

THE WRAGTIMES

The Water, Recycling and Garbage Times

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Volume 18, Issue 1



Posing with the 1998 Award for Outstanding Achievement in Recycling (for a county recycling program) are (l. to r.) Glenn Schweizer, Kathleen Pelak, Joan Bramhall, Penny Jones, Judy Murphy and Frank Druetzler.

MCMUA Receives Award for Outstanding County Recycling Program



On September 29, 1998, Commissioner Robert Shinn of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) presented the Outstanding County Recycling Program Award to the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA).

MCMUA and county officials accepted the award at the 1998 Recycling Symposium and Awards Luncheon sponsored by the Association of New Jersey Recyclers, the New Jersey Recycling Forum and the NJDEP; that event was held at the Princeton Marriott in Princeton, New Jersey.

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Inside this issue:

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- ⇒ MCMUA Reduces Transfer Station Tipping Fees
- ⇒ Brownfields Workshop
- ⇒ MCMUA Staff Update
- ⇒ Asphalt Shingle Recycling

... and much, much more!!!

MCMUA Reduces Tipping Fees by 4%

Effective February 9, 1999, the MCMUA reduced the disposal tipping fees at its transfer stations in Mt. Olive and Parsippany-Troy Hills townships by \$3.50 per ton. This fee reduction covers municipal, commercial and industrial solid waste, which is accepted at the two transfer stations. The municipal solid waste (Type 10) tipping fee is now \$79.90 per ton.

Several factors have permitted the reduction in solid waste tipping fees. First, waste quantities accepted at the transfer stations have remained stable following the 1997 court decision regarding waste flow control (Atlantic Coast) and in accordance with the County's Administrative Action Plan, in which the MCMUA legally retained its authority over county waste. The MCMUA was also able to reduce the cost of facility operations and utilize available grant

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EXHIBITION

Recycled Re-Seen: Folk Art From the Global Scrap Heap

April 12 - June 20, 1999
Main, Hedley & Newkirk Galleries
at the Morris Museum

The Morris Museum is the only East Coast venue scheduled to present this traveling exhibition, organized by the Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This exhibition explores the aesthetic and cross-cultural process of recovering and transforming so-called "junk" into handmade objects of renewed meaning and beauty. The Morris Museum is located at 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown, New Jersey. For more information or directions, call (973) 538-0454.



During January 1999, the MCMUA put the newly constructed Mt. Arlington Booster Pumping Station and Water Storage Tank into service. The booster station delivers water at a rate of two million gallons per day. The tank, the first elevated tank in the MCMUA system, has a capacity of two million gallons and provides 24 hours of emergency storage for the municipalities served. Activation of the booster station and tank concluded the Mt. Arlington/Jefferson Interconnection Project which, along with the pump station and tank, included 26,000 feet of 12-inch water main.

Outside the
MCMUA Walls -
- Solid Waste
and Recycling
Staff Activities,
Quite Related to
Inside-the-Walls
Careers, Of
Course

⇒ Larry Gindoff plays rhythm guitar every week in mid-town Manhattan. Although a '99 Recycling Awards Dinner theme

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The Art of Recycling, The 12th Annual Morris County Dinner



Please plan to attend this year's dinner on **Friday, November 5, 1999**, at the Hanover Manor in East Hanover. The cash bar opens at 6:30 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7:31 p.m. or thereabouts. (In the past, significant schmoozing often has extended beyond 7:30 p.m., and so dinner may be served a wee bit later than the scheduled time!)

Questions? Call Penny at (973) 285-8395.

Morris County Holds Brownfields Workshop



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Outside the MCMUA

In 1998 the MCMUA received a USEPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot Grant to identify, characterize, evaluate and prioritize nine brownfields sites in the Rockaway River Watershed. The USEPA defines "brownfields" as "abandoned, idled or underutilized industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination." Much of the reason for abandonment or underutilization of brownfields is that potential developers are uncertain about the existence or extent of site contamination. The perception of an environmental liability risk discourages site rehabilitation. Many brownfields are, in fact, only lightly contaminated and can be investigated and cleaned up without rendering the site uneconomical for development.

