

PMUA NEWS

Winter 2009

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 TAKES STEPS TO CUT OPERATIONAL COSTS

The weight of our economic downturn has put a tight squeeze on business operations and financial stability. The PMUA has been working diligently to tighten our belt in an effort to stabilize operating costs during these tough times. From collections, to disposal, to human resources, the Authority is leaving no stone unturned to reduce operating expenses and maintain first-rate comprehensive services.

Fuel & Fleet Efficiency

Last year, fuel prices skyrocketed sending the cost to operate our fleet through the roof. While gas has dropped, the financial hole it left behind will have many of us still struggling to recover. Nonetheless, we're focused on proactive versus reactive planning to cut down current and future operation expenses. To improve fuel efficiency, a bio petro improver fuel additive is being used to increase gas mileage, improve performance and reduce emissions. We recently took on a lease for five new solid waste packers,

retiring older fleet which required excessive and costly maintenance and repairs. A major advantage of short term leasing new vehicles is warranty coverage, which avoids us costly out-of-pocket expenses for emergency and non-routine maintenance. This will afford tremendous savings on fleet maintenance alone.

Self Sufficiency and On-Site Capabilities

With our new tipping floor, we are able to separate recyclables from the regular trash, decreasing solid waste disposal tonnage and in turn cutting back on expenses for garbage disposal brought to the burner. Purchasing four 50 yard containers to store and transport recycling has contributed to a savings in fuel, fleet wear and tear and employee overtime. We've also contracted a new vendor to

cause PMUA is pulling out certain types of material and disposing of it with a vendor offering more competitive rates.

Fleet Reduction & Schedule Revisions

With our current semi-automated collection, adding an extra man to each truck allows the loading and dumping of carts to be done with two less trucks per day, realizing a cost savings by reducing the daily fleet from seven to five trucks. To alleviate employee overtime and weekend pay where possible, we've made adjustments to our public can service schedules and revised collection times around holidays so pick-ups are done the day before instead of on the holiday itself.

Sewer Division


The Sewer Division is rebuilding its pump station because it has become worn and less proficient.

The new pump station will ultimately save money by running more efficiently and doing away with much of the costs associated with maintaining an older system. In addition, using TV trucks on the sewer lines, which offer a preventative edge in finding potential problems before they manifest, has been a successful strategy in decreasing sewer emergencies.

Employee Layoffs and Furloughs

Company downsizing is an unfortunate necessity at times to stay afloat in the wake of a financial crisis. The PMUA has always prided itself on being among the top employers of Plainfield residents and "second

dispose of vegetative waste and are using our own fleet to transport this waste as opposed to hiring an auxiliary hauler. Bulky waste overhead has gone down be-



Please fill out and return the PMUA Survey you received in the mail!



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JOHN RAKOWSKI

SUPERINTENDENT OF PMUA SEWER DIVISION



John Rakowski – Superintendent of PMUA Sewer Division talks to PMUA News about the procedures taking place to keep City sewer lines clean.

“The biggest problem that we have been actively addressing is grease. To combat grease in the lines we have been adding bacteria to the sewers that eat grease and reduce the amount of grease in the sewers. The grease in the sewer lines comes from residential and commercial properties that improperly discharge cooking oil and grease. We have noticed that

in certain areas, repeat cleanings have been taking place because of grease build-ups”.

Residents who dump grease down their sinks after cooking must realize that they are doing severe damage to their own lines as well as to those in the City’s system. Many times when there is a grease build up in a sewer line, a back-up can occur into the home as well as into that of a neighbor, causing a health hazard. For every one blockage in a City sewer line there are 8-10 blockages that occur in a homeowner line.

To address this, tenants and homeowners need to be mindful of where to dispose of grease after cooking. Cooking oil and grease should be dumped into a coffee can or a glass jar and can be left on the counter or put into the refrigerator to cool. The grease should then be disposed of into the regular garbage. “Grease should never be dumped in the sink or the toilet” said Mr. Rakowski.

