



TALKING TRASH

the newsletter for all employees

City of Houston, Annise D. Parker, Mayor SWMD, Harry J. Hayes, Director Mar 2011 Volume 1 Issue 3

Big Belly installed and working!



Solid Waste employees Nicholas Gatlin and Michael Garner stand in front of the first two Big Bellies which were installed at Downtown City Hall

Inside this issue:

- Message from the Director 1
- Published author at SWMD 2
- Safety Corner 3
- Garden Community 4
- Meet my Department 5
- Department Highlights 6

Look! Around your nearest City park! It's Green... It's Efficient... Its Wireless.. It's a Big Belly Solar recycling kiosk (BBSRK)! Able to handle 200 gallons of trash in a single container and with solar-power, off-grid capabilities, BBSRKs are fighting to expand waste reduction and recycling to the Houston community. Big Belly is the latest jewel in the Solid Waste crown.

The funding to purchase 10 BBSRK's was made possible through a grant from the Houston Galveston Area Council. The pilot program is a collaborative effort between the Solid Waste Management and Parks and Recreation Departments. Currently the BBSRKs are located in the following City parks: Hermann Park, Memorial Park Tennis Center, MacGregor Park ball fields, Columbia Tap Trail, Skate Park, Townwood Park and Downtown -City Hall.

"By combining technology, innovation and diversion we are providing yet another way to ultimately save operating costs and yet still provide a high level of service to the citizens of Houston", said Raphael Brown, Grants Manager.

Diversion is a non-ending battle and with the deployment of the Big Belly Solar pilot program the City of Houston is taking responsibility and action by providing an innovative method to divert trash and increase recycling opportunities despite constrained fiscal budgets.

Message from the Director

MARCHING FORWARD

This year, Houston was home to the Final Four NCAA College Basketball Tournament. March Madness made the way for one winning team. In our department, we have been in our own contest. We are competing against ourselves to do better than we did in previous years. We can boast that we now have over 105,000 homes in the Automated Recycling Program with RecycleBank Rewards. We have also met our anticipated goal of \$1.5 million in savings through our yard waste program. As coach of this great team, I have been looking over all of our "playbooks" (programs) and reviewing where we can make improvements. It is no secret that the City's budget is tight. However, the mark of a great team is demonstrated when there is a major challenge or crisis. We have been through the storms together and collectively we will get through the "tightening of the belt."

One cannot look at waste and recycling independently. They must be looked at as an integrated system. We have done that with our "Wheel of Savings" by diverting yard waste and tree waste; we will be redirecting those funds to the automated recycling expansion which will in turn allow us with further expansions and public education. Additionally, we will be conducting a pilot program in the Montrose Management District where small businesses in that area can pay for the Automated Recycling Program service. We believe this will be the beginning of additional revenue to expand the recycling program to more and more businesses "making Houston a cleaner, greener place to live and work." I am happy to announce that we just renegotiated the transfer station contracts which will result in \$800,000 in savings. Remember to bring your recyclables to work if you do not have recycling curbside. Team, let's all do what we can to be safe and reduce waste in our workplace. Let's March forward to a great Spring.

Harry J. Hayes



<http://www.facebook.com/houstonsolidwaste>



G.I.S Team Page 5

INTERVIEW

SHARON MOSES-BURNSIDE

SENIOR COMMUNITY LIAISON, SWMD

1245 JUDIWAY

GRADUATED FROM HOUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY, IN AUSTIN, TEXAS WITH A B.A. IN GOVERNMENT.

JURIS DOCTORATE - THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY.

MASTERS IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT ALSO FROM TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY.



SHARON MOSES, A PUBLISHED AUTHOR WITHIN SOLID WASTE

AFTER THE SUDDEN DEATH OF HER SIX WEEK OLD BABY, THIS BRAVE WOMAN DEDICES TO WRITE A BOOK TO TELL EVERYONE TO BE HONEST ABOUT EMOTIONS AND SPEAK TRUTHFULLY ABOUT SORROW IN ORDER TO HELP CLEANSE THE INNER SELF OF PENT UP FRUSTRATIONS.