As part of the Pilot Grant, the MCMUA held a brownfields workshop on January 28, 1999, to provide education on the project and identify stakeholders. The workshop was well attended, with representatives from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, USEPA Region II, local governments and environmental groups, including the Passaic River Coalition and Friends of the Rockaway River.

The keynote speaker, Al Price of the State University of New York at Buffalo, gave a presentation on the importance of brownfields redevelopment from the urban planning and environmental management perspective.

During the workshop the Advisory Committee members for the Morris County brownfields project were introduced: **Luis Lopez**, USEPA Region II project manager; **Mercedius Jameson**, NJDEP project manager; **Todd Normane, Esq.**, lead environmental counsel; **Randy Brockway**, Natural Resource Conservation Service; **William Ward**, First Investors Savings Bank; **Peter TerLouw**, Passaic River Coalition; **Steve Levinson**, Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet; **Chuck Feinberg**, environmental consultant, Tetra Tech, Inc.; **Richard Crooker, Esq.**, Cuyler Burk; **Sabine Von Aulock**, Morris County Planning Board; **Geoff Knapp**, brownfields project manager, MCMUA; **Christine Atlee**, Friends of the Rockaway River; **Harry Shuford**, municipal coordinator.

The Advisory Committee will hold monthly meetings. The 13 municipalities involved in the project will be asked to identify possible candidate sites in their communities. Criteria will be established for the selection process of the nine sites to be studied, and once the nine sites are selected, a detailed characterization and evaluation will commence.

contest was held at the '98 dinner, Larry the artist thought of the theme which will actually be used: the Art of Recycling.

⇒ Laura Macpherson serves as vice-president of the Association of New Jersey Household Hazardous Waste Coordinators (ANJHHWC), promoting the proper disposal of paints, pesticides, etc., and assists it in designing promotional materials and newsletters. In addition, Laura is working with the Cook College Solid Waste Policy Group in formulating hazardous waste policy guidelines, etc.

⇒ Penny Jones is a member of the Millennium of Morris 2000 Spirituality and Inspiration Subcommittee which will be cooperating with the Environment Subcommittee on Millennium of Morris activities. The Millennium Celebration will be held on September 17 through 19, 1999.

⇒ Judy Murphy is secretary of the state Clean Communities Council whose members are constantly striving to make New Jersey a "litter" better, indeed a litter-free place in which to live.

⇒ Kathleen Pelak is a member of the board of directors of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR). In that capacity, Kathleen addresses issues such as designing products/packaging for recyclability, purchasing recycled products, tracking recycling tonnage information, etc.

Asphalt Roofing Shingles Are Recyclable in Morris County ... Once Again



The MCMUA is accepting asphalt roofing shingles for recycling at its two transfer stations at a cost of \$65 per ton. Shingles must be free of contamination (with the exception of nails). For more information, please call (973) 285-8392.



The "dynamic duo" strike a pose: Kathleen Pelak, Morris County district recycling coordinator (l.), and Louise Abato, MCMUA manager of operations.

A B C D E F G H I J K L: Kathleen and Louise

Neither is terribly tall. Both are dark-haired women who smile and laugh frequently. Each has a relatively new title at the MCMUA. And the first letters of their first names ("K" and "L") sit right next to each other in the alphabet: Kathleen and Louise.

First, K: Kathleen Pelak is the most recent Morris County district recycling coordinator; she acquired her new title in August 1998 after Vince Novak resigned from the position. Kathleen's devotion to recycling can be traced way back to those days when she and grammar school friend Karen Nitch collected recyclables, and with some assistance from adults, took them to the buyback center WPAR in West Paterson.

"Recycling involves a conservation mentality. I attribute this idea to President Jimmy Carter, for I recall his asking people to turn off their lights in order to conserve energy. Also, Jimmy Carter drew me to Habitat for Humanity," says Kathleen. (Kathleen is a member of the Morris Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors.)

