

METUCHEN MESSENGER

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Metuchen Resident:

As the winter gives way to spring, the borough is about to embark on an ambitious program to increase the efficiency of our trash collection process. As you will learn more specifically in this issue of the Metuchen Messenger, the Department of Public Works will begin using an automated truck in two of our neighborhoods. This will begin a two year program of phasing this system into most of Metuchen's neighborhoods. A second truck is included in the 2005 capital budget.

Many of you may have noticed this system in operation in Edison and our system will be very similar to that program. Each resident will be given a large trash can that will be used with our program but will remain the property of the borough. Residents will be asked to place all of their household garbage, excluding recyclables, into these cans. Large bulk items such as sofas or other bulk items will be picked-up within 48 hours on a call in basis.

The borough has been considering this program for several years but we delayed adoption until we could be sure that the equipment that is in use is reliable and effective. Also, we obviously wanted to use the experience of other towns with this program to help us install it in Metuchen.

The borough is adopting this program for two reasons: First, automated trucks protect our workers from injuries that many incur as they collect garbage. Avoiding these injuries will also save tax dollars that are spent in paying compensation claims that arise from these injuries. Additionally, this truck will have one person operating the vehicle compared with our current two person process. When this system is fully implemented, this increased efficiency will allow us to allocate extra workers to other vital needs in our borough as well as save tax dollars through attrition.

Hopefully all residents will familiarize themselves with the information on this program that is contained in this issue of the Messenger so that cooperatively we may successfully implement this program in our borough.

Sincerely,
Ed O'Brien, Mayor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Borough of Metuchen Automated Refuse System	2
News in the Community	3
Health Department	3
Municipal Pool	3
Police Department	3
Calendar	4-5
Public Library	6
Recreation and Cultural Arts	7
Senior Citizens	7
Celebrate National Volunteer Week	8
Labor Day Fireworks	8

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