Tell us about when you started at Solid Waste?

I started working in the Solid Waste Management Department in November 2007 – I was transferred to this department from the City Council Office, District D, where I worked for Ada Edwards. She was term limited though on her last year and so I was seeking employment in other departments in the City. I was pregnant when I started working here in November of 2007 - Director Hayes hired me. I worked for Alyce Coffey for one day, then had an emergency and that's when I had the baby.

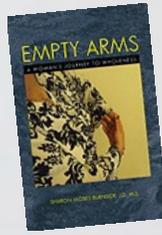
What happened next ?

Well, the baby was born albeit prematurely, her name was Kennedy Elise Burnside, she lived for 6 ½ weeks and then suddenly and unexpectedly died. This was my second baby. The first baby I miscarried.

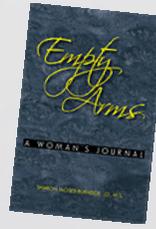
Because of the great pain I was experiencing, I started writing my first book in 2007 shortly after she died, and after transferring to this department. I published my first book in April 2010.

Tell us about your books...

The first book is entitled *Empty Arms, A Woman's Journey to Wholeness*. It is a small book, but it took me about 2 years to write it, because while writing it, I was literally going through the grieving process. The book is about life and its twists and turns. It is about going through grief on various levels and how to get to the other side of it. I address the loss of my mother, and other personal issues in the book. The second book is actually the second part of the first book, it is entitled: *Empty Arms, A Woman's Journal to Wholeness...* (CONTINUES NEXT PAGE)



First book: Empty Arms, A Woman's Journey to Wholeness



Second book: Empty Arms, A Woman's Journal

....(CONTUNUE PAGE 3) It is a diary type of book – a journal to help assist the reader of the first book, express feelings and emotions to help them with the grieving process. It was just released December 10, 2010, so now I have authored 2 published books ...both came out last year. Additionally, I have two poetry books that are complete but not yet published, but I am working on it. One is "Giving Birth to a Dream" the other is "An Umbrella for my Spirit".



How did you get assistance to publish?

Actually, from a former Solid Waste employee! He saw me reading a book one day, and asked me if I enjoyed reading and I of course said yes. He then

proceeded to tell me about a self publishing company because he was writing a book. Little did he know, I too was writing a book at the time. I expressed that to him and he gave me the information and the website to www.Xlibris.com. I looked up the site, and the rest is history.

THE BOOK IS ABOUT LIFE, GOING THROUGH GRIEF ON VARIOUS LEVELS AND HOW TO GET TO THE OTHER SIDE OF IT

What do you like about writing?

I write because I enjoy it and it comes naturally to me. I also write as a way to escape. Writing is an outlet for me, it allows me to put things on paper that I may or may not say. My thoughts come alive and in that manner I can reach the masses. I have always been a writer. I started out writing poetry, I always wanted to publish a book, but never did until now.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE BOOK?

You can access the book by visiting the site at www.xlibris.com and click on the Bookstore tab, scroll down to the right hand corner of the screen where it says Xlibris Book Search Type in Empty Arms and hit the SEARCH key and both books will pop up. You can see the author's Bio and read an excerpt from the book. More importantly though... you can order it from the website.



WORKING OUTDOORS PART I

SUNSCREEN



A sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 blocks 93% of UV rays. Be sure to follow application directions on the bottle or tube.

WEAR A HAT

A wide brim hat, not a baseball cap, works best because it protects the neck, ears, eyes, forehead, nose, and scalp.

Cover up. Wear tightly woven clothing that you can't see through. Limit exposure to the sun, wear UV sunglasses.

Sunlight contains ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which causes premature aging of the skin, wrinkles, cataracts, and skin cancer. There are no safe UV rays or safe suntans.

