



THE RECYCLER

FALL 2006

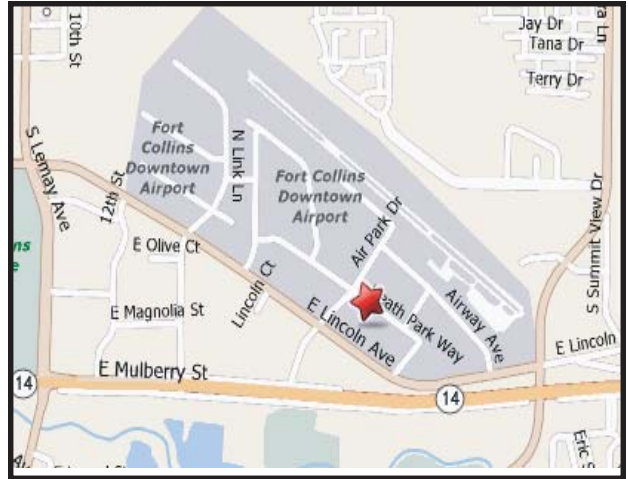
VOLUME 9 ISSUE 4

We Are Moving!

Over the last few decades we have seen Northern Colorado grow to the point that it is almost unrecognizable. The once unknown towns along the I-25 corridor have become cities with their own shopping centers and golf courses and distinct "personalities." Gallegos Sanitation has been privileged to grow along with these communities, providing over 100 jobs to the area. Just this year *Waste Age Magazine* named GSI as one of the Top 100 Waste Haulers in the country.

For many years GSI maintained an office, truck yard and maintenance shop at the corner of Shields Street and Vine Drive. After outgrowing the available office space in 2002, GSI offices were relocated to 1629 Blue Spruce Drive, while the truck shop and yard remained at Vine Drive.

November 2006 will mark the beginning of a new era for GSI. GSI will be serving customers from a new location. While it has been a long time coming, the property located at 1941 Heath Parkway in northeast Fort Collins will provide a home for the whole operation. This building is located in the old Downtown Fort Collins Airpark (see map).



It has always been a strong measure of importance to management to provide the best work environment to our employees as well as continue to grow the business in a healthy way. This new location will provide more room for our growing staff, a larger vehicle maintenance facility for our expanding fleet and equipment repair shop. While there is still much work to be done, the Gallegos family would like to thank everyone for the loyalty and commitment shown over the past 47 years. Thanks to customers our business is ALWAYS picking up!

Fort Collins Considers More Waste Reduction Ideas

Over the past year much thought has gone into finding ways to reduce waste in the Fort Collins community. Late last year a steering committee was initiated to discuss and work out some ways this could be accomplished with a goal of 50% waste reduction in mind. Many ideas came out of these efforts and city staff presented some of these options to city council last spring. While many options were presented, many carry a large price tag or face logistical difficulties creating barriers to implementation.

In August, city council met to primarily discuss two of these options. First, council was asked if they would consider modifying the waste haulers ordinance to require all haulers to offer yardwaste recycling to their customers, and secondly, whether the ordinance should be modified to prohibit waste haulers from accepting computers and other electronic waste, essentially creating a local ban on e-waste disposed of through the regular waste stream.

In late September, City staff met with waste haulers to discuss the feasibility of these service changes. While it had not yet been presented to council, the overall feeling from both staff and haulers is that there will be a ban on e-waste from standard curbside collection. This means that haulers will no longer accept items such as computers, monitors, televisions, microwaves, and other electronic devices at curbside. Instead, these will need to be handled separately, either through the use of drop-off sites or by contracting with a separate E-waste service provider. While there are currently limited resources for disposing of E-waste in our community, the number of these providers is growing throughout the country and even across the state. GSI is investigating partnerships with some of these providers now in order to continue to meet all waste disposal needs of customers throughout northern Colorado communities.

