



# TALKING TRASH

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009 EDITION



CITY OF HOUSTON, BILL WHITE, MAYOR  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, HARRY J. HAYES, DIRECTOR

## TRUCKS SAVING BUCKS

BY SANDRA JACKSON

As part of the Automated Recycling Pilot Program, The Maintenance Division refurbished three existing, back-up automated side-loader garbage trucks and transformed them into practically new recycling vehicles. This Maintenance Division team is led by Assistant Director Andrew Contreras and consists of Larry Johnson, David Wilson, Patrick Jones, Felix Harvey, Ramon Winston, Eddie Rodriguez, Tho Keo, Juan Monjaras, Jose Monjaras, Paulo Rodriguez, Anthony Jones and Richard Gonzales.

These hard-working employees were recognized by Mayor Bill White and City Council Members at the City Council session on April 15, 2009, with Mayor White also issuing Certificates of Appreciation. Future plans include expanding the program by introducing two to three additional refurbished trucks to the recycling fleet. For each conversion, the maintenance team invests about \$12,000, saving the city the expense of buying a new vehicle which can cost more than \$200,000.



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In promoting green habits, the department encourages employees to bring recyclables to work. "We don't have curbside recycling at home but I want my family, especially my kids, to learn the importance of recycling and understand that we can't keep throwing everything into the landfill", said Angelica "Gigi" Tijerina. Because Gigi is already commuting to work, she doesn't make any extra trips to drop off her recycling. "I recognize that bringing my recyclables to work is a small part of the big picture, but over time, every little bit helps and I am determined to do my part."



Saving money makes sense, especially in these uncertain economic times. Removing recyclables from the waste stream produces cash for the city in two ways: 1) saves expensive landfill fees and 2) generates a product that can be sold with the revenue coming back to the department. We each have it within us to help this department succeed.

## NEW HIRES!

Welcome Aboard!

Charles Bolton  
David Ford  
Dwight Dindial  
Elworth Johnson  
Julio Cruz  
Justin Jefferson

Keith Reese  
Louis Neelys  
Michelle Holiday  
Patrick Robertson  
Shamika Esquibel

## July Birthdays

RICKEY SNEED	7/3	NE	HENRY MCNEESE	7/13	NW	FELIX HARVEY	7/22	NE
RALPH STEVENS	7/3	NE	LEHAI TRAN	7/13	DT	HAROLD CHARLES	7/24	NE
DANIEL HINOJOSA	7/4	DT	CAROL WYATT	7/14	DT	RAMON WINSTON	7/25	SW
WESLEY OAKS	7/4	NE	DANIEL HINOJOSA	7/14	DT	MICHAEL WARD	7/25	NE
RICHARD MOSES	7/4	NE	BEVERLY BENNING	7/15	SW	ROSALIND SMITH	7/25	SW
LYNDON JOHNSON	7/4	SE	CARROLL HILL	7/16	DT	CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS	7/25	NE
NGUYEN TRINH	7/5	SW	DAMETA FIELDS	7/16	NE	TERRELL DURHAM	7/25	NW
DAVID HOOPER	7/5	SE	GARY CLARK	7/17	SE	DAMON MATTOX	7/25	NW
ANTHONY SENEGAL, JR.	7/6	SW	DARRIEL LOVINGS	7/17	NE	TYREECE CEASER	7/26	NW
TROY BOUNDS	7/6	SW	CHASTITY RINGO	7/17	DT	FRANK BROWN	7/27	NW
E.L. PLEASANT, JR.	7/7	SE	ELGIN PERKINS	7/18	DT	ALLEN WATSON	7/27	NW
DARYL DANIELS	7/8	NW	PATRICK ROBERTSON	7/18	NE	LIONEL JACK	7/30	DP
JESSICA THOMPSON	7/8	DT	THADDEUS REED	7/19	SE	JUAN MONJARAS	7/30	NW
TYRONE POLK	7/9	SE	EDDIE MCBRIDE	7/19	SW	KEVIN WILLIAMS	7/30	NW
CHARLIE ABRAHAM	7/10	NE	CHARLES JACKSON	7/20	SE	REYNALDO GARZA	7/31	NE
ANNETTE BOOKER	7/11	DT	VERNON BLACK II	7/20	SW	KENNETH ANDERSON	7/31	SE
LARRY SMITH	7/11	NW	VIVON DAVIS III	7/20	SE	DAVID III GARCIA	7/31	NW
JON-MARC BAKER	7/11	NW	JOSE MENDIOLA	7/21	NE			
JOEL RAMIREZ	7/13	SE	SANDRA JACKSON	7/21	DT			

