



# SEASONS

The Hudson County Improvement Authority Newsletter

## HCIA Enforcement Division Protects Our Environment

In the past, some haulers, contractors, businesses and individuals have attempted to dispose of solid waste outside of the county's waste flow rules in order to save money, but this is illegal. The Hudson County Improvement Authority's Enforcement Division has stepped up its efforts to counter these unlawful activities by being very aggressive in our pursuit of repeat offenders. We are imposing stronger penalties and impounding vehicles, equipment and property.

A prime example of work being done is the Enforcement Division's current participation in an ongoing joint investigation with the Hudson Regional Health Commission, the New Bergen Health Department and the NJDEP in order to force a targeted repeat offender to cease and desist current activity and comply with the rules and regulations or face harsh consequences.

The HCIA's Enforcement Division is responsible for ensuring that all solid waste is disposed of properly and in compliance with the state's solid waste regulations and the county's solid waste flow control directives. All solid waste generated in

*continued on next page*

**Recycle... It's the Law**  
Remember to recycle your:

- Newspapers
- Corrugated cardboard
- High-grade paper
- Leaves
- Glass bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Tin cans
- Plastic containers

## DeGise and Earth Boy Kick Off New Kids Newsletter!

### Encourage Your Youngsters to Get Involved

By Tom DeGise, Hudson County Executive

*Congratulations to the Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA) on a great idea — the new Seasons newsletter written and designed especially for kids. This child-friendly informative collection of articles helps stimulate children's interest in creating practical solutions for environmental concerns.*

*I really enjoyed the opportunity to travel around Hudson County to the various elementary schools delivering "the fresh off the presses" "Seasons for Kids". Much thanks to the teachers who allowed me to provide their students instruction on recycling and its advantages. As a former teacher in the Jersey City School District, it felt good to be back in the classroom. However, when I visited the schools on October 9th, I think the students were slightly more excited to see my traveling companion — Earth Boy. The official HCIA mascot certainly made an impression on our youngsters and helped me to teach them about the importance of caring for the environment today in order to help make a better tomorrow. I believe that the sooner you can teach children good recycling and environmental practices, the more likely they are to adopt those beliefs as their own. I am confident that "Seasons for Kids" will encourage our students to find ways to help.*

*Kudos to the HCIA commissioners and staff for a great idea on how to get kids involved in our community.*



# Chairman's Message



By John L. Shinnick  
HCIA Board Chairman

## You Can Make a Difference

*Can one person really make a difference? The answer is yes — especially when it comes to creating a better community and improving the environment. But you are not alone in your effort to make your home and Hudson County a better place. In fact you have the Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA) on your side, working with you to improve the environment.*

*This issue of Seasons focuses on the importance of recycling, proper ways to dispose of hazardous materials and how the HCIA is combating solid waste flow offenders. You'll also read about new transportation and commuting options that will save you time and money while cutting down on pollution.*

*These are just a few of the many ways you can help improve your environment. But you've already taken the first step — by reading this newsletter; you've already shown that you care and that you are committed to making a difference. I'm sure that we will continue to build upon this foundation to make Hudson County a better place.*

## HCIA Enforcement Division ...continued from page 1

Hudson County must be delivered to the facilities designated in the Hudson County Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Hudson County Improvement Authority was created in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act of 1975. The agency exercises essential governmental functions for the public health, benefit and welfare of the citizens of the County. In 1985, the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders designated the HCIA as the sole agency responsible for the implementation of the Hudson County District Solid Waste Management Plan. The HCIA was also designated to plan, acquire, construct, maintain, and operate facilities for the processing and disposal of County solid waste and/or the recovery of recyclable materials.

This year, after a comprehensive review and restructuring of the zone coverage, the Enforcement Division was expanded to assist the needs of the municipalities and their residents. Each day, the HCIA's staff of 21 enforcement officers document and photograph containers and vehicles that store solid waste located in Hudson County. The enforcement officers are also responsible for documenting the removal date. "Not only do enforcement officers patrol the county during the daytime hours, but we are currently setting up a pilot program for the evening hours," said Norman M. Guerra, HCIA Executive Director.

