and Monday October 13th in observance of the holidays.**

**Please Remember not to place Co-Mingled Recyclables in loose plastic bags.**  
**All co-mingled recyclables must be loose in your container.**

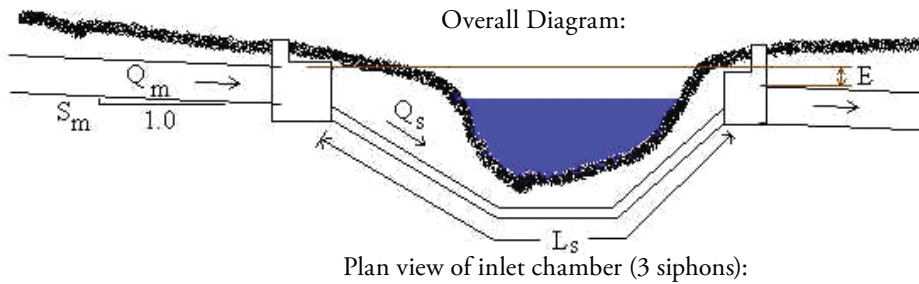
**\*\*Note that if you have placed a plastic liner in your blue container it must be attached to the can with tape so the liner does not come out during collection. Your plastic liner must be stationary.**



## Sanitary Sewer Siphon Cleaning

The PMUA Sewer Department will be cleaning nine City sanitary sewer siphons in an effort to greatly improve the way water flows through the sanitary sewer system. Siphons are the u-shaped pipe that allow sanitary sewage water to pass under obstructions such as rivers. By removing 50 years of sediment and build-up, this siphon cleaning project will increase sewage flow throughout the system by removing sedi-

ment and lime from the siphon. The concept is similar to that of our own body's circulatory system, in which our veins and arteries conduct the flow of blood throughout our entire bodies. Much like a blockage in our blood circulation would negatively affect various areas of our body, obstructions in the flow of the sanitary sewage system, can result in major backups and other costly damage.



## Discarding Old Automobile Tires?

Do you recycle your tires? The PMUA suggests that you properly recycle your used automobile tires (and other appropriate materials not collected or accepted by PMUA) by taking them down to the Union County Household Hazardous Waste special collection days.

Union County has several dates and sites designated for your convenience. Call 908-654-9889 or go to [www.ucnj.org/recycle](http://www.ucnj.org/recycle) for a list of dates and times to drop-off tires along with a complete list of other household hazardous waste that



can be disposed of at their designated drop-off location(s).

Once tires are recycled they can be remolded into several items such as safety flooring, commercial fishing equipment, dock & boat bumpers, truck bed mats, mud flaps, farm equipment, garbage containers, recycled rubber-soled shoes, tire swings and incorporated into materials used in road resurfacing.

Remember to do your part by recycling. When dropping off tires make sure that the rims are removed. There is a limit of eight tires per household.

## Safe Summer Transportation

With gas prices at an all time high, and school being out for the summer, there are more bicycles on the road than ever. For drivers and bike riders, sharing the road

can become a squeeze at times. The PMUA wishes to remind everyone to be cautious and alert while traveling on the road, and have a safe, fun summer.

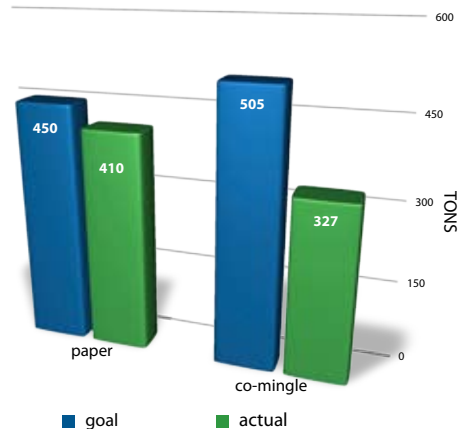
## City Hall Catches Recycling Bug

As the push for increased recycling continues, City Hall is also in talks to officially establish an in-house program facilitated by the PMUA, to capture the paper and co-mingled goods generated throughout the building on a daily basis.

