



GARBAGE HAULER ORGANIZING PACKET
Prepared by Todd Seabury-Kolod and Andy Hamerlinck

What follows in this packet are examples of letters and flyers used by Mac-Groveland residents to organize their blocks around a common garbage hauler. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council does not endorse any particular garbage hauler and we encourage those of you embarking on this task to shop around and get the best rates for your block.

If you have decided to organize your block, **please let us know** by e-mailing Karmann Peters in the MGCC office (karmann@macgrove.org). You can also call us at 651-695-4000.

If you have questions as you begin or continue to organize, please feel free to contact either our office, or Todd Seabury-Kolod, who is responsible for much of the material in this packet (and who has lots of personal experience with this!) at 651-230-9589. Thanks for your interest.

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Dear Princeton/Sargent Avenue Neighbors!

I have been thinking about trash this summer. I am your neighbor at 1962 Princeton. **How would you like to save money on your trash bill, have fewer trucks going up and down the alley, protect the environment and support a mom and pop business—all at the same time.** Ken Berquist & Son is offering discounted rates for neighbors that apply for a block rate...around 10% to 20%.

For those of you who are already with Berquist, you will soon see a discount on your bill because 50% of our neighbors are current customers. If other folks join Berquist, we will see additional discounts!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here's how the block breaks down by household (from Prior to Kenneth):

12 Berquist

6 Waste Management

4 Onyx

1 Aspen

1 Allied Waste

Berquist takes their waste exclusively to the NRG Resource Recovery facility. Here your trash is processed for shipment to power plants and also fires boilers that produce electricity. This generates over 700,000 megawatts annually. In addition, recyclable materials such as ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals, soil and glass are recovered and recycled. This process is environmentally superior to landfills.

-turn over-

6

Waste Management only takes their trash to the NRG Resource Recovery facility 50% of the time...leaving 50% to the landfills. Waste Management is no mom and pop. It is the largest waste hauler in the world.

I used to be a customer of Eagle Environmental. But then they got bought out by Superior and then Onyx. They are now owned by a French multi-national corporation called Veolia. Their trash goes to a landfill.

Aspen is locally owned—but it's a large company operating in ~~many~~ states. *They have 52 trucks in the Twin Cities*
sub

Allied Waste bought BFI. They are the second largest waste hauler in the world. Most of their waste goes to a landfill.

Here's what you get with Ken Berquist & Son: It's a business that has been in St. Paul for 75 years. Jim bought the company from his dad, Ken. You are likely to see Jim driving the truck on Thursdays. Jim's sons, Mike and Dan, also drive trucks for other routes. Jim's wife, Bonnie, and Mike's wife, Kristi, work in the office. **THEY DON'T USE A LANDFILL!**

Please give me a call if you think you might like to switch over. I'll keep track of our block's participation and make sure we are getting the right discount. My number is 651.230.9589. To set up your service, call Berquist at 651.699.2442. They have no sign up fee, no cancellation fee and no contract to sign.

Here's to cheaper rates, fewer trucks, smaller landfills and a stronger mom and pop.

Todd Seabury-Kolod (651.230.9589) 1962 Princeton Avenue

Dear Kenneth to Cleveland Alley Neighbors!

We organized our trash collection between Kenneth and Prior (using one hauler). You can, too!

We did it to save money by getting a block rate, to reduce the truck traffic along the alley, to support a mom and pop business, and to ensure that our trash is recycled at the Newport Recovery Facility.

Here's the current breakdown of your stretch of the alley:

- Aspen 3 households
- Berquist 2
- BFI 2
- Gopher 1
- Waste Man. 1

- Eagle 1
 - Onyx 2
 - Superior 4
- } These haulers are now owned by Veolia.

Unknown 4 The bins were in garages.

You currently have at least six different trucks coming down the alley each week. Many are large corporations that own landfills and don't always use the recovery facility.

Back in the day, most haulers were locally owned. Eagle Environmental, for example, used to be. They got bought out by Superior...who got bought out by Oynx...who got bought out by Veolia—a French multi-national corporation. Their profits don't stay in our community.

-turn over-

If you'd like to decrease the wear and tear on the alley, have fewer trucks wasting diesel fuel, and reduce the noise pollution from so many trucks, you can organize your block.

We went with Berquist & Son Disposal. (You don't have to.) The owner, Jim Berquist, and his sons drive the trucks...and his wife and daughter-in-law work in the office. They dump their trash exclusively at the recovery facility. There may be some other locally owned haulers that exclusively use the recovery facility. You'll have to check around. (I can help.)

