



TALKING TRASH

the newsletter for all employees

City of Houston, Annise D. Parker, Mayor SWMD, Harry J. Hayes, Director Nov 2010 Volume 1 Issue 1

Busy summer: Mayor Parker and SWMD open two new neighborhood depositories

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From left to right: Lucky the Ladybug, Raymond Franks, Harry Hayes, Bob Christy, Council Member Ed Gonzalez, Mayor Annise Parker, Council Member Jarvis Johnson, Capt. Cleanup and Reusette Wisely.



Up: Maria Tejeira and Cynthia Green at North Main. Below: Derek Mebane.



SUPERVISOR
MICHAEL WARD (NE)

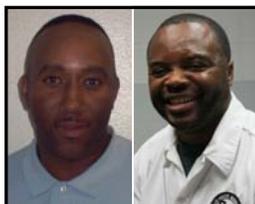
OFFICE SERVICES
JACQUELINE EDWARDS (NE)

GENERAL SERVICES (CLASS B)
CLINTON ROBINSON (SE)

For more information visit us on
www.houstonsolidwaste.org



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Message from the Director

As we look to the future, we are committed to reducing the amount of material that we throw away and engaging our residents in managing the impact on our environment.

We encourage everyone to practice the 3Rs Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in that order as this effort results in significant waste prevention and diversion, saving taxpayer dollars. Think Zero Waste and give the items you no longer want or need a better home than the landfill. Be sure to take extra precaution when disposing of common household chemicals. Every Houstonian has the opportunity to recycle, either through curbside recycling or by visiting one of the 11 recycling drop-off sites located throughout the city. I'm very excited to let you know that two new depositories/recycling centers opened this summer: One in the north side at 9003 N. Main Street and the other in the southwest area at 10785 SW Freeway near Beltway 8.

Our goal is to eliminate waste as much as possible and manage what can't be reduced, reused or recycled. We look forward to your personal commitment as a Zero Waste leader. Let's work together to make Houston a cleaner, greener place to live.

Harry J. Hayes

Safety corner

Derek Mebane



Most accidents encountered by the department are due to overhead hazards and side-swipes. Low hanging power lines and low hanging trees should be reported by City of Houston employees and residents to mitigate the risk of these hazards. Drivers should continuously scan the road and the overhead passageways for their safe passage.

If the hazard looks too close, it probably is. Remember to get out and check the load heights and if you can't pass safely under it; stop and call for help to remove yourself from the situation. Most side-swipes can be avoided by drivers using cau-

Most accidents encountered by the department are due to overhead hazards and side-wipes

tion when trying to pass any type of vehicle, large or small. Remember, passing safely requires waiting until it's safe to pass (not in a no pass zone), ensuring there is enough space to complete the maneuver, and ensuring there is enough time to pass. These quick tips can help us lower accidents, decrease exposure, and increase savings for the department, City, and citizens of Houston.

2010 AWARDS



2010 Star Awards for Outstanding Construction and Demolition Debris Reuse/Recycling and Outstanding Compost Program.

STAR Awards

Recently, the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) recognized the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department as the 2010 Compost Program award winner for our green waste program. It also recognized SWMD as the 2010 Outstanding Construction and Demolition Reuse/Recycling award winner for our Building Materials Warehouse.

Keep Houston Beautiful

Keep Houston Beautiful will also award their Mayor's Proud Partner Award to the Organic Waste Recycling Program and present a certificate of recognition to the Building Materials Reuse Warehouse in November of this year. An exciting tribute to the hard work and efforts involved.

NEW SUPERVISORS

Mr. **Michael Fair**, a Criminal Justice graduate of Grambling State University in Louisiana, joined the Department in 2004 at Northeast Operations. Married to the lovely Theresa and father of three children: Katrina, Mychea and Jacoby, Mr. Fair was recently promoted from Equipment Operator III to Solid Waste Supervisor. Before joining our Department, Mr. Fair was a Shift Supervisor for ten years at a local chemical plant and worked in heavy trash for two years for the City of Bryan, Texas. His hobbies include softball, bowling and golf.



Michael C. Fair

Mr. **Courtney Osborne** has been with the Department since 2001. Starting as a temporary, he quickly made his way up to full time city worker. Shortly after this, he was promoted and assigned to work in the yard waste group at NW Service Center and after a year he was promoted to Sr. Side Loader Operator and assigned to work in the Automated Program. Mr. Osborne was one of the top performers in the Automation Program and received several pay for performance incentives until his recent promotion to Solid Waste Supervisor.



Courtney Osborne

SAVE-O-METER



Welcome to Houston Big Belly !