After graduating from high school, Kathleen attended Bucknell University for two years, fully expecting to major in mathematics ("I was in awe of math but didn't excel in it"), and she then transferred to Cook College, Rutgers University, from which she received a B.S. degree in environmental science in 1990.

Traveling south, Kathleen worked in Orlando, Florida, for the consulting firm R.W. Beck for two and a half years, after which she returned to New Jersey in order to take the New Jersey Recycling Certification Series courses offered by the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education. She has the distinction of being a member of the very first group of people to receive the designation Certified Recycling Professional (CRP) after completing the coursework. In June 1993, Kathleen began working as a recycling specialist for the MCMUA.

Kathleen considers her parents, Bernadette and Joseph Hourihan, to have been the most significant influence on her life thus far ("They didn't put pressure on me to do things, and they helped me to make decisions") but she has special appreciation for her dad, "a very rational person who has taught me to apply rational principles to my life."

Because she's very curious and loves facts and figures, Kathleen is referred to by several of her MCMUA colleagues as "Datawoman."

"I like to account for things. I like numbers. I've always enjoyed keeping track of the tonnage figures," she offers.

One of Kathleen's dreams for the recyclers on this planet is for the recycling process to become simpler ("Very few people understand why only plastic bottles coded with number one or number two are acceptable in the recycling mix. Most want to separate all sorts and conditions of plastics for recycling purposes"), and she'd like to see the use of more automated technology in this realm.

Fond of dogs because they provide unconditional love, Kathleen admits to being a "chocoholic" and a big fan of a Syrian dish made with grape leaves, lamb, rice, garlic and lemon juice ("I leave very few leftovers!").

Then there's L: Louise Abato, the new MCMUA manager of operations, who'd love to eat mashed potatoes and gravy every single day. Louise's favorite meal is breakfast consisting of ham and eggs (over easy), home fries, toast, coffee and orange juice ("After I consume this kind of breakfast, there's very little left for the

Kathleen and Louise ...



transfer station!”). As one can see, Louise and Kathleen are soul sisters in more than one way.

Born in Dallas, Texas, Louise says she was an “Air Force brat.” Arriving in New Jersey in 1962, she was first employed by what is now Burrelle’s Information Services in Livingston (“I had to read many newspapers; it was the neatest job!”). Several years later she began what was to become a 17-year stint at Westinghouse Elevator in Randolph, during which time she earned a B.S. degree in business administration from Centenary College.

In 1987 she began working for Chambers Development Company, first as the office manager, then as N.J. contracts manager and finally as site manager of the Mt. Olive Transfer Station. In December 1994 she acquired a new employer, the MCMUA, and she started to manage the Parsippany Transfer Station as well.

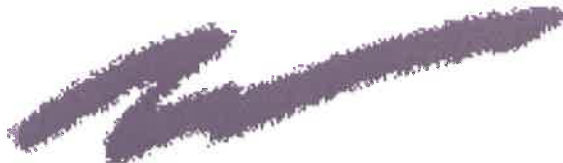
“Managing a transfer station is not an easy job. It requires lots of outdoor work which I said I’d never do; I tarped trailers and ran the machinery which pushes the garbage around. And the two transfer stations are open no matter what; our only closing was during the blizzard of 1994. Now I’m doing more administrative work and have more say regarding long-term solid waste and garbage goals in Morris County,” reflects Louise.

As a result of receiving her new title, Louise is responsible for overseeing operations at both of the transfer stations, at the consolidation center and wherever the curbside crew members are working. Louise is particularly interested in improving safety awareness among the curbside crew.

Twice president of the Mt. Olive Rotary Club and named a Paul Harris Fellow in 1995, Louise is married to Nick (“the only good barber in Morris County, just go to 207 Main Street in Boonton, there’s parking in the rear”), and they have five children and six grandchildren.