Already on board, is the board of Education, who partnered with the PMUA to launch a multi-phase recycling program throughout the City's public schools, which helps to rescue the majority of paper waste from being discarded as regular garbage.

With co-mingled numbers steadily rising, increases to uncontaminated paper recyclables is sure to follow with the continued support and initiative of all citizens.

PMUA Recycling Numbers



## PMUA Donates Bags For Clean-Up

In celebration of Earth Day 2008 the PMUA donated trash bags to the Queen City Charter School in Plainfield to help the students with their Earth Day clean-up. PMUA salutes the students for being environmentally conscious.

Recently the PMUA met with the members of the 8th Avenue Block Association to discuss and educate on recycling and waste management programs in Plainfield. We commend the block association for their efforts.

## Bulk Waste Service

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

(908) 226-2518





**ANSWERS** ACROSS: 2 animals, 5 newspaper, 6 mill, 7 aluminum, 9 raw, 10 computer, 13 cards, 14 loop, 15 nutrient, 16, glass, 18 action, 19, pulp, 20 plastics  
 DOWN: 1 collecting, 3 separate, 4 sustainable, 8 processing, 11 purchasing, 12 role, 13 clean, 15 natural, 17 party

**ACROSS**

- 2 Natural resources include water trees and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 When your family is done reading the \_\_\_\_\_ you can recycle it.
- 6 A Recycling \_\_\_\_\_ is where used paper is recycled into new products
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ is a kind of metal we use a lot, and recycle too.
- 9 When paper is recycled and processed, it becomes \_\_\_\_\_ material for new products.
- 10 This kind of paper, which you might use in school, can be recycled.
- 13 Once your report \_\_\_\_\_ have been reviewed by your parents, you can recycle them too.

- 14 If you purchased a recycled product, you completed the recycling \_\_\_\_\_.

- 15 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a kind of natural resource that helps other things grow.
- 16 These containers can be clear, green or brown and can be recycled.
- 18 When you recycle, you are taking \_\_\_\_\_ to help our environment.
- 19 Paper mixed with water becomes this stuff.
- 20 Containers made with this substance are lightweight; many kinds can be recycled.

**DOWN**

- 1 The first step in the recycling loop.
- 3 If you have paper, plastic and glass all mixed up, you usually have to \_\_\_\_\_ them before recycling anything.

- 4 A kind of forestry that keeps a healthy balance in the forests.

- 8 The second step in the recycling loop.
- 11 The third step in the recycling loop
- 12 When you buy recycled products, you are playing an important \_\_\_\_\_ in recycling.
- 13 Paper used for recycling has to be \_\_\_\_\_ and free of contaminants like food.
- 15 Kinds of resources supplied by the Earth and its processes.
- 17 Going to a birthday \_\_\_\_\_ party soon? Wrap the present in recycled paper.





**Trevor Gravesande**  
Sales/Recycling Coordinator

Trevor Gravesande's attitude and drive is a valuable resource. He brings spirit and enthusiasm to the PMUA each day while making a significant impact and contribution to the PMUA through his strong work ethic and dedication to his job.

On Staff as a Sales Representative for two years, Mr. Gravesande has recently been given a dual role in addition to his sales responsibilities, as a Business Recycle Coordinator. As a Sales Representative, securing unsecured business along with trying to maintain current customers is a large part of his responsibility. "Retention is an important part of my job as well as bringing in new business" says Mr. Gravesande. "In my role as Business Recycle Coordinator I conduct presentations for the business community to educate this sector on the proper ways to recycle". "In both positions a large part of my day is spent interfacing with people. I love people. You have to love people to do what I do".