Each Big Belly costs approximately \$5,400

BIG BELLY FACTS

- 10 COMPACTORS ACROSS THE CITY
- 5 TIMES LESS TRASH VOLUME
- LESS ATTENTION
- WIRELESS MONITORING
- LESS FREQUENT PICK-UPS

We're at it again! Funded in part by Houston-Galveston Area Council and TCEQ, and in a joint effort with the Parks Department, Houstonians will now have new trash cans in major parks around the city. This is a one-year pilot program testing Big Belly Solar Compactors and it will be conducted in several parks throughout Houston. The compactor is the same size

as a 96-gallon garbage can but can amazingly hold up to five times more trash! This means increased capacity and reduced collection trips, fuel costs, and greenhouse gas emissions. A big thanks to **Raphael Brown**, Grants Manager and **Daniel Hinojosa**, Web Developer for designing the art work to go on the compactor and all of SWMD for making this happen.

Illegally dumped tires rescue team

During Tree Waste months, Community Outreach member **Javier Frutos** along with different Service Center crews headed out to the streets in



NW employee David Ford picking up tires

search of tires that were illegally dumped. During September, South East (driver **Robert Harris** and assistants **Derick Daugatry** and **Anthony Williams**) and North West (Cherry Picker driver **David Ford**, semi truck driver **Johnny Miller** and semi truck driver **John House**) collected 1,300 illegally dumped tires.

In October, Southwest driver **Javier Martinez** and assistant **Juan Selgado** went to the Third Ward area near 288 and 610 as well as Acres Homes where they collected a whopping 1,700 tires. These tires are taken to each service center where they end up at Liberty Tire Company who will recycle and turn them into rubber mulch, drain pipes and even office supplies.

VII Annual Trash Can Classic — 4 Man Scramble



Solid Waste, in partnership with the Combined Municipal Campaign, will host the **7th Annual Trash Can Classic 4-Man Scramble** on Saturday, October 30, 2010. City employees, families and friends participating will be eligible to win many prizes. Our HR Division Manager **Carolyn Wright** and Sr. HR Specialist **Tanya Cleveland** have worked hard to make this a day to remember.



AUTOMATED RECYCLING PROGRAM

30,000 NEW HOMES

We are committed to expanding our automated recycling program to an additional 30,000 households by the end of the year. More Houstonians will have the opportunity to recycle paper, plastic, metal cans and glass instead of placing the material in the garbage. We can proudly say that we are presently expanding our curbside recycling to meet the needs of more of our customers. Within the next 3 years we expect to have City-wide curbside recycling servicing nearly 400,000 homes. Currently we are servicing 109,000 dual stream curbside customers and 74,000 single stream automated customers.



HR CORNER

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

NORTH

GARY SHINER 11/1
 HECTOR IBARRA 11/5
 CEDRIC JENKINS 11/6
 MELVIN DIRDEN 11/6
 JOMAIL HENDERSON 11/6
 CEDRIC ARMSTEAD 11/10
 JAMES TAYLOR 11/12
 HUGO MUNOZ 11/13
 LARRY HINES 11/14
 RAYVELT HATTON 11/17
 PHILLIP MOORE 11/18
 JOSE TRISTAN 11/19
 GERMANE HENSON 11/23
 TYRONE NEWSOME 11/23
 ALBERT MITCHELL 11/25
 CONNIE FUENTES 11/25
 MAURICE RENFRO 11/28

MAINTENANCE

RENE RODRIGUEZ 11/6
 JOSEPH WILTZ, JR 11/7
 PATRICK JONES 11/9
 MARIA AYALA 11/10
 TAI TRINH 11/10
 JONAS RICHARDSON 11/11
 KERMIET BAKER 11/11
 TABITHA DAVIS 11/15
 HENRY GARCIA 11/16
 JOYCE BROWN 11/18
 AVERY PORTER 11/23
 EDWARD WALKER 11/25
 THERESA GRANADAS 11/28
 RICHARD GONZALES 11/30
 SABRINA WILTZ 11/30

SOUTH

ALANIA WASHINGTON 11/7
 CEDRIC ARMSTEAD 11/10
 SHELIA WHITE 11/11
 REGINALD RICHARDSON 11/12
 KIMBERLY LAMOTT-JONES 11/13
 PHILLIP HODGES 11/14
 JACQUELYN MOORE 11/17
 WANDA JACKSON 11/17
 ISAH BELL 11/21
 MARQUE JOHNSON 11/23
 RODNEY WASHINGTON 11/27

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

RAYMOND FRANKS 11/1
 DEBRA BARRERA 11/8

ADMINISTRATION

DEBRA BLACKSHEAR 11/23

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DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT'S 27TH ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2010

LOCATION: NORRIS CONFERENCE CENTER

800 WEST SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY

HOUSTON, TX 77024

(110 WEST & BELTWAY 8)

TIME: 8:00 PM - MIDNIGHT

SAVE THE DATE



OCTOBER HIRES

Harold Price
 Sr. Sideload Operator

OBITUARY

Darlene Williams, Administrative Specialist, City employee since 8/30/94



Darlene Williams

Solid Waste Management Dept.

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