The combination of heat and humidity can be a serious health threat during the summer months and working outdoors puts workers at risk for heat-related illnesses. Workers are at increased risk for heat-related illnesses when they:

- Are not accustomed to hot temperatures or high humidity
- Are over the age of forty
- Are in poor physical condition
- Are overweight
- Have had prior heat-related illnesses
- Use drugs or alcohol prior to working in the heat
- Already have heat rash or sunburn
- Wear restrictive or too much clothing

“Showing Houston Growing Green”

By: Sandra Jackson

Plant. Tend. Blossom. We usually think of a garden when we hear these words. Translate these words into images and you have "Showing Houston Growing Green", a photographic awareness campaign and exhibit commissioned by ECOTONE, designed to interpret how Houstonians feel about going green. Look closely and you see the exhibit is much more complex than just a collection of photographs. It is various parts of Houston merging into a whole; a collage of individuals connecting; sharing ideas and feelings and shifting those experiences into practices to become more earth friendly.

"I'm working to create a positive legacy of community stewardship and hoping to inspire Houstonians of all ages to get out there and help make every part of our city a great place to live and play," said President and Founder of ECOTONE, **Chef Tarsha Gary**. The photographs showcase a new way of thinking about the things we do every day and the commitment to a more sustainable future.

A different Houston emerges from this exhibit. It is an image of a city nurturing its community garden; creating spaces for civic spirit to grow, feeding it with the energy of its' people and ultimately, showing Houston growing green because of creative eco-friendly ideas cultivated like a beautiful flower or a bountiful harvest.



Photograph by Brittany Kelly Photography. Robin Blut, Executive Director for Keep Houston Beautiful and Alyce Coffey, SWMD, are part of the Ecotone exhibit.

For more information on ECOTONE or for a listing of places around town where the exhibit will be shown, visit www.ecotoneworld.com.

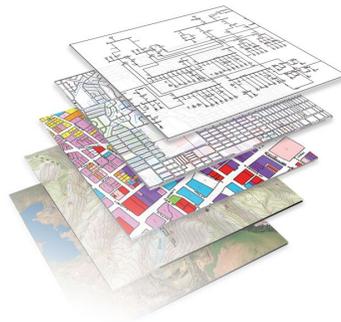
G.I.S

(Geographic Information System)

Geography is our everyday life. Whether if it's going to work, the grocery store, the gas station or movies, we have to decide which direction to go, how far, and the time it takes to get there.

WHAT IS G.I.S ?

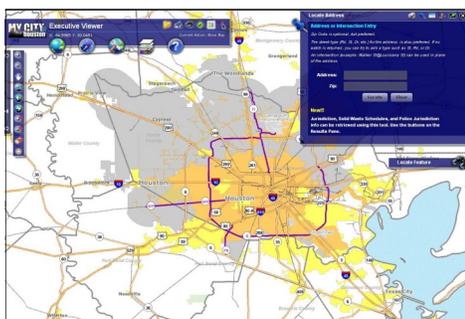
The GIS team takes care of all route data and creates files to optimize service. This requires a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. If the data is not updated on a daily basis it will become obsolete and inaccurate. The accuracy of these data sets is extremely important due to the fact that they are used for dispatching units, collections, emergency preparedness, data analysis and planning, route management and budget preparation. Since our Department started utilizing GIS, the collection process has been optimized. Tools like the GPS (Global Positioning System) Tracker have allowed easy monitoring of the crews and has helped increase productivity in all of our services. Updated maps help the dispatchers locate specific crews and routes and resolve many 311 service requests. But who is behind this? What exactly do they do? Let's find out.



Sample of GIS cartographic design layers of maps

EVERYDAY AT G.I.S

The GIS Staff perform many tasks including: creation of graphical displays, GIS Vector data, map displays, performing database maintenance and upgrades, software maintenance and implementation, attending public and private functions, assisting with emergency disaster operations and other tasks as required.



In Mycity we can see the service day for specific addresses, that is the result of GIS system updates.

MEET YOUR DEPARTMENT



From left to right Elisa Harris, Helvia Quiñones and Debra Barrera this past Christmas.

WHO'S WHO at SWMD G.I.S

Helvia Quinones GIS Manager

Supervises the day-to-day activities of the Geographic Information System section by providing leadership, guidance, training and advice to the staff. Plans, organizes and reviews work quality and productivity. Administers the Solid Waste Management GIS databases and provides support to the GIS applications for the Department.