The greatest influence in Louise’s life: “Oleta Whitaker Treichler, my mother, a very strong woman, always, always an optimist. She was very spiritual, a feminist long ago. She believed that I could do whatever I wanted to. And one of her oft-repeated sayings was ‘Planning is great, but it doesn’t do any good unless you do.’ This solid waste/recycling field is considered to be a man’s world, but I’ve always worked in a man’s world; my mom’s attitude definitely influenced me.”

K and L -- Kathleen and Louise -- the combination might remind one of a movie title, but these two are far more than fleeting images on the silver screen. They’re real flesh and blood at the MCMUA, often surrounded by -- indeed, even challenged by -- the cast-offs of humanity: flotsam and jetsam, refuse, rubbish, solid waste, trash, and reusable or recyclable treasure! In the face of it all, they continue to smile and laugh and forge ahead.



MCMUA Receives Recycling Award

Lauded for its curbside recycling collection program, the permanent household hazardous waste facility, the materials exchange program, the two compost sites, the annual recycling awards dinners and a variety of related outreach and educational activities, the MCMUA was also congratulated for the 55% recycling rate which Morris County has recently reached.



The MCMUA treasurer’s office has received several inquiries concerning the Y2K impact on MCMUA financial operations. In answer to those inquiries, the MCMUA utilizes the Peachtree accounting program release 6.0, Microsoft Excel (’97 version), and a custom-designed software package for its solid waste transfer station operations. All of the above software packages, as well as the Dell hardware configurations, are Y2K compliant, so there should be no interruption in the MCMUA financial operations. In addition, all tax reporting software packages with the state and federal governments are Y2K compliant.

Anyone with questions may contact Gary Rieth, CMFO, MCMUA treasurer, at (973) 285-8382.



"Recycling & You, Perfect Together"

-- A Slogan Is Brought to Life
at Yet Another Awards Dinner



At the eleventh annual Morris County Recycling Awards Dinner held on November 6, 1998, at the Hanover Manor in East Hanover, the MCMUA presented the following with awards for exceptional achievement in recycling:

Volunteer Awards

Environmental Activist -- Ira Reznikoff, Picatinny Arsenal
Dedicated Volunteer -- Andre Jensen, Morris Plains
Devoted Volunteers - American Legion Post 484, Long Hill Township
"Soaring With the Three Rs" -- Kathleen Bird, Buster Brown Shoes, Budd Lake
Scouting & Saving Trees, Perfect Together - Kinnelon Boy Scout Troop/Cub Pack 277

Education Awards

Recycling and Re-Use Par Excellence -- Florence Riker and the Waste Watchers, Lakeview School, Denville
Trash-A-Mania -- Jim Padfield and Lisa Young, Ellen T. Briggs School, Jefferson Township
Environmental Consciousness-Raising -- SEEK, Whippany Park High School, Hanover Township

Business Awards

Solid Waste Management Efficiency -- Hewlett-Packard Power Products Division, Rockaway Township
Waste Minimization -- Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, East Hanover

Special Awards

HHW Special Assistance -- Kristine Schmidt, Waste Management (USA Waste)
Resource Conservation -- Eugene Randazzo, County of Morris Printing Services
Rookie Recycling Coordinator -- Nancy Salvatore, Washington Township
"The Seven Year Itch ... Almost!" -- Vincent Novak, recently retired Director of Recycling for Morris County

Recipients of Certificates of Achievement for Publishing Outstanding Municipal Recycling Notifications in 1998

Chatham Township	Morristown
Harding Township	Mount Olive Township
Lincoln Park Borough	Netcong Borough
Madison Borough	Rockaway Borough
Montville Township	Rockaway Township



The 1998 Awards Dinner occurred during the 40th anniversary year of the creation of the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority. Standing near the eighth theme cake baked by Hy Nadel are (l. to r.) MCMUA Board Chairman Alex Slavin, board members Jim Barry and Bernie Guenther, Executive Director Glenn Schweizer, and board members Art Nusbaum and Hy Nadel.



