

TALKING TRASH

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH - APRIL 2009 EDITION

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



Automated Recycling Program, just the facts...

The SWMD Automated Recycling Pilot Program is underway. Here are a few points of interest about the program:

- The neighborhoods selected to participate in this pilot program are Lindale Park, Meyerland, Oakbrook, Old Sixth Ward, Pinebrook, Pineloch, Riverwood Estates and Westbury.
- Program period will last one year, starting in March 2009.
- Has 10,000 participants, in select neighborhoods.
- Projected to divert tons of waste from landfills every month.
- Materials will be collected on a bi-weekly basis, on the residents scheduled recycling collection day. Residents are asked to have their recycling carts on the curb for collection by 7am the day of service.
- This new service will allow the resident to recycle glass, which was not previously collected curbside.

AUTOMATED RECYCLING ROLLING OUT

We have selected various neighborhoods to be a part of our new Automated Recycling Pilot Program. Participants in the new Automated Recycling Pilot Program will receive a 96 gallon green cart (similar to the black automated garbage can) for recycling collection.

With the automated carts, residents will find it convenient to store more recyclables in one container. Also, because the cart has wheels, residents can bring their recyclables to the curb in one easy trip! The City of Houston will

take the materials to a private facility where the different types of recyclables are separated and shipped for market reuse.

What can go in the recycling cart?


- *Newspaper
- *Plastic Containers 1 - 7 (rinsed & drained)
- *Magazines
- *Aluminum and Tin Cans (rinsed & drained)
- *Catalogs
- *Cardboard (flattened)
- *Phonebooks
- *Glass Bottles and Jars

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Solid Waste Management Director Harry Hayes along with City of Houston Mayor Bill White and other city dignitaries formally kicked off the Automated Recycling Pilot Program on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. Director Hayes informed the crowd on hand that "Eight neighborhoods selected for this pilot are leading the way for what we expect to be a city wide program within the next 5 years."

SOLID
WITH
LOIS MCADAMS
SAFETY
MANAGER



SAFETY FACTS

HOW FAST IS TOO FAST?

Driving
Safety Tips



How Fast Is Too Fast?

The maximum daytime speed limit on most interstate and state highways in Texas is 70 miles per hour. At night, the maximum speed limit is 65 miles per hour. In some areas, the speed limit is higher because of fewer people traveling on certain roads. Observing speed limits means more than driving

KEEP RIGHT



Watch for signs on Texas multi-lane highways that read "Left Lane For Passing Only." These signs let you know that the left lane on a divided highway is not a "fast" lane. It is a passing lane. Impeding the flow of traffic by continuing to drive in the

left lane is punishable by a fine of up to \$200. After you pass someone, move back into the right lane once you've safely cleared the vehicle.

faster or slower than the posted speed: it means driving to conditions. When it's raining or foggy, when ice is on the road, when traffic is heavy or when road construction is ahead, adjust your speed accordingly.

NEW HIRES

SWMD would like to welcome the newest additions to our staff.

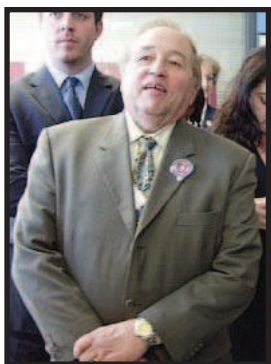
Harold Charles Susan Marshall Frank McClain Raymond Mouton
Wayne Collins Charles G. Jackson Curtis Senegal