“We have also uncovered problems in particular areas in Plainfield where there is a large concentration of fast food establishments. To alleviate the grease in these areas PMUA inspectors have been working with

business owners to assist them in grease disposal protocol as well as verifying where oils are being discharged. PMUA monitors where the grease is being taken to make sure it is not being dumped from the traps into our main lines which can cause blockages”.

The more money the PMUA spends to battle grease in city pipes the more it can affect operational costs. “This is why we urge tenants, homeowners and businesses to properly dispose of grease and keep it out of Plainfield sewer lines. Data shows that approximately 90% of line problems for homeowners are grease related”.

In an effort to clean all of the sewers in Plainfield, the Sewer Division currently has two vacuors and a flusher operating throughout the City. Over a two to three year period, every sewer in the city will be cleaned.

In addition, the division is putting in a new pump station which will add new pumps to discharge waste and water while sending it to another location. This project should be completed by 2009 and will be a more efficient system.

PMUA NOTICE

PMUA will be closed and there will be no general waste collection : February 16th.

AVOID FINES - PLEASE FOLLOW THE CURBSIDE COLLECTION GUIDELINES BELOW:

- **LIDS MUST BE COMPLETELY CLOSED** on all trash containers rolled out for curbside collection .
- **Do not leave trash on top of the lid or on the side of container.** (Extra trash can be taken to the PERC/ Transfer Station, or saved for your next pick-up date)
- **Make sure your cart is put away by 8:00 p.m. the day of pick-up.**
- **Regular garbage goes in the BLACK cart only. Co-mingled recyclables in BLUE carts only.**
- **Construction debris or vegetative waste (leaves, etc) should not be disposed of in your black cart.**

NO RECYCLING COLLECTION on the 5th Wednesday of any month

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.

DR. GREGORY PALERMO

CHAIRMAN OF THE PLAINFIELD SHADE TREE COMMISSION

PMUA News talks with Dr. Gregory Palermo, Chairman of The Plainfield Shade Tree Commission on recent green activity put forth by the commission.

This spring 50 shade trees were planted on Leland Avenue by the New Jersey Tree Foundation working with the Shade Tree Commission. The trees were planted with the help of local volunteers who worked on the digging and planting. "After looking at spots that needed greenery we thought that this was an important area to beautify because it is a heavily traveled and very visible entrance into our city. The trees had a tremendous impact on beautifying this area and we were delighted with this project, especially because of the participation from our residents. Homeowners agreed to take care of the trees once they were planted and for the most part all of the trees are healthy and well. Even though the trees are planted on City owned property, the homeowners agreed to maintain the trees. This has been a great example of the Shade Tree Commission working with volunteers to make our City greener" said Dr. Palermo.

The foundation for projects such as this one is based on the intent of the New Jersey Tree Foundation which was to get places like Plainfield that needed more green, to form tree boards and commissions to take control of the trees in their communities. The foundation provides the funding for planting, planning and related activities to the Commission to plant trees.

With this in mind, the Plainfield Shade Tree Commission was formed in 2006 by the City Council under the terms of the Shade Tree Commission Ordinance. The Ordinance and City Forestry Plan had been created by the Plainfield Ten Cities Tree Committee. This

committee was a volunteer group that carried out the terms of a grant from the New Jersey Tree Foundation. The intent of that grant was to encourage New Jersey cities to care for their trees by passing shade tree ordinances, creating shade tree commissions and establishing five year plans to manage municipal trees that would be approved by the state. Following the state approved plans and meeting continuing education requirements, Plainfield received "approved" status. This made Plainfield eligible for additional grants.

The New Jersey Tree Foundation has been a great help in setting up the Shade Tree Commission. "Our mission is to take care of Plainfield's trees, plant new trees and assess the conditions of the City trees and the hazards that trees could create. We also work with the Department of Public Works on tree maintenance, including pruning and removal" said Dr. Palermo. The Shade Tree Commission is also responsible for educating the public on the value of trees, working to get public support for trees and get Plainfield residents involved in the tree planting and maintenance process.

