



HUDSON COUNTY
IMPROVEMENT
AUTHORITY

SEASONAL

Stable Disposal Rate Helps Hudson Taxpayers

The Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA) works ardently to provide our 12 municipalities with effective fiscal management solutions to help keep property taxes as low as possible.

Waste disposal rates in Hudson County are among the lowest in New Jersey thanks to the combined efforts of the HCIA, the municipalities we serve and our elected officials. In 2004, an 18% rate increase was averted when the HCIA received Stranded Debt Relief in the amount of \$7.2 million. This was a direct result of the industrious work of State Assembly Speaker Albio Sires and State Senators Joseph Doria, Bernard Kenny and Nicholas Sacco. This funding helped to keep disposal rates stable this year.

***Rid your home of
HAZMATS
October 2nd & 17th***

Household hazardous waste is a danger to you, your family and the environment. When thrown out with common household garbage, it can potentially release harmful toxins. To avoid this danger, dispose of household hazardous waste during the HCIA's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Days on October 2nd in Jersey City and Kearny and on October 17th in Bayonne and Secaucus.

"Over the years, residents have come to count on HHW Days to rid their homes of these potentially dangerous materials. The HCIA will continue to provide this and much more as we strive to make a better and more beautiful Hudson County," said Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise.

See back cover for HHW dates, locations and a quick hazmat guide.

"Thanks to the hard work of our state legislators and the HCIA Commissioners and staff, we have been able to hold the line on waste disposal rates in Hudson County resulting in real tax savings for the residents of our 12 municipalities,"

--Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise.

Throughout the state, counties have struggled with a constant rise in the costs associated with waste disposal. Residents of Hudson County, on the other hand, have enjoyed continuous stability in rates over the past twelve months. Currently, our residents pay \$78 per ton to process the waste compared to the over \$100 that many other counties pay for this service. The fact that the HCIA has secured a new five-year contract to process our county's solid waste will help us to hold the line on waste disposal costs.

From environmental to fiscal management, the HCIA takes a proactive approach to ensure that the services we provide result in clean, healthy communities for Hudson County. Our commitment to improved quality of life remains a pivotal component of the HCIA mission to provide for a better tomorrow.

Hudson Transportation Management Association

Stride and Ride: Family Safety Fun Fest



"Fighting for Hudson Taxpayers"
Hudson County Executive
Thomas A. DeGise

Hudson County's state legislators did a terrific job this year by delivering special state funds that helped the HCIA keep the waste disposal rate frozen at \$78 a ton. This action helped every town in the county hold the line on property taxes. This is an excellent example of how different levels of government work together effectively to benefit the people we all serve.



"Learning is Fundamental"
HCIA Chairman
John L. Shinnick

"Learning is fundamental," and the HCIA works hard to provide Hudson County communities with innovative programs that promote environmental education. Our Earth Day celebration at Liberty State Park served as a great opportunity to bring Hudson County communities together to learn more about the environment. From workshops covering topics like recycling and bicycle safety, to creative activities like sand art and face painting, participants of all ages were able to take advantage of this HCIA program.



"Creating Jobs and New Business Development"
HCIA Executive Director
Norman M. Guerra

"One of our agency's most important initiatives is to support new state legislation that would expand the HCIA's ability to attract new business investment and create good jobs for Hudson County towns and people."

On August 5, Norman Guerra was named President of the Improvement Authority Association of New Jersey.



"Safety matters" was the key message that residents left with from Stride and Ride: Family Safety Fun Fest hosted by the Hudson County Transportation Management Association (TMA) on July 17, 2004. The event included a myriad of activities for all participants that encouraged learning to ensure safe fun while riding a bicycle or enjoying a good walk or run.

Held in Braddock Park in North Bergen, Stride and Ride showcased learning booths, face painting and balloon art, as well as basketball hoops, a moonwalk for children, bicycle races and a raffle. In addition, the Hudson County Sheriff's Department offered free child identification kits for parents to keep in case of an emergency situation such as child abduction. The Amber Alert Wireless Program was also on hand providing its valuable service as complement to the efforts of the Sheriff's Department.

"The Amber Alert Wireless Program sends an immediate electronic alert to law enforcement officials throughout the country to aid in the recovery of lost children. In situations such as child abduction, time can play a key role. Amber Alert Wireless is proud to have the opportunity to work with Hudson County for the protection of its youngest residents," said Kai Patterson, director of Amber Alert Wireless Program at Stride and Ride, where he briefed parents on how to become involved with the program.

The event drew residents from throughout Hudson County.

Earth Day 2004: Recap.

2004

LET'S MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY!

The HCIA celebrated a spectacular Earth Day 2004 Celebration on April 24 at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. The annual celebration drew hundreds of participants from throughout Hudson County looking to commemorate the day in a fun-filled, family environment.