Please call me if you'd like "to talk trash." I wonder if there is someone among you who'd like to take this on and be an organizer for your stretch of the alley. I have found the process very rewarding...when neighbors work toward a common purpose. I think you will, too.

Todd Seabury-Kolod
1962 Princeton Ave
(The almost painted house.)
651.230.9589

March 8, 2007

Dear St. Clair/Macalester/Berkeley/Davern alley-neighbors,

Some people in our neighborhood who share an alley have been getting together to contract with a single garbage hauler, reducing truck traffic and pollution and obtaining group discounts. You may have read about this in recent articles in the Highland Villager. Some neighbors see this as an opportunity to support local "mom and pop" businesses or haulers who send their trash to be recycled into energy at the Resource Recovery facility in Newport (as opposed to sending their trash to landfills).

If you'd like to decrease the wear and tear on the alley, have fewer trucks wasting diesel fuel, keep your money in the local economy, and reduce the noise and air pollution from unnecessary trucks, please consider joining me in switching to one of the locally-owned and -operating haulers that uses a Resource Recovery facility!

Here's the current breakdown of haulers used in the stretch of alley we all share:

Eagle/Superior/Onyx	9	[These haulers are all owned by French-company Veolia.]
Aspen Waste Systems	5	
Waste Management	3	
BFI/Allied Waste	2	
Highland Sanitation	1	
Pete's Rubbish	1	
Unknown	4	[These homes' bins are unmarked or in garages.]

We currently have at least seven different trucks coming down our alley each week, and possibly more, considering the homes with service that is unknown!

I am proposing we get together a make a switch to the same company, one that is family-owned, operates in Minnesota only, uses the Resource Recovery facility, and offers group discounts: **Highland Sanitation**. New customers enjoy two months service free. As you'll see, if at least 15 of our 25 households switch we will also enjoy a group discount. I'll switch first...please consider joining me! I researched local companies and Highland's prices are the most competitive...even lower than my current hauler, Aspen!

Service is offered at a group rate in three container sizes: 35-Gallon (\$9 per month before taxes), 60-Gallon (\$11 per month before taxes) and 90-Gallon (\$13 per month before taxes). If you call to sign up, ask for the "block rate" and mention my name ("Joe"). **NOTE: These prices are for the block rate, which Highland generously offers us now, but assumes at least 60% will participate. The regular rates costs \$3 more, so let's enjoy these exceptional lower rates together!**

Call 651-458-0043 to sign up or learn more about the company or its service.

We can only make a difference if a significant number of us switch our service to a single hauler! **Note: If you decide to switch you may need to wait until the end of your current contract; call your hauler and ask them to cancel service at the end of your paid-through date, and set up service to start with Highland Sanitation then.** Don't forget to ask for the "block rate" by mentioning my name!

In the past most haulers were locally-owned. Eagle Environmental, for example, used to be. They got bought out by Superior... who got bought out by Onyx... who got bought out by Veolia—a French multinational corporation. Their profits don't stay in our community.

Please take a moment to consider the reasons you might choose a hauler besides price. Is it important to you that your trash is turned into energy? Is it important to you that your money gets re-invested in the local economy? Do you value safety, efficiency, and cleaner air?

Here is a grid that provides some information about our alley's current haulers:

Hauler	Destination of Trash	Locally Owned?	Other notes
<i>Eagle/Superior/Onyx</i>	Both Resource Recovery and landfills	No, France	270,000 employees, operating on every livable continent!
<i>Waste Management</i>	Landfill in Newport	Headquarters in Texas	25 million customers across the United States and Canada
<i>BFI/Allied Waste</i>	Landfill in Inver Grove Heights	Houston, Texas	26,000 employees, serving 37 states and Puerto Rico
<i>Aspen Waste Systems</i>	Elk River Resource Recovery	Yes, in Minneapolis	Operations in Minnesota and Missouri
<i>Highland Sanitation</i>	Resource Recovery in Newport	Yes, right here in St. Paul since 1950.	Serves three Twin Cities counties; only 22 employees!

I assure you, I will not benefit personally or financially from this. I will not receive or accept any referral discounts, nor do I have any personal connection to Highland Sanitation (I'll have to switch haulers too). I am doing this, inspired by our neighbors, to improve the quality of our lives and to ensure our spending reflects our values.

Feel free to call or write with your questions at 651-357-7077, or email me at jo@unityunitarian.org. If you do decide to switch to Highland Sanitation please call or email to let me know so I can inform our neighbors of our progress.

Thanks so much for considering!

Joseph LaFeria
1674 Saint Clair Avenue

Thinking about Trash!