Trees have also been planted in conjunction with the roadway reconstruction projects in Plainfield. New trees have been planted to replace those that have been damaged over the years. The Commission has also planted many trees in Plainfield parks and celebrates Arbor Day with tree plantings. In addition to the New Jersey Tree Foundation monies for the trees come from the Greening Union County Program. Because the Commission works to meet requirements put forth by the state, the Commission continues to be eligible for tree funding.



According to Dr. Palermo the Shade Tree Commission has been planting trees that are under-represented to our City. Trees such as Willow Oak, Hackberry, Red Buds, Tree Lilacs, Kentucky Coffee Trees and Maackias have been planted. Having a diverse tree population helps to limit losses of trees caused by pests or diseases that severely affect one or a few species, such as Dutch Elm Disease for example. When a disease hits a tree it usually hits the whole population killing all the trees at once. This is why it is good to have many different tree species in a community, besides for aesthetic reasons. Another criteria for choosing tree species is to plant low maintenance trees, trees that do not break easily.

The Shade Tree Commission consists of seven members and is recruiting new members. Please contact Dr. Palermo at 732-321-7680 if you are interested in joining the commission.



Low Generator Service

Custom collection services designed for Small Businesses.

(908) 226-2518

PMUA works with the Plainfield Fire Division taking guns off City streets

PMUA participated with Operation Safe Streets, an initiative organized by the Plainfield Fire Division F.O.A. #207 and F.M.B.A. #7. Working to take guns off the streets of Plainfield, this program was initiated to make our city safer.

On Saturday December 13th people surrendered their guns down at the Fire Division Headquarters and received a \$50.00 gift card

in exchange for an operational fire arm. The PMUA assisted the fire division by making a donation in support of this safe streets program.

PMUA Executive Director Eric Watson said "The PMUA embraces the opportunity to take part in community programs. PMUA cares about the safety of our citizens. We are thankful to be able to make this donation and contribute towards this life saving program."



Please remove any plastic/garbage bags from your blue recycle cart prior to roll-out for collection.

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PMUA TAKES STEPS TO CUT OPERATIONAL COSTS

chance" citizens however, the current situation has necessitated more extensive measures to cut costs including employee layoffs and mandatory furloughs.

Medical Insurance, Safety and Training

Each year the PMUA conducts cost comparisons before renewing insurance plans to make sure the company is getting the most cost efficient option. Employees with secondary health care coverage through another family member are also presented with the choice to opt-out of the medical insurance program. As a direct result of our safety program and training on procedures and policy, there has recently been a zero net increase in our workers compensation insurance premium.

Service/Violation Fee Increase

The PMUA strives to be as flexible as possible to accommodate the needs of our customers. In 2008, the PMUA incurred significant financial loss through disposal charges and overall operating expenses by servicing an excessive number of container service and standard residential customers disposing of contaminated loads. To protect the financial interests of our customers as well as our operations, it is important that established service guidelines are followed to ensure overall compliance with County, State, and DEP regulations, as well to help stabilize operation expenses and service rates. We advise you that in 2009 there will be a significant increase in service violation fees for all customers who do not comply with standard service rules and regulations.



Plastic bags SHOULD NOT be discarded with recyclables. Co-mingled items should be discarded loosely in your blue recycle container.

Senior Discount
10% discount for Senior Citizen & Medical Disability

(908) 226-2518

Drop in Recycle Revenue

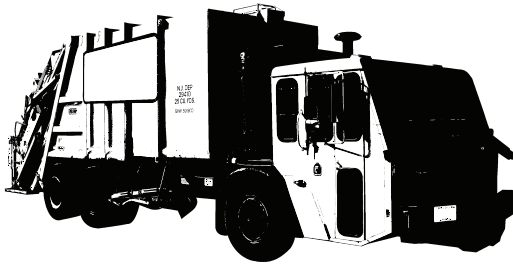
Currently ships are sitting out in the ocean and others are being sent back to the United States because countries who once readily bought recyclables are now no longer buying. At this point there is approximately one year's worth of clean recyclables all set to be purchased, but there is no market for them. The lack of demand for recyclables is a direct result of the recent state of the world wide economy.