Geoff Knapp models two of the door prizes which feature a slogan similar to the theme of the '98 dinner!



Kristin Steelman hands a door prize ticket to the master of ceremonies. Kristin was the youngest attendee at the 1998 dinner; Chris Steelman, her dad, is employed by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, East Hanover, recipient of the Waste Minimization Award.



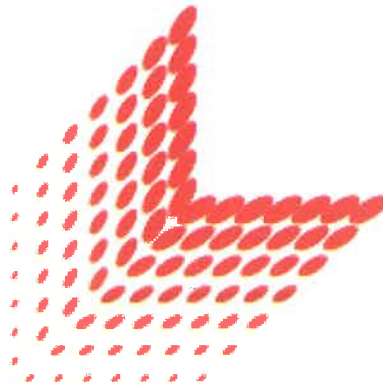
Members of the Science Environmental Klub (SEEK) at Whippany Park High School gather with their Environmental Consciousness-Raising Award. Left to right: Magdalena Kocot, Vice Principal Cyril Rickwalder, Melissa Meola, Jessica Bonder, Janie Ko, Vivian Hsu, Chrissy Link, SEEK advisor Virginia Wiggins, Candy Ku, SEEK advisor Deborah Mango and Robert Alleman.



A close-up of the cake which was perfect for the occasion!



Louise Abato models a multi-colored "shawl" which in actuality is a throw rug made from surplus fabric.



Leaving the dinner with a floral centerpiece and balloon in hand is Ron Saharyan of the Boonton Township Recycling Committee.



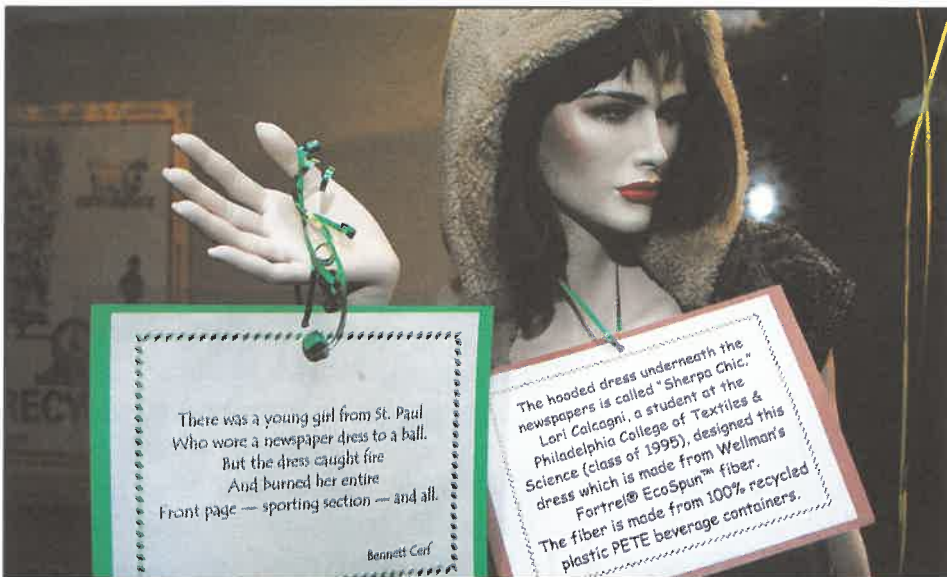
John Mitro (l.), Florham Park recycling coordinator, and Knadya O'Kelly, East Orange Clean and Green coordinator, pause at the America Recycles Day table. Knadya is examining a piggy bank made with \$100 in recycled U.S. currency.



Chris (I.) and Kristin Steelman look over some of the promotional material which is lying on one of the display tables.



Receiving door prizes together -- perfect! Julie and John Driscoll who hail from American Legion Post 484, Long Hill Township, are recipients of a three-ring binder and a clipboard made from computer circuit boards.