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

ANTHONY REED 3/1 SE	OSCAR MENENDEZ 3/8 SE	JOSE CRUZ 3/21 SE	EDWARD JONES 3/27 DEP
V. ENDERSON 3/1 SW	DONNIE BIRDEN 3/8 SW	LISA YOUNG 3/22 NE	NATHANIEL LATHAN 3/27 SE
JUVENAL CHAPA 3/1 NE	EDWARD BROWN 3/14 NE	BILL WHITE 3/23 NW	CRAIG LAMOTT 3/29 NE
MARK ORPHEY 3/2 NW	JASON BRANCH 3/14 NE	TERRANCE TYLER 3/23 SE	LAMAR LUCAS 3/29 SW
ISAAC III MORRIS 3/3 SW	MICHAEL WATES 3/15 NW	BYRON THOMAS 3/23 NW	L. AMBOREE-HILL 3/29 NE
DONALD HUNT 3/3 NE	BASHUDA DAVIS 3/15 NE	DONNA PINEDA 3/24 SE	WILSON OAKS 3/29 SE
DERRICKELLIS 3/3 NW	VICTOR AYRES 3/16 DT	TONY JOHNSON 3/25 SW	LAVETA TIDWELL 3/30 NW
ROGER POLLARD 3/4 NE	DERRICK KELLY 3/16 NE	RALETH ARCHIE 3/26 NE	BRANDON BRADFORD 3/30 NW
JOSEPH CHARLOT 3/5 SE	PATRICIO GONZALEZ 3/17 SE	OLGA ELIZONDO 3/26 SW	NADINE HUFF 3/31 SW
MICHELLE JONES 3/6 NE	BRIAN RAGIN 3/18 SW	REGINALD SPIVEY 3/26 NE	KAREN FLINT 3/31 SW
T. BIRMINGHAM 3/6 DT	REGINALD PRIDE 3/19 NW	EDWARD ZILTON 3/26 DT	TRACY JACKSON 3/31 DT
TUNDRA HOBBS 3/7 SE	FRANK NUNN 3/20 DT	NICHOLAS GATLIN 3/26 NE	VERNISS MCFARLAND 3/31 SW
R. TEELUCKSINGH 3/7 SW	JAMES WILLIS 3/20 NE	JUSTIN PICKETT 3/26 SW	JOSEPH KEITH 3/31 NE
ALYCE COFFEY 3/7 NW	ROGER JONES 3/20 SW	WILLIAM SHERRARD 3/27 NW	
NORRIS SKINNER 3/7 NW			

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

J. SHACKLEFORD 4/2 NE	JAI BROOKS 4/10 NE	DEREK THOMAS 4/19 NE	MICHAEL DAVIS 4/24 DEP
ANDRE WEBB 4/3 SE	MANUEL PERALES 4/11 NE	R. MANNING 4/19 SW	DAVID WILSON 4/24 SW
WALTER MENDEZ 4/3 NW	L. STOCKHAM 4/11 NE	JENNY DUNSTON 4/19 NW	RACHEL BIAS 4/24 NE
N. WESTBROOKS 4/3 SW	MANUEL LEAL 4/11 DT	ROBERT HARRIS 4/19 SE	HERMAN POWELL 4/25 SE
SAKHON SOK 4/4 NW	LEONARD MORRIS 4/13 NE	M. BROUSSARD 4/19 NW	STEVEN WARREN 4/26 NE
P. WILLIAMS 4/5 SE	KENNETH WORD 4/15 NE	FELICIA THOMAS 4/20 DT	EVA HUMPHREY 4/27 DEP
J. WILLIAMS 4/8 NE	MARIA TEJEIRA 4/16 DT	JUAN VELEZ 4/20 NE	BRENDACALDWELL 4/28 SE
JOSE BASIO 4/8 SE	ZURI KADIRIFU 4/17 NE	JERRY WILLIAMS 4/21 NE	FREDRICA JAMES 4/28 NE
FRED KIRWAN 4/9 DT	MARCUS MARTEL 4/18 NW	JORGE MARTINEZ 4/23 SW	ANDRE DARDEN 4/28 NW



"Be All You Can Be" was the recruiting slogan of the United States Army for over twenty years. Looking at Daniel M. Gutierrez, also known to us as Mr. G., it is easy to believe this slogan was a fundamental stepping stone of his life. Mr. G. is with us today, sitting at his desk discussing his upcoming retirement; cheerful, sharp and accomplished. He's animated as he discusses his 47 years in public service, 21 years in the armed forces and 26 years of dedicated service to the City of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD). If there is a lesson learned from our conversation today it is that Mr. G. set the pace, enforced the standards and accomplished the mission.