During the past few years recyclables produced revenue for municipalities and the PMUA alike. PMUA as recently as the spring of 2008 was receiving up to \$121.00 per ton for the disposal of paper from the recycle center. However, since the summer that payment was cut in half to \$60.00 per ton and later reduced again to \$30.00. As the worldwide demand for recycled materials dried up, revenue generated from recyclable material has come to a halt, leaving entities like the PMUA struggling to cope with the loss of a once significant source of revenue.

Recyclables are a commodity; commodities will sell if people are buying products made from recyclable material. It is as simple as

that - supply and demand; the demand for recyclables has decreased because of the economy. Marie Kruzan, head of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers, explains that the general state of consumerism has a direct effect on this issue. "If nobody is buying things, the materials needed to make the items are no longer necessary" says Kruzan. "Because people are not buying toys like before the need for plastic is less. Cardboard is not needed for boxes because people are not buying the items that go into the boxes. Overseas the mills have stopped buying the materials because the need for these materials has dropped dramatically. During these tough times people are fixing what they have instead of buying new. This means the demand for new products has decreased which impacts the need for recyclables necessary to produce new products".

Recycle marketers can no longer easily rid themselves of recyclables; they are passing the buck down to organizations like the PMUA who need to dispose of recyclables, by cutting their payments to the PMUA for these materials. In past times, there have been instances where the hauler had to pay recycle marketers to take recyclables. As the supply & demand within this industry continues to tip unfavorably out of balance, PMUA could be forced to pay marketers to acquire recyclable waste.



2009 Solid Waste Charges and Fees:

Low Density Residential Customers:

Single Family	\$191.45 (per quarter)
.....	Add \$80.52 for each additional household.

Transfer Station Charges:

Type 10 materials (municipal waste)	\$130.55/ton
Type 13 materials (bulky waste)	\$165.00/ton
Mattresses (regardless of size)	\$45.00/each
Type 23 materials (vegetative waste) ...	\$94.20/ton
Recyclables: (Drop-off)	
Paper	\$28.80/ton
Bottles and Cans	\$41.28/ton
Metals	\$47.16/ton
White Metals	\$47.16/ton
Plus	\$15.00/Freon containing unit
Tires	\$312.00/ton or \$3.12/tire

Other Fees:

Premium Side Yard Collection	\$30.00/Quarter
Excess Solid Waste	\$30.00/bag/container
Cart Replacement Fee	\$60.00/cart
Cart Return Fee	\$10.00/cart/event
Residential Container Rental	\$30.00/quarter/cubic yard
Container Loading:	\$200.00/hour
Transfer Station Scale Service	\$100.00 deposit plus \$15.00/weighing
Contaminated Waste or Recycling	
Residential Customers	\$50.00/event
Container Service Customers ..	\$50.00/container cubic yard/event

Dear Plainfield Citizens,

The PMUA is proud to be a top employer of Plainfield residents and in offering second chance opportunity to many. We have a very diverse cross section of committed and dedicated staff. Unfortunately the economic climate of the time which necessitated the recent rate increase also necessitates company downsizing and other extraordinary actions in order to affect budget reductions, i.e.:

- *eliminating three (3) Contract Executive positions*
- *eliminating one General Superintendent position*
- *layoff of twelve (12) to fifteen (15) employees*
- *implementing a general employee wage freeze (including Executives)*
- *implementing a mandatory ten (10) day unpaid furlough program for all employees (including Executives)*
- *implementing a general hiring freeze*

Please understand that PMUA employees too are feeling the sting that our customers and city residents alike are dealing with. Collectively we all are confronted with the difficult realities of this situation. We are all in this together, and the PMUA is making tough decisions to navigate through these tough times.

