



Trash Talk

A Quarterly Newsletter For HRRRA Haulers



HOUSATONIC
RESOURCES
RECOVERY
AUTHORITY
www.hrrra.org

Quarterly Haulers' Meeting

Quarterly Haulers' Meetings are for you—to provide you with up to date information, to listen to your concerns, to get your input as our partners in the solid waste and recycling business. Don't miss the next one on August 25, 9:00 a.m. at the Danbury Public Works Facility on Newtown Rd. in the Veolia building at the sewage treatment plant.

The next haulers' meet-

ing will provide information on the effort now underway at CT DEP to update the State's Solid Waste Management Plan. This plan, proposed for adoption in 2006, could have a significant impact on how we do business in the future.

The plan is expected to propose new strategies for increasing the rate of recycling and source reduction, perhaps raising the State's

recycling goal from 25% to 40%. The plan will also propose methods for reducing the environmental impact of solid waste disposal, and make recommendations about in-state versus out-of-state disposal options. In addition, the plan will address strategies to reduce the volume and toxicity of special wastes such as C&D, electronics, mercury-containing products, etc.

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 15, 2005

Special Dates of Interest

- Aug. 25—9:00 a.m.—*Quarterly Haulers' Meeting, Danbury Public Works Facility, Veolia Building at the Sewage Treatment Plant*
- Sept. 16—10:30 a.m.—*HRRRA Regular Meeting, Danbury Hospital*
- Nov. 3—9:00 a.m.—*Quarterly Haulers' Meeting*

Recycling Brochures Available

Recycling Brochures are now available from HRRRA at no charge for any hauler who wants to include the brochures with customers' quarterly billings. The brochures will fit into a standard #10 envelope and are light enough that they require no additional postage.

Haulers were sent a copy of the proposed recycling brochure in late May, containing all the revisions suggested by those in attendance at the last

Haulers' Meeting.

The brochures are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

The brochures are printed on an as-needed basis, so HRRRA needs at least two weeks advance notice to get larger quantities printed.



There is, however, no limit on the number of brochures a hauler may request.

If you would like to insert the brochures with your customers' next invoicing, please call Cheryl Reedy at the HRRRA office at 203-775-6256 x304 with the quantities you need in each language.

The brochures are appropriate for use in any HRRRA community, and applicable to customers using both blue bags and bins.

Inside this issue:

<i>Spotlight on Hauler Pat Caruso, Associated Refuse</i>	2
<i>Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events</i>	2
<i>Spotlight on HRRRA Rep Ray O'Brien of New Milford</i>	3
<i>News & Information Briefs RTI Tip Fee, Holidays, Waste Age Top 100</i>	3
<i>WES Gets OSHA Star</i>	4
<i>Mark Parisi Cartoon—A Little Trashy Humor</i>	4

Hauler Spotlight—Pat Caruso, Associated Refuse

Associated Refuse Haulers, owned and operated by Pat Caruso has been in business in Sandy Hook since 1982. The company provides residential solid waste collection in Newtown and open top container service throughout Fairfield County. The company also has carved out a unique niche in the waste collection business as the largest collector for horse manure in the state. And yes, the manure is taken to farms where it is turned into compost and thus recycled.

Born in Greenwich, Mr. Caruso grew up in Dover Plains, NY and got his start in the waste disposal business right out of college, working with Dempster Dumpster in the Virginia/Washington D. C. area. Returning to Connecticut in the early 80s he worked for a time hauling waste paper to Garden State Paper before starting Associated Refuse.

Always interested in automated processes and determined to find a way to offer customers something unique in the competitive waste collection business, Mr. Caruso intro-

duced cart service in Newtown in 1985. “I knew I had to build a better mousetrap,” he said.

And build a better mousetrap he did, spurred on by a severe injury suffered by one of his employees in 1997, Associated Refuse Haulers is now a fully automated system. With collection vehicles like the Freightliner pictured at the right and the newest in the fleet, a 2005 Mack, the automated arm on the side of the vehicle

articulates and grabs the customer’s curbside container and dumps it into the truck without the driver ever leaving the comfort and safety of the cab.

All functions operate while the truck is at an idle, says Mr. Caruso. And 3 cameras mounted on the truck allow the operator to watch all sides of the vehicle and all operations at all times. The company even has a

smaller unit to access driveways when necessary.

The advantages of the Associated Refuse system, says Mr. Caruso, are improved safety and better working conditions for employees, lower insurance costs, and the ability to service more customers in less time. There are, of course, a couple of disadvantages as well, such as the increased cost of the vehicles and carts compared to



conventional collection vehicles, and the maintenance effort that electronic systems require to prevent malfunctions.