At the young age of 17, Mr. G. left his family's dairy farm in upstate New York and enlisted in the United States Army. As he said, "me and farming don't go together and I was fleeing from the farm." When asked why the Army, he said, "That was the first recruiter I saw." He wanted to see the world and decided the Army could provide travel opportunities not found in many other jobs.

He enlisted and served approximately seven years before being called to Vietnam. After completing his tour of duty there, he returned to the States, achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant in eight years. At this point, Mr. G. decided if he was going to stay in the military he may as well become an officer. Mr. G. had matured from a

THANK YOU, MR. G. FOR 47 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE: AMERICAN SOLDIER, PUBLIC SERVANT

by Sandra Jackson

young man with dreams to a man that set goals for himself. Consequently, he applied for Officer Candidate School (OCS) and was accepted. After completing OCS, he served the remaining years of his military career in the officer's ranks, completing undergraduate and advanced degrees, and eventually retiring at the rank of Major.

He left the military in 1982, a tough time he says to find a job in Houston. He feels like he went on 150 job interviews before getting a call from the city in 1983. So, how does a soldier transition from army life to a "normal" life? He says the culture was different than what he was used to but the same principles that make a good soldier make a good employee. He adapted the knowledge and the leadership skills he'd developed in the Army and used them with great success in the civilian sector.

"There's always room for improvement, learn everything about everything and always push or try on your own initiative."

During his 26 years with the SWMD, he's seen many changes. Mr. G. has worked under five different mayors and six different directors. Through all the changes, Mr. G.'s strong work ethic never faltered. He's a strong believer in setting goals, creating opportunities and pursuing a higher level of education and knowledge. "There's always room for improvement, learn everything about everything and always push or try on your own initiative." It is this attitude- the desire to work hard and do good work that paid off for the citizens of Houston during Mr. G.'s tenure with the city. This couldn't be more true than in 2001, during Tropical

Storm Allison, when Mr. G. was designated the City's Deputy Debris Manager (DDM). As DDM, he helped clean up the city from dawn to dusk three times: Allison in 2001, Rita in 2005 and Ike in 2008. He says this is a responsibility he won't miss when he leaves, but he's also quick to point out that he'll come back if he's needed.

Unconditionally committed to delivering the highest quality of service, it's easy to see Mr. G. always gave his best, with his team and on his own, until the job was done. When asked what his proudest achievement is, Mr. G.'s answer is priceless. This is his moment for glory, his chance to let us marvel at all he's accomplished in 26 years with the city, his "15 minutes of fame". Instead, Mr. G. reflects on being part of a strong leadership team that gradually shaped the SWMD into one if not the most professional department in the city and helped many SWMD employees "Be all that they can be". Without intending to, Mr. G. has just given us keen insight into who he is a leader and a team player.