Please take a few moments to complete and return our customer survey. Your feedback is valuable in helping us identify and review strategies for continuing to provide you with comprehensive, quality and affordable services.

Regards,
Eric C. Watson
Executive Director, PMUA



Sam Andrews
PERC Foreman

Sam Andrews, a foreman at the PERC Transfer Station has been with the PMUA since the year 2000. Talking about his work at the PMUA "dealing with our customers and their satisfaction, having a pleasant staff that work hard and receive compliments from our customers, is one of the most rewarding parts of my job" said Mr. Andrews.

Taking pride in being one of the cleanest Transfer Stations in the state, Mr. Andrews makes sure that the operation runs smoothly regarding bulky waste and keeping bottles and cans separated while making sure they go where they need to go. Overseeing the tipping floor, bulk operations and vegetative waste, Mr. Andrews supervises to assure waste is properly separated and put in the correct place to then be disposed of.

"I feel good at the end of the day at the fact that everything is in its proper place, seeing the facility as clean as it was when we first got to work in the morning, Mr. Andrews says he enjoys his work because of the great staff and the services they provide. It makes it all worth while to see happy customers.

Prior to joining the PMUA Mr. Andrews was a cook for Johnson & Johnson. Having two daughters and one son Mr. Andrews spends time with his family, likes to work out at the gym and accompanies his son to the gym while his son boxes.

Favorite meal: Salmon
Favorite sport: Basketball
Favorite place: Tampa, Florida
Person admired most: Step Father
Favorite books: History

NEW: PMUA adds 10 & 20 Cubic yard Roll-Off Containers Giving Property Owners More Convenient Options.



From contractors to private residents, many can benefit from our Roll-Off Container Service. Whether it be on a small scale such as remodeling a bathroom or cleaning out your attic, to a large scale like doing an addition to your home; The PMUA provides 10, 20 and 30 yard containers to dispose of large amounts of debris at one time. In offering the smaller sizes we are now able to better accommodate properties with size restrictions because they can fit more easily on your property. This makes your job more convenient by eliminating numerous trips to the PERC/Transfer Station. Is your private hauler charging a flat fee? PMUA charges by the ton - a potential money saver since you'll only pay for what you use. Our fees are affordable and competitive, PLUS we offer two week contracts as opposed to many haulers who only offer one week. At all times you will receive fast and flexible response times (usually 24 hours). Call the PMUA today at 908-226-2518 ext. 327 to set up your container service appointment.



Roll-Off Containers

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

(908) 226-2518

PMUA

2009 COLLECTION CALENDAR

ABOUT THIS CALENDAR...

This calendar is published annually to provide Plainfield residents with information about the PMUA garbage and recycling collection, holiday and 5th Wednesday 'No Collection' dates. For questions or comments regarding this calendar, alternate recycling, or general garbage collection, contact PMUA Call Center at: (908) 226-2518 or reachpmua@pmua.org

PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Celebrating over a Decade of Service to Plainfield

NO COLLECTION





Holiday - NO Collection
Regular pickup schedules will resume the following workday.




No recycling collection on the 5th Wednesday of any month.


GARBAGE

 Zones:
2, 3, 4, 6, 7

 Zones:
1, 5, 8, 9, 10

RECYCLING

 Paper Products: (newspaper, cardboard, junk mail, etc.)
ALL ZONES

 Co-mingled: (cans, bottles, plastic, glass)
ALL ZONES

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
28	29	30	31			3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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FEBRUARY						
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29	30					

DECEMBER						
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Introducing the new PMUA WEBSITE: www.pmua.info

Please see www.pmua.info to get all of the latest information from the PMUA. Including collection schedules, residential solid waste protocols, recycle procedures, PMUA services, important dates, announcements, community outreach efforts and much more can be viewed on the new PMUA Website.

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 un-

derstand 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.**

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*
Tracey Brown - *Commissioner*

PMUA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eric C. Watson - *Executive Director*
David Ervin - *Assistant Executive Director*
James Perry - *Chief Financial Officer*
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