Customers, however, love the service, especially the quiet operation. “They call us a stealth operation,” said Mr. Caruso, noting that his trucks can start their routes very early in the morning without any complaints from residents about noise.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events Set For 2005-06

The following household hazardous waste collection events have been scheduled for HRRA residents in 2005-06:

For residents of Bridgewater and Roxbury

- August 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bridgewater Public Works Garage, Hut Hill Rd., Bridgewater



For residents of New Milford, Sherman, Brookfield, Warren and Washington

- September 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., New Milford Railroad Station, Railroad Street, New Milford

For residents of Danbury, Bethel, New Fairfield, Newtown, Redding, and Ridgefield

- October 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Danbury Public Works Facility, Newtown Road, Danbury
- May 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Newtown Public Works, Turkey Hill Road, Newtown

HRRRA Rep Spotlight—Ray O’Brien, New Milford

Ray O’Brien is in his second tour of duty representing the Town of New Milford on HRRRA, serving as the town’s regular representative from 1989 to 1993, and since 2002 as the town’s alternate representative.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Ray has been a New Milford resident since 1968. He got off to a quick start in town, attending his first town meeting before he even moved in, and landing a position on the Sewer Commission from 1970 to 1975.

“I’ve always been interested in government,” says Ray, who describes himself as a Republican who is comfortable in the role of maverick when he feels it is in the best interest of the town.

Ask Ray what he does now, and he’ll tell you, “Leisure is my job!” But that’s not quite the case for this dedicated volunteer. Although retired from his former position as an environmental engineer at Kimberly Clark, Ray has not retired from any of his volunteer jobs.

He has served on the New Milford Town Council since 1975 (except for 2 years) and was appointed to the Board of the CT Resource Recovery Authority (CRRA) in 2002.

Ray and his wife of 39-years, Pat, volunteer for Loaves and Fishes in New Milford as well as help out when needed at the homeless shelter in town.

Ray and Pat also like to spend

time visiting their three children and three grandchildren, stopping off along the way to visit a Civil War battlefield if time permits. Ray became a Civil War history buff after



his retirement, and has visited many of that war’s battlefields.

Asked why he devotes his time to

HRRRA, Ray O’Brien said, “Towns have an obligation to provide for the orderly removal and environmentally safe disposal of waste. Banding together to work together as a region is a good thing.”

News and Information Briefs

No Change in Recycling Tip Fee

At its Annual Meeting on June 17, HRRRA voted to maintain the 05-06 recycling tip fee at **\$38.52 per ton** at the Recycling Technologies, Inc. (RTI) Intermediate Processing Center (IPC) on White Street in Danbury. To provide a financial incentive for regional recycling, the recycling tip fee has not increased since 1999.

In order to maintain that rate, HRRRA agreed to forego a quarter of the revenue sharing payments the Authority would otherwise have received in the next fiscal year.

05-06 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

All HRRRA Transfer Stations

Labor Day	Mon Sept 5, 2005
Thanksgiving	Thurs Nov 24, 2005
Christmas	Mon Dec 26, 2005
New Year’s Day	Mon Jan 2, 2006
Memorial Day	Mon May 29, 2006
Independence Day	Tues July 4, 2006

Newtown Transfer Station Only

Martin Luther King’s Birthday

Mon Jan 16, 2006

Ridgefield Transfer Station Only

Presidents’ Day

Mon Feb 20, 2006

Waste Age Names AWD To List of 100 Top Players in Waste Industry

Waste Age magazine’s June 2005 edition has named Danbury’s Automated Waste Disposal to its annual list of the 100 most powerful players in the waste industry. Coming in at number 33, the magazine reports that AWD, headed by James Galante, had 400 employees and revenue of \$57.7 million in 2004. Waste Management, Inc. ranked number 1 with 51,000 employees and revenue of \$12.52 billion in 2004. Congratulations to both these HRRRA haulers on this achievement!

A Quarterly Newsletter For HRRR Haulers

Old Town Hall—Routes 25 & 133
162 Whisconier Road
Brookfield, CT 06804

Phone: 203-775-6256 x304
Fax: 203-740-9167
Email: cherylreedy@hrra.org
Website: www.hrra.org



Reduce Reuse Recycle

HRRR Representatives and Officers

First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chairman	Ridgefield	First Selectman Bill Stuart	Bridgewater
HRRR Representative Mike Gill, Vice Chair	New Fairfield	First Selectman Jerry Murphy	Brookfield
First Selectman Herb Rosenthal, Treasurer	Newtown	Mayor Mark Boughton	Danbury
First Selectman Dolores Schiesel, Secretary	Kent	Mayor Patricia Murphy	New Milford
HRRR Alternate Bill Buckley, Asst. Treas.	Danbury	First Selectman Natalie Ketcham	Redding
First Selectman Alice Hutchinson	Bethel	First Selectman Andrea O'Connor	Sherman

Wheelabrator Bridgeport Receives OSHA's Star Worksite VPP Award for Safety

On June 9, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) recognized Wheelabrator Bridgeport, L.P. as a Star worksite in their Voluntary Protection Program.

The Star designation is the government's highest safety award, recognizing the efforts of employees and employers who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health results through the application of best-in-class safety and health programs throughout the facility.



Nationally, only 1230 workplaces out of more than 7 million sites monitored by OSHA have achieved VPP Star certification, with only 8 Star worksites in Connecticut.

HRRR Chairman Rudy Marconi, a speaker at the ceremony, presented Plant Manager Vin Langone and VP Mark Weidman with a proclamation from HRRR congratulating Wheelabrator Bridgeport employees on achieving the Star designation.

off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



Cartoon copyrighted by Mark Parisi, printed with permission