"We cross-reference thousands of documents each month to verify waste flow compliance by haulers and contractors doing business in Hudson County. If they fail to respond, the HCIA issues complaints with fines ranging in the thousands of dollars," stated Michael A. Holloway, Director of Solid Waste Enforcement.

Part of the documentation process includes the inspection of the NJDEP decals, which are required for the transportation and disposal of solid waste in New Jersey and must be affixed to each vehicle. "If our officers find a container without a NJDEP decal, a complaint is filed with the Superior Court of New Jersey," Holloway said.

With the support of County Executive Thomas A. DeGise, the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the HCIA Board of Commissioners, the HCIA's Enforcement Division is out there every day saving resident's tax dollars, and most importantly, protecting the environment for our children.



## Not in My Backyard!

Often, people think that simply dumping a couple of paint cans or a tire in a vacant lot won't make a difference in waste management, but it truly does. In fact, this is referred to as illegal dumping and it is against the law.

In Hudson County, these violations usually occur when individuals, haulers or independent contractors try to save the \$800 to \$1,000 it would cost them to obtain a waste container. While they may save money, the town and the county incur the unexpected expense of cleaning the site and disposing of the waste properly. Towns are forced to pass these costs on to their residents in increased taxes.

"People who illegally dump solid waste cost you, your municipality and Hudson County a lot of money," said John L. Shinnick, HCIA Chairman.

The HCIA Enforcement Division, in conjunction with the Hudson Regional Health Commission and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), is directed to vigorously track down these offenders. This includes the coordination of investigations and taking full legal recourse, including impounding a violator's vehicle and/or equipment and imposing fines of up to \$50,000.

"Many violators drive their trucks filled with solid waste at night looking for the perfect place to dump," said Norman M. Guerra, HCIA Executive Director. "They search for dark lots, sites under bridges or other areas where they expect no one to see them."

Fortunately, the HCIA Enforcement Division keeps a watchful eye to control all dumping activities. You can help by reporting any illegal dumping to Michael A. Holloway, Director of Solid Waste Enforcement at 201-795-4555 x 211.

Remember to do your part as well. If you are renovating your home or apartment, obtain the services of a certified waste disposal company that is approved by the NJDEP. To check visit [www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/swr/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/swr/) or call the number shown above. That way you can ensure your waste is disposed of properly.





# Taking a Bite out of Pollution

One of the biggest contributors to air pollution is cars. While you probably rely heavily on your car to take you to and from work, participating in carpools/vanpools and using public transportation can cut down on fumes released into the air.

For this reason, the HCIA offers professional transportation management through the Hudson Transportation Management Association (TMA). The Hudson TMA is one of only eight, New

Jersey Department of Transportation, publicly funded TMAs in New Jersey.

The Hudson TMA is committed to providing a one-stop transportation resource center for the businesses and residents of Hudson County. Among its many responsibilities, the TMA provides technical assistance to businesses relocating to Hudson County and setting up commuting programs for their employees. Some of the many corporate services the TMA

provides includes information regarding TransitChek, NJ Transit's Vanpool Subsidy Program, a Ridepro Program and many other services.

The professionals at the Hudson TMA have been involved with the implementation of the Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit System, which will ultimately service five Hudson communities along the waterfront, in addition to helping implement and promote new ferry and bus services.

The next time you decide to take a ride, consider hopping on board one of our ferry services, buses, PATH trains or Light Rail for a relaxing and easy ride to your destination.

For more information regarding any of our services, please contact the Hudson TMA at 201-339-0078 or e-mail us at [Traffic@HudsonTMA.org](mailto:Traffic@HudsonTMA.org).

## America Recycles Day



Celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15 by pledging to increase recycling efforts. In Hudson County students will join in by participating in the HCIA's Second Annual Crayon Recycling Contest.

Did you know that it takes many years for crayons to biodegrade?

Our youth will help improve this situation by depositing their old and broken crayons in containers available in elementary schools throughout Hudson County from November 10th through December 19th. The HCIA will have the used crayons recycled into new, crazy-colored ones.

