

## PMUA TO ADDRESS DAMAGED SEWER PIPE



During a routine sewer line check, the PMUA discovered that an 18 inch sewer line (clay pipe), which is 80-100 years old and carries 50% of Plainfield's sewage, was severely damaged and not working properly. Designated as the Rock Avenue Interceptor; the portion of the pipe between Jefferson Avenue and the Rock Avenue Pump Station, and adjacent to the Green Brook, has deteriorated; hazarding serious environmental contamination.

This pipe, which carries 2 million gallons of sewage each day, cannot be easily restored due to its close proximity to Green Acres property. Additionally, the banks of the Green Brook are continually eroding which could expose the pipe and cause it to collapse. If this happens, raw sewage could escape and contaminate the brook.

This is a very time sensitive and matter at hand. The PMUA has already begun working with their engineers to examine the situation and determine the most responsible and cost effective solution. But with several important factors at hand, it's important to look at overall strategy and long term benefit vs. immediate cost factor. Here are some insights into the options and obstacles being examined:

### **1. Replace a portion of the pipe and line the remaining portions.**

Considering the pipe's current location, this option would require Green Acres approval of a larger (10 ft.) easement needed to complete the repair. The easement could increase the project timeline and expense. Green Acres may not approve the expansion of the easement and it could take a minimum of 9 months to render a decision. This option also still keeps the interceptor adjacent to the Green Brook, leaving issues of bank erosion and pipe exposure unresolved. The approximate cost here is \$664,000; not factoring in the additional cost of future repairs and clean-ups necessitated by pipe exposure and collapse, and subsequent sewage contamination.

### **2. Replace the existing pipe and relocate the interceptor farther from the Green Brook.**

This option avoids the issue of the Green Brook bank erosion, but still requires Green Acres' permission for a new easement; deliberation could take nearly a year or longer to conclude and approval is not guaranteed. The approximate cost for this project is \$769,000. In addition to a higher price tag, needing Green Acres' endorsement delays the repair of the presently damaged pipe, still leaving the brook at risk of costly hazardous pollution in the interim.

### **3. Run a new line under an undeveloped street.**

This appears to be the most effective and efficient approach to the overall situation. Here, the aforementioned obstacles are avoided; approvals for a new easement wouldn't be needed as the new pipe line would be installed outside of Green Acres' property. The line would also be positioned a safer distance from the Green Brook, where bank erosion, pipe exposure, and contamination risks would no longer be a factor. This project would cost approximately \$1,000,000, with no foreseeable costly emergency repairs and clean-ups, as with the previous options discussed.

There is much to be considered, but the PMUA is carefully analyzing the options and considering all factors in this matter, to ensure that final course of action will be what serves the best interest of the overall community. Additional updates will be released as deliberation progresses.

## Collection Schedule Changes in 2013

Plainfield residents will see new changes reflected in their 2013 collection schedule. To improve fiscal and operation efficiency, including fuel consumption, fleet maintenance, and overtime pay, the PMUA has reworked the logistics for residential garbage and recycling collection. Read below for information on the upcoming schedule changes.

### 2013 Garbage Collection Changes

As of January 2013, garbage collection will take place twice per week (except holidays) as follows:

**Zones 3,4,6,9,10 - Mondays & Thursdays**  
**Zones 1,2,5,7,8 - Tuesdays & Fridays**

NOTE: Zones 9, 10, 2, 7 will be affected by the 2013 collection route adjustment. Please verify the zone(s) of your property/residence(s) and note your 2013 bi-weekly collection days; your garbage collection days may be different than the current 2012 schedule.

### 2013 Recycle Collection Changes

As of January 9th 2013, grouped zones will begin receiving recycle collection every other Wednesday starting as follows:  
**Zones 3,4,6,9,10 - Wed, Jan 9th & 23rd**  
**Zones 1,2,5,7,8 - Wed, Jan 16th & 30th**

NOTE: All properties should continue to place both co-mingled and paper/cardboard materials out on their designated recycle collection day. Please verify the zone(s) of your property/residence(s) and note your specific recycle collection dates for 2013 calendar year.

### ALL RECYCLABLE MATERIALS MUST BE PROPERLY SEPARATED TO AVOID FINE(S).

\*On Wednesday, January 2nd 2013, all PMUA residential customers will receive a recycle pick-up.