The return of the mannequin -- For the third year in a row, this mannequin stands next to the display unit at the dinner. She wears a hooded dress made from Wellman's Fortrel® EcoSpun™ fiber. A portion of her skirt, however, is covered with newspaper (please read Bennett Cerf's poem in the left hand portion of the photo which refers to the newspaper dress).



Newly elected State Senator Anthony Bucco of the 25th Legislative District appears to be quite happy about the results of the election which occurred on November 3.

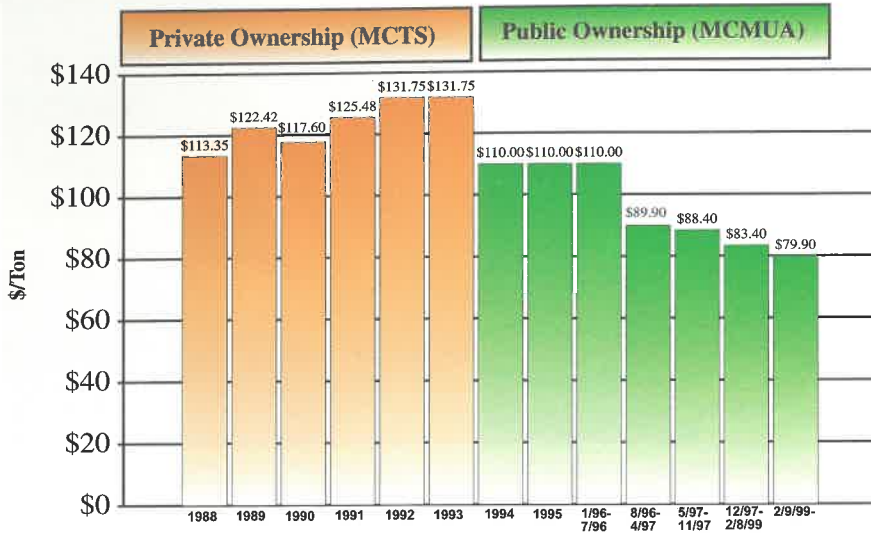
**Type 10 (Municipal Solid Waste) Disposal Tipping Fee History
Morris County, New Jersey**

Continued from Page 1

MCMUA Reduces Tipping Fees

funds. Finally, the MCMUA is expecting additional revenue from a state aid program, as well as from the resolution of waste flow control enforcement litigation, as in the recent settlement with Morris County Sanitation Services, Inc.

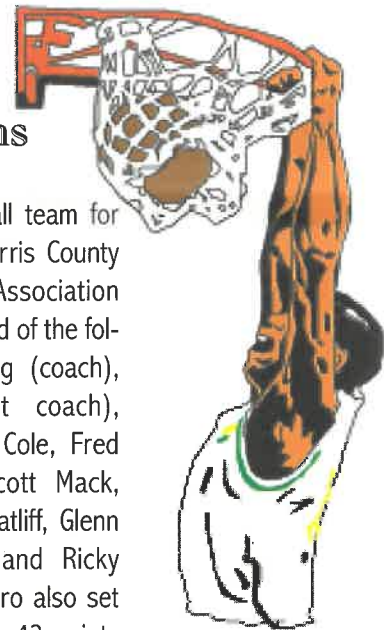
This is the fifth time the MCMUA has reduced rates since it assumed control of the transfer station system in January 1994. As a result of the latest rate reduction, county residents and businesses will save an additional \$875,000 in 1999.