A graduate of Rutgers University with a degree in Economics and Marketing, Mr. Gravesande is the father of 6 children, two girls and four boys. Before coming to the PMUA he was employed as a Special Publications Manager at the Daily Record and prior to that was a Senior Executive at Federal Express.

**Favorite Place:** Home

**Person Admired Most:** My mom because she is incredibly resourceful keeping the family together and taught her boys how to be self sufficient. She used to say, "If I teach you how to fish you will live a lifetime, if I give you a fish you will live for a day".

**Favorite Movie:** All of the Star Wars Movies.

**Proudest Moment:** My 15 year old son's continued success in athletics and academics.

## Save the Date

**PMUA 2008 9th Annual Environmental Fair- Saturday, September 13th, 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Library Park, Plainfield. (Rain Date September 27th).**

# Let's Go Green

## Saturday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>

### from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm



### PMUA Essay Contest Winners

#### Kindergarten:

Gabriels Cantero-Exojo  
Evergreen School

#### 2nd Grade:

Samia Alkhalili  
Evergreen School

#### 3rd Grade:

1<sup>st</sup> place  
Danielle Johnson  
Cook School

2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Dennis Toscano  
Cook School

3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Samantha Williams  
Cook School

#### 4th Grade:

1<sup>st</sup> place  
Dulce Lopez  
Queen City Academy

2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Dominic Montas  
Queen City Academy

3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Isiah Evans  
Queen City Academy

#### 5th Grade:

1<sup>st</sup> place  
Malik Alkhalili  
Evergreen School

2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Keyshawna Johnson  
Barlow School

3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Te'Ana Hill  
Queen City Academy

#### 6th Grade:

1<sup>st</sup> place  
Andrea Williams  
UC TEAMS Charter School

2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Taylor Boyd  
UC TEAMS Charter School

3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Shaquille Copeland  
UC TEAMS Charter School

#### Honorable Mention:

Salina Burton  
UC TEAMS Charter School

Ryan Harrison  
Cook School

Donald Johnson  
Cook School

Amir Williams  
UC TEAMS Charter School

# PMUA & City in Weight Loss Challenge

The Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority (PMUA) and the City of Plainfield are launching a joint weight loss campaign that aims to encourage employees to shed excess pounds, achieve healthier weights, and reduce the risk of life-threatening diseases.

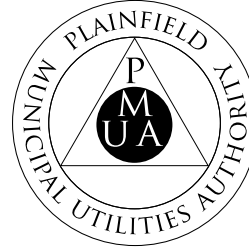
The employees expected to join the teams will be given a free 50 Million Pound Challenge Kit. The Challenge is sponsored by State Farm. It is also supported and endorsed by leaders across the community and national civic and health organizations.

This Challenge between the PMUA and the City of Plainfield comes at a time when poor diets and low levels of physical activity have turned obesity into a serious public health problem. The number one health crisis facing all Americans, is being overweight.

"The weight loss challenge with the employees of the PMUA and the City of Plainfield can be highly effective," says Eric Watson Executive Director of PMUA. "It is a great way to improve our overall employee health."

Employees were weighed in on Monday, June 16, 2008 at the Plainfield YMCA. The teams will be supported by three advisors: a nutritionist, a medical consultant and a fitness coordinator. Regular weigh ins and meetings with the weight loss advisors will be scheduled monthly for the teams. We are looking to partner with the YMCA as well as the YWCA. Funds raised from pledges will benefit the Plainfield Rescue Squad. The final weigh in is set for Monday, September 8, 2008 and announcement of the "biggest loser" on Saturday, September 13, 2008.

*pictured right: Mayor Robinson-Briggs (center), Dollie Hamlin (center left) of the PMUA, along with three State Farm Representatives pose for a picture at the initiative kick-off.*



**THE 50 MILLION POUND CHALLENGE**



## Roll-Off Containers

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

**(908) 226-2518**

# PMUA WEBSITE COMING SOON!



## CALL US TO COME VISIT

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.**

## P M U A: 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