An official 2013 Collection Calendar will be available online at [www.pmua.info](http://www.pmua.info), at both PMUA headquarters and Transfer Station offices, and in the next quarterly PMUA newsletter.

If you are having trouble identifying your zone(s), please contact PMUA Customer Service at (908)226-2518.

## New Low Rate For Vegetative Waste

PMUA has officially reduced rates for Type 23 Vegetative Waste disposal at the PERC/Rock Ave Transfer Station. The new rate of \$6.50 p/cubic yard - one of the lowest rates in the area - is now in effect and includes: leaves, grass, tree parts (branches, limbs, stumps), bushes and shrubbery.

\* Please note there is a minimum charge of 2 cubic yards (= \$13) for this rate.

\*\* Individual bags of vegetative waste will be charged per bag for volumes of 6 bags or less. Volume in excess of 6 bags will be charged at the \$6.50 cu/yd. rate.

\*\*\* ONLY qualified vegetative waste will be accepted under these terms; No dirt or garbage.

For more information, contact us at 908.226.2518 or [reachpmua@pmua.org](mailto:reachpmua@pmua.org).

Questions about fall leaf collection? Contact the Plainfield Department of Public Works (DPW) at: 908.753.3427

## Recycling Compliance Audit Begins

The Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority has begun an audit of residences, businesses, and other waste-generating entities; the goal being to ensure that all factions within the city are in compliance with NJ State Recycling Law.

Having been given the charge to enforce this law, the PMUA is implementing recycling inspection and compliance protocols, whereby violators who are found not properly separating their co-mingled (glass, plastic, aluminum, bottles, cans and paper recyclables from their regular trash, will be subject to fines from \$250-\$1,000 per incident.

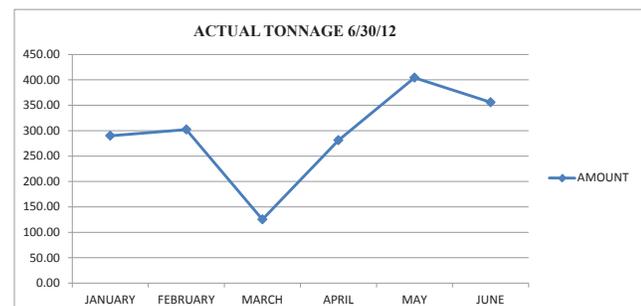
Recycling has been the state's law since 1987, however, there has since been a decline in proper recycling practice, manifesting negative impacts on both environmental resources, and Municipal budgets. Ongoing, the PMUA has campaigned for

recycling through various communications, especially youth outreach, providing educational insight starting at the foundational level. As a result, recycling efforts in the City of Plainfield have shown a significant increase (over 250%) from 2011 to 2012, indicating that the community is listening and becoming more conscientious about reducing, reusing, and/or recycling. It's a great step, but these efforts must be sustained, and our work is not done as a look at half yearly tonnage reports reveal inconsistency in recycle numbers for the first half of 2012

The ultimate goal is for every individual and entity in Plainfield (be they PMUA customers or those utilizing a private hauler) to always properly separate their recyclables from their standard household waste. Yet there still

remain a large number of repeated infractions against the NJ recycling law, and pressure from the County and State to comply continues to increase emphatically.

The graph below illustrates the recycling tonnage collected for the first half of 2012. While there are factors (i.e. seasonal) which have effect on the this tonnage, we urge everyone to be ever diligent when following proper recycling protocols, and helping to ensure unified compliance.





Library Park quickly came to life, Saturday September 8th as the PMUA turned the grounds into an environmental wonderland. Filled with ecofriendly exhibitors, our citizens were able to learn about conservation, recycling and simple actions one can take to help sustain our environment.

The Annual Environmental Fair is a time when the PMUA gives back to the community. It is a thank you for supporting our mission while incorporating education and fun.

Families enjoyed live music, carnival type attractions, Latin American Cuisine, a B-B-Q and refreshments. New to this year's event was a tent designated for Plainfield Seniors. Buzzing with laughter as board games were played, residents also partook in a Zumba class geared for elders. Participants also took advantage of health screenings provided by a Horizon Health Mobile Caravan.

Several Plainfield agencies were in attendance giving out valuable information on City services, while across the park local vendors had a variety of wares and goods displayed for sale. Local and state dignitaries addressed the crowd during opening ceremonies after a stellar performance was given by the Plainfield High School Band.