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!**

# TALKING TRASH

## SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### 2009 ROAD-E-O

The Solid Waste Management Department held its Annual Truck Drivers and Mechanics ROAD-E-O competition on Saturday, May 16, 2009, at the Buchanan Service Center, 1245 Judiway. This exciting competition represented the very best of the Department's drivers and mechanics. These employees trained and worked hard to demonstrate their driving and troubleshooting skills for all to see. The 1st and 2nd place winners advanced to the state championship sponsored by the Texas Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (TxSWANA) in Beaumont, Texas.

<b>Automated Side Loader</b>	<b>RearLoader</b>	<b>Roll-Off</b>	<b>Tractor Trailer</b>	<b>Mechanic</b>
1st Place: Hiram Nimmons (SE)	1st Place: Larry Smith (NW)	1st Place: Isah Bell (SW)	1st Place: Jefferi Woodley (NE)	1st Place: Jason Vallair (NE)
2nd Place: Cedric Armstead (NE)	2nd Place: Shirley Colman (SW)	2nd Place: David Dirden (NE)	2nd Place: Daniel Palomo (NE)	2nd Place: Anthony Jones (NE)
3rd Place: Derrick Colomb (NE)	3rd Place: Andre Webb (SE)	3rd Place: Eva Humphrey (NE)	3rd Place: Phillip Holden (NE)	3rd Place: Van Tran (NW)

### STATE FINALS

The Texas Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (TXSWANA) held its annual State Road-e-o in Beaumont, Texas on June 19th and 20th. The competition represented the best of the best drivers and mechanics from the State of Texas.



We want to congratulate all of our City of Houston winners:

#### **Automated Side Loader**

2nd Place: Hiram 'Hollywood' Nimmons (SE)

#### **Mechanic**

1st Place: Van Tran (NW)

#### **RearLoader**

2nd Place: Larry Smith (NW)

#### **Tractor Trailer**

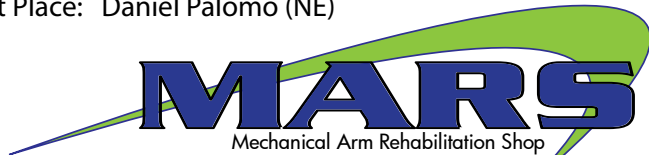
1st Place: Daniel Palomo (NE)

2nd Place: Jason Vallair (NE)

#### **Roll-Off**

1st Place: Isah Bell (SW)

3rd Place: David Dirden (NE)



MARS has come to SWMD! Well, it's not exactly little green aliens running around, but a new restoration program at the Northeast Service Center's Maintenance Shop. Skilled mechanics are working to rebuild the arms of the automated trucks that we use to pick up the garbage and recycling carts.

The M.A.R.S. (Mechanical Arm Rebuild Shop), was developed for the purpose of utilizing the skills of our mechanics to save valuable taxpayer dollars. This is achieved by refurbishing the automated arms at our mechanical shop versus sending the arms off to a manufacturer for rebuilding. Congratulations to the maintenance team, Anthony Jones, Paulo Rodriguez, Reginald Spivey, Mark Miller, MacArthur Tolliver, and Andrew Contreras for creating a successful program.