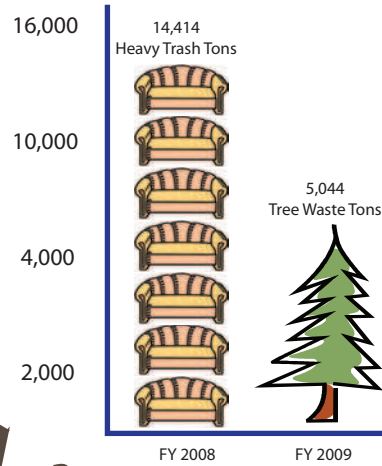
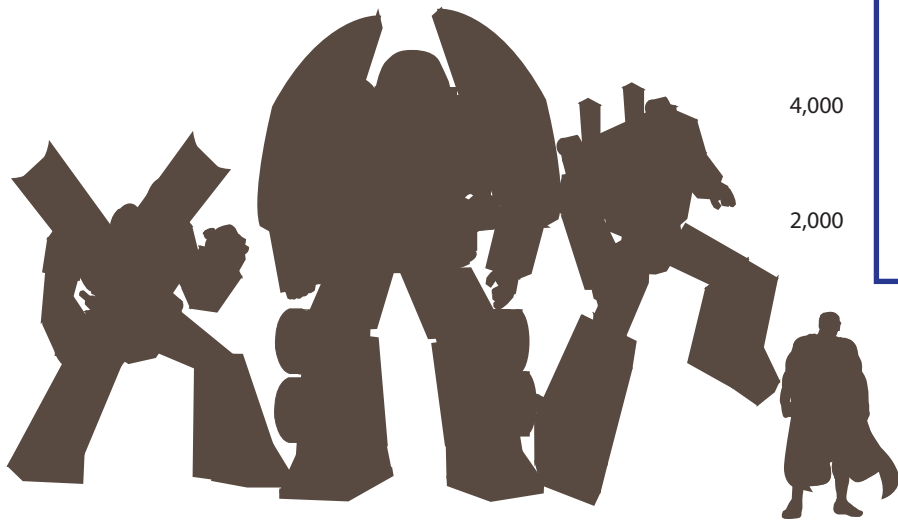
Mr. G. has come full circle. That same love of travel that lured him from the farm is now coaxing him into retirement, except now he'll be able to enjoy the world on his terms. Mr. G. said he plans to travel to whatever destination piques his interest at the moment but he definitely wants to visit Europe at least once a year and spend at least two weeks out of the year there. He may even take up his old railroad modeling hobby.

So what does one do on their first day of retirement after working 47 years? Mr. G. said he doesn't have anything planned. And... that's the whole point, isn't it?

Saving Houston Taxpayer Dollars

EVEN SUPERHEROES NEED HEAVY METAL...

spring 2k9



Heavy Trash Cost in FY 2008 (Average Monthly Cost)

14,414 tons x \$32.00 per ton = \$461K landfill cost

Tree Waste Month

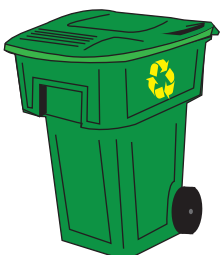
5,044 Tons x \$12.45 per ton = \$63K cost to grind Tree Waste

First month savings of nearly \$400K per Tree Waste month.

In compliance with Mayor Bill White and Director Harry Hayes's "Go Green" efforts for the City of Houston, copiers/printers have been switched over to automatic duplex (double-sided) printing.

Double-sided printing reduces paper usage by approximately 40%, therefore saving money as well.

Recycle More, Waste Less!





Solid Waste Management Department Preparing to Expand Automated Recycling Pilot Program



Assistant Director Contreras and members of the Maintenance Division deliver greater value for tax dollars by refurbishing existing trucks

On the heels of a successful launch of the Automated Recycling Pilot Program, the City of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) is preparing to add an additional 6,000 – 10,000 homes to the pilot program. Initial reports state that 59% of the homes in the Automated Recycling Pilot Program participated in the first collection of recyclable materials. This figure represents a 34% increase in resident participation from the overall Curbside Recycling Program. Assistant Director Andrew Contreras is overseeing the modification and overhaul of existing SWMD vehicles and introducing them to the dedicated recycling truck fleet, making every attempt to save tax dollars. A new truck would cost taxpayers approximately two hundred thousand dollars. By performing proper maintenance and use of existing vehicles, the maintenance division is saving and stretching valuable taxpayer dollars to expand the pilot program area.

The SWMD would like to acknowledge the following employees for their hard work and dedication in making the overhaul and reuse of these vehicles possible. These employees also recieved Certificates of Appreciation from Mayor White.

Assistant Director Andrew Contreras is over Fleet and Facility Maintenance.

Paint and Body Shop Employees
Larry Johnson, David Wilson, Patrick Jones, Felix Harvey and Ramon Winston.

Welding and Fabrication Shop
Eddie Rodriguez, T. Keo, Juan Monjaras, Jose Monjaras and Richard Gonzales.

More Automated Truck Refurbishment Photos...

