

## CHANGES IN THE PIPELINE

### PMUA Readies To Install New Sewer Line Interceptor

PMUA has gone out to bid on its Sewer Line Interceptor Project. As previously discussed, the current interceptor line - a 90 year old clay pipe which carries 50% of Plainfield's sewage - is badly damaged. The poor condition of this line necessitates a replacement in order to avoid future costly emergency repairs and or clean-ups from hazardous waste spills, which can occur if the damaged pipe remains unaddressed.

For more than a year in a half, PMUA and its team of engineers have closely studied the situation, weighing the pros and cons of three corrective strategies. The options considered were to either replace a portion of the pipe and line,

to replace the existing pipe and relocate the interceptor farther from the Green Brook, or run a new line under an undeveloped street.

After careful analysis and evaluation of all viable solutions, the final decision made is to run a new interceptor under an undeveloped street. This new sewer line will connect from Jefferson Avenue to the Rock Avenue Pump Station, through a wooded area entering the rear of PERC Transfer Station. This will also re-locate the line a safer distance away from the Green Brook, as opposed to the current line's positioning. As a result, bank erosion, pipe exposure and contamination risks will no longer be po-

tential health and financial threats.

The estimated cost of this project will be between \$1.1 - 1.4 million. While this strategy requires a higher up-front expense, the PMUA believes this approach is the most cost efficient and beneficial overall as a competitive bidding process will ensure the best price for the construction.

According to PMUA Assistant Sewer Superintendent Steve Dessino "Depending on the weather regarding the amount of rain we get, the Authority will begin constructing the new line in late spring, and the entire project should take approximately three months to complete".

### READY, SET, RECYCLE: PLAINFIELD SCHOOL GETS FOCUSED ON PAPER DISPOSAL

"We are currently capturing more paper from the Plainfield Board of Education's recycle stream than ever before", said PMUA Recycling Coordinator Trevor Gravesande. One leading example, a new student-lead initiative at Cedar Brook School, is now being considered by the Board of Education, for other Plainfield schools.

The strategy is simple. To capture as much discarded paper into the recycle stream as possible, dedicated paper-only containers were placed in each classroom throughout the building. Cedar Brook School administrators then called upon student leaders to take a

front-line role in helping drive the recycle program by putting them in charge of emptying the paper receptacles into two large carts at the end of each day. PMUA collects the paper twice a week from the school which then gets recycled.

The key to this program is youth empowerment and positive influence. "Students take pride in knowing their actions make an impact", said Gravesande. Having an active role in making sure the receptacles are utilized properly, empowers these students to lead by example and encourage the same responsible actions

from their peers and the staff.

PMUA collaborated with the school's staff and administration to develop the program logistics, which is functioning well. Once the initiative was outlined, a presentation was given by the PMUA to explain the strategy to students and staff. From there, motivated student leaders have been doing an excellent job in keeping the initiative's momentum. The Authority is enthusiastic about working with the Plainfield Board of Ed to introduce this initiative throughout the rest of the school system.



Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority • 127 Roosevelt Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060 • Tel: (908) 226-2518 • Fax: (908) 226-2561

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear PMUA customers and Plainfield citizens,

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a statement of clarification on matters concerning our recently announced wage freeze for all PMUA staff this year. It has been suggested by some that this element of our 2014 budget may have been caused by settlements of past litigation or disputes that require special funding reserves. This is not the case. I can assure the rate payers of Plainfield that the adopted 2014 budget, which includes the approved wage freeze, is in no way related to past litigation or settlements of any kind. Instead, as a result of a long careful deliberation and review of our projected needs for calendar 2014, it was determined that there is a need to implement an economical budget around a significant increase in operating expenses.

Our priority at the PMUA is protecting public health through quality waste management services, and keeping our service rates stabilized through fiscal prudence, business expansion, and efficient operation strategy. It's no secret the costs of living and doing business go up every year – often multiple times – leaving individuals and companies to figure out how to stay afloat. While PMUA has seen success and financial improvement over the last year and a half, consistent increases in big ticket expenses are a reality we contend with every year.

Consider the following factors which profoundly impact the PMUA's budget and financial constraints:

- Company-subsidized employee healthcare increases exponentially every year.
- Necessary capital improvement expenditures for sanitary sewer pipe/pump station interceptor replacement, equipment (rear-end loaders, excavators, sweepers) and other heavy machinery.
- Disposal costs – particularly for Type 23 vegetative waste – increased \$200-300k.
- Annual escalation of PMUA's payment to the City, to lease & maintain the city sewer system.
- No escalation in the City's payment to PMUA for city maintenance, despite increases in maintenance costs.

As one of the largest employers in the city with personnel comprised mostly of local residents, the stability of our workforce is very important to us. Wage freezes are never pleasant news however, it's a compromise we prefer to more drastic measures including layoffs, furloughs, and/or customer rate increases. This is not to imply that the wage freeze is irrevocable. Sustaining our momentum from last year by continuing to extend PMUA services into other municipalities may give us some latitude to lift the freeze. While it is certainly our hope, at this point we cannot guarantee this possibility; only time and collective effort will tell. In the meantime, the PMUA will remain focused on positive growth as we navigate the obstacles and challenges of our industry and unique organization.

## PMUA Welcomes New Commissioner

The PMUA welcomes Plainfield resident Charles W. Tyndale to its Board of Commissioners. Mr. Tyndale was sworn in under oath as the newest board member and also named treasurer at the Annual Reorganization meeting on 2/11/14.