Debra Barrera GIS Analyst Elisa Harris GIS Analyst

- Produces of maps, reports and analyses using GIS and various database software.
- Researches and evaluates source data using routine methods.
- Develops and implements data topology methods and procedures.
- Converts data from one software platform to another.
- Geocodes data files; enters, corrects and modifies data

HR CORNER

BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

NORTH

RUFUS GRAVES 4/1
 EDWARD DOWELL 4/2
 WALTER MENDEZ 4/3
 SAKHON SOK 4/4
 JEFFERY WILLIAMS 4/8
 KENNETH WORD 4/15
 ZURI KADIRIFU 4/17
 MARCUS MARTEL 4/18
 JERRY WILLIAMS 4/21
 MICHAEL DAVIS 4/24
 STEVEN ARREN 4/26
 EVA HUMPHREY 4/27
 TYRONE BAILEY 4/27
 ANDRE DARDEN 4/28
 LEONARD HALL 4/30

MAINTENANCE

JOHN SHACKLEFORD 4/2
 JOSE BASIO 4/8
 LAWRENCE STOCKHAM 4/11
 MICHAEL BROUSSARD 4/19
 JUAN VELEZ 4/20
 BRENDA CALDWELL 4/28
 FREDRICA JAMES – DAVIS 4/28

SOUTH

ANDRE WEBB 4/3
 LYDELL FOSTER 4/12
 BRUCE WILSON 4/16
 RACHAEL MANNING 4/19
 JENNY DUNSTON 4/19
 JORGE MARTINEZ 4/23
 HERMAN POWELL 4/25

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

MARIA TEJEIRA 4/16

ADMINISTRATION

FELICIA THOMAS 4/2
 GONZALO MARQUEZ 4/8
 MANUEL LEAL 4/11

Solid Waste Management Department

611 Walker, 12th Floor
 P.O. Box 1562
 Houston, Texas
 77002



Phone: 713-837-9164

Fax: 713-837-9160

E-mail:

marina.joseph@houstontx.gov

DECEMBER TO MARCH HIRES

John Simpson, Sideload Operator SE
Dominic Ansley, Mechanic I NE
Derrick Colomb, Sr Sideload Operator NE
Kenneth Ardion, Laborer NE
Wesley Ivory, Sr Sideload Operator NE
Stormy Monday, Sideload Operator NE
Walter Shelby, Sideload Operator NE
Jamie Washington, Sideload Operator NE
Kevin Montgomery, Sideload Operator NE
Christopher Wheatfall, Sideload Operator NE
Jesus Gutierrez, Mechanic II NW
Tamala Crutchfield, Sr Sideload Operator NW
Montrell Castro, Sr Sideload Operator NW

Jeffery Goldsbury, Sideload Operator NW
Coby Mathews, Laborer NW
Darrell Muhammad, Sideload Operator NW
Mauricio Serpaz, Sideload Operator NW
Tyrone Bailey, Laborer NW
Dorjan Clark, Laborer NW
Alvin Richardson, Laborer NW
William Carter, Sideload Operator NW
Daniel Garcia, Sideload Operator SW
Tony Heflin, Sideload Operator SW
Christopher Hensley, Sideload Operator SW
Jonathan Leday, Sr Refuse Truck Driver SW

Solid Waste Management Dept.

Harry J. Hayes, Director

Gary Readore, Chief of Staff

Marina Coryat-Joseph, Editor

Gonzalo Marquez, Asst. Editor

Designed and compiled by:

Gonzalo Marquez

Contributors:

Marina Coryat-Joseph

Sandra Jackson

Raphael Brown

Sharon Moses

Derek Mebane

Helvia Quiñones

To contribute articles or photographs for Talking Trash, please contact Gonzalo Marquez at (713) 837-9117 or send an email to Gonzalo.Marquez@houstontx.gov

SE: Southeast Service Center, 1506 Central St. 77012

NE: Northeast Service Center, 5617 Necjes St. 77026

SW: Southwest Service Center, 11500 South Post Oak, 77035

NW: Northwest Service Center, 1245 Judiway, 77018