# SOLID WASTE SAFETY FACTS

WITH LOIS MC ADAMS

## SAFETY AT THE FUEL PUMP

Gasoline pumps and stations are designed to allow people to safely pump their gas. You can minimize static electricity-related incidents and other potential fueling hazards by following these safety guidelines:

- Turn off your vehicle engine. Put your vehicle in park and/or set the emergency brake. Disable or turn off any auxiliary sources of ignition such as a camper or trailer heater, cooking units, or pilot lights.
- Do not smoke, light matches or lighters while refueling at the pump or when using gasoline anywhere else.
- Use only the refueling latch provided on the gasoline dispenser nozzle. Never jam the refueling latch on the nozzle open. You must control the nozzle during refueling. Watch what you are doing!
- Do not re-enter your vehicle during refueling. If you cannot avoid re-entering your vehicle, discharge any static build-up BEFORE reaching for the nozzle by touching something metal with a bare hand -- such as the vehicle door, away from the nozzle.
- In the unlikely event a static-induced fire occurs when refueling, leave the nozzle in the fill pipe and back away from the vehicle. Notify the maintenance staff immediately.



## Additional Safety Guidelines

- Do not over-fill or top-off your vehicle tank, which can cause gasoline spillage.
- Do not transmit on the radio or operate your cell phones while fueling your vehicle.
- Avoid prolonged breathing of gasoline vapors. Use gasoline only in open areas that get plenty of fresh air.
- Keep your face away from the nozzle or container opening.
- Never siphon gasoline by mouth nor put gasoline in your mouth for any reason. Gasoline can be harmful or fatal if swallowed. If someone swallows gasoline, do not induce vomiting. Contact a doctor or emergency medical service provider immediately.
- Keep gasoline away from your eyes and skin; it may cause irritation. Remove gasoline-soaked clothing immediately.
- Use gasoline as a motor fuel only. Never use gasoline to wash your hands, as a cleaning solvent or to fuel a grill or fireplace.
- Never allow children under licensed driving age to operate the pump. Know where the emergency shut-off switch is located and how to use it.



### The City of Houston Opens its Building Materials Reuse Warehouse

by Sarah Mason



The City of Houston formally opened its Building Materials Reuse Warehouse on Tuesday, June 23rd at 10:30 a.m. The Reuse Warehouse, located at 9003 N. Main, accepts donated building materials from builders, contractors, remodelers and the general public and makes the materials freely available for use by any non-profit organization.

The Warehouse benefits the Houston community by providing storage space for excess building material that would otherwise be dumped in local landfills. The City of Houston stores the materials until they can be used by area organizations. Donations are limited to items that are suitable for reuse. Examples include odd lots of leftover inventory such as rolls of flooring material, lumber scraps from construction, or items such as cabinetry or plumbing fixtures from a home remodel.

A recent study by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

noted that approximately 38% of the waste stream in the Houston area is construction and demolition material, much of which could be diverted. By storing the materials until they can be used by community groups, the Warehouse helps keep these valuable resources out of local landfills.

The Reuse Warehouse is partially funded by an H-GAC Solid Waste Implementation grant, in partnership with the Living Paradigm. The Living Paradigm is a Houston-based non-profit organization dedicated to helping low-income families build and own their own homes. The inspiration for the Reuse Warehouse came from a similar municipal warehouse in Huntsville, Texas. Dan Phillips, owner of the Phoenix Commotion, is a Huntsville resident who helped coordinate the establishment of the Huntsville warehouse. Phillips builds houses made almost entirely from salvaged and recycled materials for low-income families, single mothers, and artists. Phillips calls the Houston Reuse Warehouse "one major element in the environmental imperative equation." He further states, "With a municipal warehouse in place ... Houston could indeed become the leader in the country for smart growth and sustainability."



The Reuse Warehouse is located at 9003 N. Main, in Northeast Houston and is open Tuesday-Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1 :00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visit us on the web...

[www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org)