MCMUA Rebate to Participating Municipalities Based on Recycling Tonnage Handled	
Municipality	1998 Rebate
Boonton (Town of)	\$5,140.85
Boonton Township	\$2,629.45
Chatham Township	\$5,522.75
Chester Borough	\$981.86
Denville Township	\$7,793.22
Dover (Town of)	\$6,642.46
East Hanover Township	\$550.39
Florham Park Borough	\$5,956.08
Hanover Township	\$24,800.21
Hopatcong Borough	\$3,599.63
Mendham Borough	\$2,536.81
Mendham Township	\$4,977.68
Montville Township	\$4,143.55
Morris Plains Borough	\$4,170.02
Morris Township	\$7,635.93
Morristown (Town of)	\$2,754.68
Mt. Arlington Borough	\$1,011.99
Mt. Olive Township	\$8,634.95
Netcong Borough	\$1,939.79
Picatinny Arsenal Res.	\$140.15
Rockaway Borough	\$4,032.34
Rockaway Township	\$3,163.58
Washington Township	\$1,575.50
Wharton Borough	\$4,010.93
Total	\$114,344.80

Congratulations

... to the MCMUA basketball team for finishing second in the Morris County Industrial Recreation Association League! The team consisted of the following players: Jerry King (coach), James Britton (assistant coach), Edgardo Chaparro, David Cole, Fred Cotton, Larry Gindoff, Scott Mack, Daniel Melendez, Gerald Ratliff, Glenn Schweizer, Kenny Smith and Ricky Woodard. Edgardo Chaparro also set a league record for scoring 43 points in one game!



1998 MCMUA Recycling Tonnage Rebates

In 1998, the MCMUA paid \$114,345 to municipalities for over 17,000 tons of recyclable materials. The materials were either collected through the curbside recycling collection program or delivered to the Recycling Consolidation Center in Dover. Please refer to the chart on the left.



Clean Communities Corner

The N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the N.J. Food Council have recently ironed out the differences they once had regarding Clean Communities Bill A-671 by drafting amendments which are agreeable to both parties.

A-671 requires the creation of a public-private partnership between the DEP and a non-profit agency whose sole task will be to coordinate a state-wide Clean Communities public information and education program; \$2,000,000 skimmed from the top of the Clean Communities grant program will fund this effort, and the non-profit agency will report to the governor and the legislature every two years about the status of the Clean Communities program.

A-671 also requires the DEP to distribute Clean Communities funding through block grant entitlements to all counties and municipalities. The amount of each entitlement will be based on the number of road miles and housing units in each location. The grant money is to be used for litter and graffiti removal, public information and education campaigns, enforcement, and program administration.



"Four Little Piglets and Enviro the Wolf" premieres at Mountain Way School in Morris Plains. Judy Murphy (l.), Morris County Clean Communities coordinator, portrays one of the four little piglets. Puppeteer Sandra Huber plays the role of an environmentally sensitive wolf who relates the humorous escapades of four little pigs as they build houses of sticks, sand and stones, only to learn that the best houses are made of recycled materials and are located in clean communities.

Municipal Recycling Coordinators' Corner

Since the last update in the summer '98 *Wragtimes*, there have been some farewells and welcomes to the municipal recycling coordinators.

☹️ Farewell to: **Herb Berman**, Mount Olive recycling coordinator since July 1992 and who also served on the board of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR) for the past two years; **Richard Farrel**, Montville coordinator since 1998; **Bob Gallione**, Jefferson Township coordinator for the past three years; **Steve Koval**, who retired this year after 36 years with the Town of Boonton; **Joe Linfante**, who was Parsippany-Troy Hills coordinator for over eight years and who volunteered on the County's Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC); **Rick Prill**, who, for six years, served as Mountain Lakes coordinator. Best wishes to Herb, Richard, Bob, Steve, Joe and Rick.

😊 Welcome to **Frank Kennedy** in Mount Olive, **Jim Leach** in Jefferson, **Jasmine Lim** in Montville, **Mike Petonak** in Boonton Town; **Tracy Toribio** in Harding and **Gary Webb** in Mountain Lakes. Richard Wiedmann, Harding Township administrator, remains in that position, but has passed the title of recycling coordinator on to Tracy. Frank Kennedy is now the acting recycling coordinator in Mount Olive.

🌐 Our own **Penny Jones**, the recycling education specialist for the M.U.A., has successfully completed The New Jersey Recycling Certification Series. Penny was among 18 graduates presented with their certificates at the ANJR Annual Meeting on March 24.

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