A highlight of the fair was the on-stage recognition of Plainfield's Public School students for their winning inspirational artwork, essays and posters created for the annual Trash to Treasure, and Go Green contests.

While encouraging greener lifestyles, this event is one of many initiatives put forth by the Authority to help the community understand the importance of recycling and the role it plays in preserving our environment.

## Free Saturday Leaf Drop-off

From Saturday, October 15th through December 31, 2012 the PMUA will accept free leaf drop-off on Saturday's only at 95 Rock Avenue, PERC Transfer Station throughout the season. This service is for Plainfield residents only. Personal identification must be presented while dropping off your leaves.

**NOTE: \*Please note that a charge will be incurred for leaves brought during the week.**

### PERC/Transfer Station:

95 Rock Avenue Plainfield, NJ 07060  
(908) 226-2518

### Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Leaves Only**  
**No Brush**  
**No Trash**



# \$260

**ROLL WITH US! NEW \$260 DEAL ON ROLL-OFF CONTAINERS!**

For more info contact us at 908.226.2518



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

Resident  
City of Plainfield, NJ  
07060

**Carrier Rt# 39**

## PMUA NOTICES

- The next PMUA regularly scheduled board meetings will be 11/08 and 12/11 at PMUA Headquarters, 127 Roosevelt Avenue, Plainfield, NJ at 6:00 p.m.  
We encourage the public to attend.
- E-Waste can be dropped off at the Transfer Station.
- There will be no garbage collection on the following days due to Holidays:  
11/12, 11/22, 11/23, 12/24, 12/25.
- PMUA collects Fluorescent Bulbs at the PERC Transfer Station the 2nd Wednesday of each month. **Fluorescent Bulbs should not be disposed of in the regular trash.**
- The last day for 2012 Residential scheduled Bulk pick-ups will be Tuesday, November 20, 2012. Scheduled Bulk-pick-ups will resume Monday, January 7, 2013.
- Emergency Bulk pick-ups only will be done during this time period.  
Call (908) 226-2518 for more details.

### PMUA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Harold Mitchell - Chairperson  
 Carol Ann Brokaw - Secretary  
 Alex Toliver - Treasurer  
 Tracey Brown - Commissioner  
 Malcolm R. Dunn - Commissioner  
 Cecil H. Sanders, Jr. - Alt. Commissioner

### PMUA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

### 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

### 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

As of December 31st 2011, payments or other mail sent to the old P.O. Box address in Newark, NJ, will be returned to sender by the USPS. Please be sure that your return envelope is addressed properly to avoid any delays in payment receipt and processing.

## FEMA GRANT

PMUA RECEIVED A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$209,610.77 FROM THE FEDERAL AGENCY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (FEMA) FOR ITS ROLL IN CLEANING UP PLAINFIELD IN 2011 AFTER HURRICANE IRENE. THIS EQUATES TO 75% OF THE TOTAL HURRICANE CLEAN-UP COSTS THE AUTHORITY INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THIS CATASTROPHIC STORM.

ON AUGUST 26TH 2011, PLAINFIELD SUFFERED

SEVERE DAMAGE INCLUDING FLOODED HOMES, DESTROYED PROPERTY AND KNOCKED DOWN TREES. IMMEDIATELY PMUA RESPONDED TO HELP RESIDENTS, PROVIDING EMERGENCY PICK-UPS AND REMOVAL OF WATER DAMAGED DEBRIS. QUICKLY ASSISTING THOSE WHO NEEDED TO RE-BUILD AND DRY-OUT, PMUA SPENT SEVERAL DAYS HAULING DEBRIS FROM HOMES ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS. THIS QUICK RESPONSE WAS APPRECIATED AS RESIDENTS WERE ABLE TO START RESTORATION PROJECTS RIGHT AWAY IN THE AFTERMATH OF IRENE.

## P M U A MISSION



To Safeguard our Public Health...

Enrich our Environmental Quality of life...

Regulate, Promote and Encourage responsible actions for a cleaner, litter free city...

Invest in Improving our Infrastructure...

By Providing and Managing environmentally friendly, comprehensive and cost-effective collection, transport, recycling, treatment and disposal services for municipal solid waste materials and sanitary sewer.