Both city staff and the area waste haulers agree that the cost and benefit of a mandatory yardwaste recycling ordinance are not currently feasible. While this must still go to council for final review, it does appear that yardwaste recycling service will NOT become mandated by the city at this time. GSI has operated a yardwaste recycling program for over 5 years and recently expanded the program, making it available to all GSI trash customers city-wide. This program will be continued in the future with further expansion planned for 2007. With the 2006 season coming to an end, it is never too early to plan for next year.



Service Options & Rates for 2007

One thing that has helped us set aside our hauling operation from the others is the wide variety of services we offer. From waste & recycling services for your business to your home we have a solution to meet customer needs.

For residential customers we provide weekly waste disposal and curbside recycling service, including three cart sizes to choose from, to meet individual hauling needs. We offer complete Pay-As-You-Throw service options including prepaid bag and tag services that give customers complete control over waste disposal costs. We take a large variety of recyclables including the recent additions of cardboard, office paper, and paperboard collected curbside.

For those special projects including construction, remodel and general clean-up, we offer metal waste containers in sizes including 3, 4, 6, 8, 15, 20, and 30 cubic yards in order to meet the smallest to largest project needs.

Like most businesses, this past year we have seen many changes in the local and national economy that have resulted in large cost increases for fuel, insurance, steel and other transportation related materials and services.

In our efforts to continue to provide high levels of service quality and innovation, in the coming months we will process a minimal increase in rates to cover our cost increases incurred over the past year.

We are confident that the markets will stabilize enough to limit this rate assessment to one adjustment for the coming 12 month period. Fuel surcharges and environmental fees have become common in our industry. Some area companies have these on an endlessly increasing scale with fees exceeding 10% of the total monthly billing! We strive to minimize these fees annually and are continually seeking improvements in fuel consumption and alternatives.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, to make any service type changes or to find out what service is the best fit for your budget and waste disposal needs!

Waste & Recycle Facts....

In August of this year the state of California reached its waste diversion goal of 50%. The state set this goal in 1989, through the Integrated Waste Management Act, when nearly 90 percent of all municipal solid waste was going into area landfills. Today, California is diverting 52% of the 76 million tons of waste generated statewide per year. California estimates that over 85,000 jobs and \$4 billion in salaries are an added benefit of the recycling programs and mandates.

On average, Americans waste 25 percent of the food they prepare, dispose of 44 percent of yard debris and over 90 percent of wood waste. Paper makes up the largest part of the waste stream at just over 35 percent. For more information visit <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/organics/reduce.htm>.

According to an Environmental Protection Agency study of municipal waste, roughly 30.6% of MSW was recycled in 2003 (most recent), or around 72 million tons nationwide. This results in energy savings equivalent to 11.9 billion gallons of gasoline!

In 1996, recycling in the US prevented the release of 33 million tons of carbon into the air, which is the equivalent to the amount emitted by 25 million cars annually.

Containers and packaging material alone make up 31% of the total Municipal Solid Waste stream.

Twenty years ago only ONE curbside recycling program existed in the US. By 1998, there were 9,000.

HOLIDAY ALERT!

Area Landfills are closed every year on the following holidays:
New Years Day - Memorial Day - Independence Day - Labor Day - Thanksgiving Day - Christmas Day

For **2006/07**, if your pickup day falls ON or AFTER the following holiday **during the regular work week**, your normal pickup will be **delayed by one day**:

- Thanksgiving Day** Thursday, November 23rd
- Christmas Day** Monday, December 25th
- New Year's Day** Monday, January 1st 2007
- Memorial Day** Monday, May 28th 2007
- Independence Day** Wednesday, July 4th 2007
- Labor Day** Monday, September 3rd 2007



1941 Heath Parkway, Suite 2
 Fort Collins, CO
 Phone: (970) 484-5556
 Fax: (970) 484-0662
 Comments? Mail to:
 P.O. Box 1986
 Fort Collins, CO 80522

Visit us @ www.GallegosSanitation.com