Howdy Neighbors -

Over the years, several of the Montrose-Mount Curve neighbors have discussed the idea of working together to **consolidate the trash hauling** for the alley between the two streets. The goal would be to align ourselves primarily with one trash hauler. The main advantages of doing so would include:

- **Fewer trucks** making the run down the alley each week. So: Less noise, less air pollution, less difficulty with trucks blocking the alley in the morning, less wear and tear on the alley, and greater safety for those in cars or on foot.
- **Lower monthly rates**

People have also mentioned an eagerness to identify and make use of **local haulers**, rather than give their business to large national or multi-national firms.

With all this in mind, we've done some research. Tables 1 and 2 (attached) show the results.

Table 1 shows the current situation – how many of the alley neighbors are currently signed up with the listed haulers. Table 1 also gives background information on those haulers – where they're based, where they operate, how big they are, what they do with the trash, etc.

Table 2 shows the "block rates" that local haulers would offer us. Rates are given only for the local haulers currently engaged by alley neighbors. The assumption is that if there is to be consolidation, people will generally prefer 1) a local hauler over a national or multi-national firm, and 2) using one of the local firms already being employed by alley neighbors.

This information is provided to give you a chance to think about the idea in advance of the **alley cleanup and picnic this Saturday May 12**. We plan to have some discussion of the idea of consolidating trash haulers at the picnic. So do bring your ideas, questions, comments, and concerns.

See you Saturday!

The Alley Committee

(Kevin Murphy, Russ Nelson, Tom Marchio, Lou Glad, Chico Hathaway)

**Table 1
Montrose – Mount Curve Alley Trash Haulers
Status as of May 2007**

Hauler	Alley Clients	Local Firm?	Central Office Location	Number of Employees	Service Area	Destination for Trash	Other Notes
Aspen	14	Sort of*	Minneapolis MN,	Approx. 60 (in Twin Cities)	Most of Twin Cities, and St. Louis MO	Newport RRF** and others - 100%	2004 Revenues: \$19M; 42+ trucks
Veolia – owns Eagle, Superior, And Onyx	9	No	Paris, France (US headquarters in Lombard IL.)	270,000	Europe, S. America, N. America	Landfills 60%, Newport RRF 40% (2001 data)	Veolia-owned companies serve 34 nations
Berquist & Son	8	Yes	Was St. Paul, now Inver Grove Hts.	About 8	St. Paul – esp. South and SE portions	Newport RRF 100%	In business in St. Paul since 1930; 9 trucks
Highland Sanitation	5	Yes	Newport MN	About 25	Dakota, Goodhue, Ramsey, and Washington Counties	Newport RRF 100%	In business in St. Paul since 1950; 20 trucks
Waste Management	2	No	Houston TX	Approx. 50,000	USA and Canada	Landfills 60%, Newport RRF 40% (2001 data)	20 million customers; \$14B revenues; 24,000 vehicles
BFI (Allied Waste Services)	2	No	Phoenix AZ	Approx. 26,000	37 US States, and Puerto Rico	Newport RRF 80%, Landfills 20% (2001 data)	Allied owns 304 companies, boasts 10 million customers
Carey Rubbish	2	Yes	Woodbury MN	About 5	Highland, Mac-Groveland, and Meriam Park	Newport RRF 100%	
Unknown	1						

* Aspen's owner lives in the metro area, but its two-city (Twin Cities, and St. Louis MO) operation may disqualify it from being regarded as "local."
 **Newport RRF = Newport's Resource Recovery Facility, owned by NRG Inc. There, "mixed solid waste" (your trash) is sorted to recover recyclables, with the remainder processed and shipped to power plants and boiler facilities for burning to produce energy.

Table 2
Pricing Comparison of Local Trash Haulers' Block Rates
May 2007

(rates shown are per-month and pre-tax)

	35/38-gallon Container	60/65-gallon Container	90/95-gallon Container	One-year Price Guarantee?	Required Alley Participation
Aspen Waste Systems (651) 644-3488	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$13.50	Yes	75%
Berquist & Son (651) 699-2442	\$10	\$12	\$14	No, but rate increases are allegedly very infrequent	75%
Highland Sanitation (651) 437-0001	\$9	\$11	\$13	Yes	75%
Carey Rubbish (651) 739-1221	Did	Not	Respond	To	Calls

Additional Notes:

Taxes add approximately 40% to the charges shown. These taxes include a MN waste management tax, and the Ramsey County environmental charge. Fuel surcharges are also added on to your bill by the haulers, passing on fuel cost increases to you.

Aspen and Berquist offer 2 free months in the first year to those who switch to their service.

Along the Montrose-Mount Curve alley here are 43 homes that have alley trash service. 75% of 43 is about 30 homes; 50% is about 21 homes.