A sunny, breezy morning welcomed participants to the HCIA Earth Day Celebration. Athletes from throughout New York and New Jersey were off to a running start at the 5K Run and Fitness Walk. For our young athletes, the Kids Fun Run gave children an opportunity to enjoy healthy exercise running along a smaller course designed just for them. All participants were awarded free t-shirts for their participation and children were awarded medals. In addition, adult competitors had an opportunity to win prizes that included gift certificates and medals.

This year, exhibitors including the Liberty Science Center, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, Amber Alert Wireless Program, the American Red Cross and many other agencies, showcased learning booths that encouraged healthy living and a healthy environment. Interactive stage shows featured magicians, musicians, strolling court jesters, jugglers, stilt walkers and other great entertainers.

Kids Kingdom, a recent addition to our celebration, featured inflatable rides such as the moonwalk, ball bounce and slide, craft booths for face painting and sand art, a kite making station and contests.

"This year's theme, **'Let's Make Everyday Earth Day'** is especially important for the communities of Hudson County because they are all so densely populated. It is imperative that each resident make a commitment to living earth-friendly so that waste flow is kept under control," said HCIA Chairman John L. Shinnick. Learn more about the environment by contacting our Environmental Programs Division at 1-800-540-0987.



America Recycles Day & the 3rd Annual Crayon Recycling Contest

On November 15, 2004 residents and businesses throughout the United States will celebrate America Recycles Day. The celebration, launched in 1997, was devised to encourage participants to recycle, to reduce waste, to buy recycled products and to become advocates for recycling initiatives.

The HCIA, in celebration of America Recycles 2004, will host the 3rd Annual Crayon Recycling Contest for students in Hudson County public, private and parochial schools. To date, our youngsters have collected an impressive 3,500 pounds of old, broken crayons that have been recycled into brand new 'crazy-colored' crayons.

According to the United States Environmental

Protection Agency, recycling trends continue to experience positive growth as municipalities across the country implement programs that foster environmental stewardship.

"The steps that our county school children have taken through the Crayon Recycling Contest demonstrate the impact that even little measures, such as collecting a few stray crayons from around the house, can have on our environment," said HCIA Executive Director Norman Guerra.

The 3rd Annual Crayon Recycling Contest will run from America Recycles Day, November 15th, through December 17th. For more information, contact the HCIA Environmental Hotline at 1-800-540-0987.

Fall 2004 Household Hazardous Waste Days

Saturday, October 2, 9AM - 1PM

Jersey City: JCIA, 501 Route 440
Kearny: DPW, 357 Bergen Avenue

Sunday, October 17, 9AM - 1PM

Bayonne: Norton Paints, 148 East 5th St.
Secaucus: Swim Center Parking Lot, 2000 Koelle Boulevard

What to bring:

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|----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cleaners | Solvents |
| Corrosives | Thinners |
| Pool chemicals | Herbicides |
| Oil-based paints | Latex paint |
| Oil-based varnishes | Formaldehyde |
| Household & car batteries | Used motor oil |
| Full or partly full aerosol cans | Fire extinguishers |
| Propane tanks
(from barbecues only) | Fluorescent bulbs |

Empty aerosol and dry latex paint cans can be thrown out with your regular trash. Please do not bring helium, freon or oxygen tanks to HHW locations, only propane barbecue (20#) tanks will be accepted. Consumer electronic equipment will also be accepted as part of HHW Days.

Quick List:

Printers, microwaves, televisions, computers, monitors, stereo equipment, fax machines and cellular phones.

Remember to bring your old cell phones and accessories, palm pilots, PDAs and other hand held devices for donation to the **Recycle for Breast Cancer** program!

Mercury thermometers will also be collected as part of this event. These devices will be replaced with new digital thermometers for residents free of charge!

Don't forget to bring your old athletic shoes, except those containing metal (i.e. eyelets or cleats). They will be "ground up" and used to make new surfaces for use on soccer fields, basketball courts, running tracks and playgrounds as part of HCIA's **Sneaker Recycling Program**.



FRIEND TO THE ENVIRONMENT

This season, our friends at Panasonic want to join in helping to protect our environment by hosting an electronics recycling collection! This is a free event open to residents from Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties. Collection items include: VCR,s, stereos, TVs, computers, printers and cell phones. Copiers and microwave ovens will not be accepted at this time. Small businesses and institutions are limited to 5 units each for this event.



When: Saturday, October 9, 2004
Where: Panasonic Headquarters
 50 Hartz Way, Secaucus, NJ

**Participants will be entered into a raffle for a Panasonic Lumix digital still camera!
 You can also bring your old eyeglasses for donation to the Lions Club!
 For more information, please go to <http://www.panasonic.com/recycling>**



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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**Call us at 800.540.0987 or visit us at: www.hcia.org
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