Last year, kids in 31 Hudson County schools collected nearly 1,600 pounds of crayons. Remind your children to start collecting old crayons now to get into the spirit of America Recycles Day. It's a great way to get involved and help make Hudson County a better place.

## Household Hazardous Waste

Did you know that your home has hazardous waste? It certainly does, and it is very important that you dispose of these items properly. For example, did you know you are not supposed to throw away old batteries, paint, solvents and antifreeze? These things can be very harmful to the environment and your health. Each fall and spring, the HCIA hosts Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Days. This past October 11 and 19, residents dropped off their hazardous waste at collection sites in Jersey City, Kearny, Bayonne and Secaucus. The days were a big success and helped to keep Hudson County free from hazardous waste.

Spring 2004 Household Hazardous Waste Days will occur on May 8 in Jersey City and Kearny and May 16 in Bayonne and North Bergen.

For your convenience, used motor oil, oil filter and antifreeze containers are located in each Hudson County municipality year round. For location and hours of operation, please call your local Department of Works or the HCIA's Environmental hotline at 800-540-0987 for locations and hours of operation.



HCIA Chairman John Shinnick (left) and Secaucus Mayor Dennis Elwell join HCIA staff at the Secaucus Household Hazardous Waste collection site.

# The War Against Waste

Have you ever thought about what happens to each item you throw away? While it may seem like one soda can or one piece of paper doesn't make a difference, waste can really add up. In fact, New Jersey, the United States and most of the world are now facing a major waste problem. It is estimated that every person in the United States produces 4.6 pounds of solid waste every day — that's 1,628 pounds in one year, which threatens to pollute our land, water and air. Hudson County residents disposed of nearly 550,000 tons of solid waste in 2002, and recycled close to 500,000 tons of waste that same year!

To make a dent in the world's waste problem, many laws have been passed, such as the New Jersey Source Reduction and Recycling Act, which requires each county to recycle 60 percent of its solid waste. However, laws, such as this one only take effect after garbage has been created. It is much more beneficial if we take action to decrease the amount of garbage we create. If you share the Hudson

County Improvement Authority's (HCIA's) concerns about the future and want to help in the war against waste, there are a number of things you can do at home. Here are some small things you can do to make a big difference.

- 1. Avoid one-time use products**, such as paper plates and plastic cups.
- 2. Use electric appliances** instead of battery-dependent equipment.
- 3. Reuse old materials**, such as old documents for scrap paper, plastic containers and glass jars.
- 4. Buy products that come in recyclable packaging**, such as paper bags, aluminum cans, cardboard boxes and cereal boxes made with gray paperboard.
- 5. Buy products that are made from recycled materials**, such as facial tissues and paper napkins made from recycled paper fibers. (Remember, lack of demand for recycled paper products is the single greatest factor limiting the recycling of paper.)

## DON'T THROW IT AWAY! HELP IN THE BATTLE AGAINST BREAST CANCER



County Executive Tom DeGise and HCIA staffers Michael Holloway and Mary Ellen Gilpin make a donation to fight breast cancer.

Hudson County residents are urged to donate used cell phones, toner cartridges, inkjet cartridges and computer software. The HCIA is participating in this collection effort to support the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Save your old cell phones and printer cartridges for the Spring 2004 Household Hazardous Waste Collection program. For more information, call the HCIA Environmental Hotline at 800-540-0987.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 15** America Recycles Day
- December 4, 2003** Winter Fest (North Bergen)  
"Kids" Seasons prize raffle. (Entrants need not be present)
- January 30, 2004** Winning schools in the 2nd Annual Crayon Contest to be announced
- April 2, 2004** Entries for 4th Annual Recycling Art Contest due at HCIA
- April 22, 2004** Earth Day
- April 24, 2004** HCIA Earth Day 5k Run/Walk & Fair
- May 8, 2004** Household Hazardous Waste Days in Jersey City & Kearny
- May 16, 2004** Household Hazardous Waste Days in Bayonne and North Bergen

Thomas A. DeGise, County Executive  
Norman M. Guerra, Executive Director  
E. Junior Maldonado, Deputy Executive Director  
William J. Netchert, Esq., General Counsel

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