A 27-year veteran engineer of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Commissioner Tyndale holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from City University of New York, College of Staten Island. His career accomplishments include several construction and expansion projects at Newark Liberty International Airport and the construction of a new Sanitary Pumping Station at Port Newark. His current career experience as a field engineer will bring valuable expertise to the PMUA.



Save the Date!  
2014 Environmental Fair  
Sept. 6th, 11 am - 3 pm



Call the PMUA at  
908-226-2518 for event  
info, sponsor, exhibitor and  
vendor registration inquiries.

Mobile

# APER Shredder

April 25th @ Cedar Brook Park

Union County and the PMUA are teaming up for Plainfield's annual Earth Week shred-mobile event. Union County residents can bring their confidential paper documents to be shred and recycled in a safe, secure manner free of charge. Event will be held at Cedar Brook Park on Friday, April 25th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

- Union County residents Only - No commercial entities.
- Limit documents to 4 bags/boxes weighing no more than 10 lbs. each.

- Paper Only - No plastic binders, or other materials.
- Papers should be limited to confidential/sensitive materials only. (Magazines and non-confidential papers should be disposed of via your curbside recycle collection service.)
- Event may end early if the mobile shredder gets filled to capacity.
- Event may be cancelled in the event of extreme bad weather.
- Call the Union County Recycling Hotline for event info at 908-654-9889.

## BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

There are laws which govern the disposal of medical waste generated in New Jersey. Any materials or chemicals defined as biohazardous, used to treat medical conditions or used for diagnostic machines should not be disposed of in your trash. Biohazardous materials as well as syringes can cause personal injury and be environmentally hazardous if not handled carefully.

Under the law, biohazardous waste does not belong in the regular solid

waste stream. Individuals and facilities who handle these types of waste must follow proper guidelines to safely discard these substances in a manner compliant with disposal regulations provided by the State.

If you are an individual who receives home care, talk to your medical provider about proper disposal of your waste containers, unused prescriptions, and other products. For further information about syringe and other hazardous waste disposal

visit us online at  
[www.pmua.org](http://www.pmua.org)  
or contact the  
NJDEP:

**New Jersey**

**Department of  
Environmental Protection**

[www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/rtrp/rmw.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/rtrp/rmw.htm)

609-984-6620

e-mail: [dshweb@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:dshweb@dep.state.nj.us)



**FREE! Leaf drop-off @ PERC/Transfer Station**  
Saturday's only April 26th - May 31st 2014 8am-2pm

\* Plainfield residents only - proof of residency required.\*

\*No contractors or commercial customers.\*

\*NO plastic bags of any kind - Leaves must be brought loose or in brown leaf bags.\*

Contact DPW for leaf pick-up: 908.753.3427





PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
127 ROOSEVELT AVENUE  
PLAINFIELD, NJ 07060

Presorted Standard  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PERMIT NO. 728  
Rahway, NJ  
07065

Resident  
City of Plainfield, NJ  
07060

**Carrier Rt #3**

## PMUA NOTICE

**HOLIDAY CLOSING - Garbage collections will be suspended and PMUA offices will be closed on 4/18, 5/26 & 7/4 due to holidays.**

**Free Leaf Drop-Off Saturdays only: April 26th- May 31st 8am-2pm @ PERC/Transfer Station - 95 Rock Ave. Plainfield**

**Keep your Eyes Open- Report Illegal Dumping at 908-753-3131**

**Visit [www.ucnj.org/recycle](http://www.ucnj.org/recycle) for Union County Recycling Events and Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Days.**

**E-WASTE RECYCLING - Electronics shouldn't go in the trash. Bring unwanted electronics to the PERC/ Transfer Station.**



### Severe Weather & State of Emergency

Call the PMUA hotline at 908-226-2518 or go to Facebook for up to date information during circumstances which may affect PMUA service and collection schedule such as hazardous weather.



### P M U A MISSION

Safeguard public health by providing environmentally friendly, comprehensive and cost-effective municipal waste management services.

Invest in our quality of life and enrich community pride by regulating, promoting and encouraging responsible actions for a cleaner, litter free city.

#### PMUA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Harold Mitchell - Chairperson  
Carol Ann Brokaw - Vice-Chairperson/Secretary  
Charles W. Tyndale - Treasurer  
Malcolm R. Dunn - Commissioner  
Cecil H. Sanders, Jr. - Commissioner  
Charles Eke - Alt. Commissioner

#### PMUA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Daniel A. Williamson - Executive Director  
Duane D. Young - Chief Financial Officer

#### BILLS MAY BE PAID AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

PMUA Headquarters  
127 Roosevelt Avenue  
Rapp's Pharmacy  
611 Park Avenue

#### FORM OF PAYMENT ACCEPTED:

CASH (Rapp's Pharmacy ONLY)  
CHECK  
(Personal, Bank or Electronically Issued)  
MONEY ORDER  
ONLINE PAYMENT

#### PAYMENTS CAN ALSO BE MAILED TO:

P.O. Box 416829  
Boston, MA 02241-6829

Please use return envelope for accurate payment processing.

- OR -

PMUA Headquarters  
127 Roosevelt Ave.  
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Please be sure that your return envelope is addressed properly to avoid any delays in payment receipt and processing.