

# Summer Hours Be- gin May 1st

The Dump will be open again on WEDNESDAYS beginning May 1st.

Sun. 7:00—12:00  
Mon. 7:00 – 2:00  
Tue. 7:00 – 2:00  
Wed. 7:00 - 2:00  
Thur. CLOSED  
Fri. 7:00—2:00  
Sat. 7:00—2:00

We will be CLOSED :

4/16: Patriots Day

BUT OPEN

5/28 Memorial Day

7/4 Fourth of July

9/3 Labor Day

&

# NEW DUMP TIMES

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2012

## What's The Deal, PAYT ?

Before we begin it should be understood that there is at this time no plan to implement a Pay As You Throw (PAYT) system in Ogunquit. And any change to the present system could only occur after open public discourse and due process by the town government.

Our goal here at the Transfer Station is to run the safest, most efficient, most cost effective operation we can conceive of. One that is as simple to manage as it is to use .

Of course nothing is as simple as it seems—waste disposal and recycling and the associated regulations and costs (and income derived from certain materials) are very fluid. Trying to balance all facets is a challenging and interesting game.

At the old Transfer Station it

was possible to throw anything and everything into one bag and let it go into the one hopper.

Construction waste of all kinds was thrown in one big pile and



**Students from the Uof Maine going through garbage at the T.S. last summer as part of a recycling study .**

burned. Going back further, there was a high spot beside the Josiah River on Agamenticus Rd. where people would dump eve-

rything from garbage and glass bottles to Model T's. There was also a dump (or two) in the sand dunes where the parking lot is now.

We now have a new "State of the Art" facility that was built in part to meet the increasingly tightened and strictly enforced D.E.P . Rules and regulations.

This transfer station was also designed for ease of recycling and so that costs could be controlled by separating materials of differing cost and value. You can find the impact of the prices of materials on the cost of running the facility in the first two issues of this newsletter.

So where is this headed ? Why would we even be bringing up the idea of PAYT when the present system seems to be working well and that most seem happy with it?

( Cont. on pg.2 )

## Free Bags and Unicorns

In our retracing search after the perfect system we study how things are done here and at other facilities very closely and notice how even small changes can have big impacts in costs, .. Adding a Cardboard container—one for Aluminum—a Bulky Waste container have all had a huge impact in reducing costs and increasing revenue. In 2007 our budget at the T.S. was over \$400,000.00 . For Contracted Services—the management of

the materials accepted here it was \$78,000.00. This year the numbers are \$386,000.00 and \$57,000.00 . Our tonnage of MSW (garbage) has gone from 2,700 tons in 2002 to 577 tons this year!!! In 2005 our Assessment Fee (based on a 5 year avg of MSW) was \$135,000.00, it is now at \$40,751.00. Great job to everyone who made this happen, the Public and the staffs past and present. But is that good

enough ? Can we do better ?

There is an argument that the reason we should be allowing free bags of trash is because our taxes are too high. Trash is the most costly material we manage and it is also the largest in quantity, so what options does that leave us with to reduce costs and find some [tax] relief ?

( Cont. on pg. 2)

## What's the Deal, PAYT ? (cont. from pg.1)

What is Pay As You Throw/ PAYT ? How does it work ? Let's say you have a neighbor that has a beautiful lawn. Waters it all day, every day. Next door is another that puts up Christmas lights, hundreds of them. Nothing wrong doing those things and the results can be an asset to the neighborhood.

But would you want to pay their water or electric bill ? This is the reason the concept of PAYT was developed.

The idea of paying for someone else's use or misuse of something we all pay for in our

taxes is problematic.. If you are frugal you pay the same as those that are wasteful, and there are few things more wasteful than waste. It is expensive stuff and it is very easy to reduce the amount we have.

I know of families with children who come to the dump less than once a week with one bag of garbage. We see other people—individuals even, coming here every day of the week with a large bag of trash. Where is the garbage going to or coming from in each case ? Both are paying the

same amount for what they bring.

This may not seem to be a concern but if we are to manage costs here we first need to address the source of the waste in order to find the best and fairest way to reduce it.

If a hose is leaking some people will fix the hose, others will want to buy a new one. Either way works but do we want to force the person who wants to save money by fixing the hose to have to pay for a new one ?

Added to this is the value of the material that is kept out of the waste stream.

( Cont. on pg.3.)

## Free Bags and Unicorns (cont. from pg. 1)

Keep in mind, costs could rise; gas prices could have an impact on hauling fees, commodity prices are falling at this time. We need to stay on top of the garbage heap or we may end up under it.

### One Dump, Three Parts

The control of the cost of waste that comes into the Transfer Station can be broken up into three main classes.

Larger quantities of Bulky Waste from construction projects and Household Waste amounts over three bags are accurately accounted for by the new Scale System we installed last year. It is weighed and recorded from either the scale house or remotely from the computer in the main office. The customer pays or is billed for the costs of the weight of the material.

The next class are the smaller amounts of Bulky Material, in bags or barrels and or units of items such as televisions or a

refrigerator or rugs ( we also treat Brush as a unit item ). These items are recorded in the Scale System though not weighed.

The third class are the Unicorns. That magical material that no one and everyone pays for ; bags of Municipal Solid Waste—MSW—your garden variety garbage, 575 tons of it last year which cost us \$55,000 in tipping fees plus another \$10,000 in hauling fees.

Total "Free" Bags allowed last year were 35,000 which at an estimated 20lbs per bag avg. equals @ 350 Tons / \$31,000( at 25 lbs per bag 437 Tons it would be closer to \$50,000). Add to that hauling fees of \$6,000.00 for an approximate cost of free trash that costs \$35,000 .

Along with other free waste hauled in by the Public Works Department and our \$41,000.00 Assessment ( see past issues for details) taxes pay for over

\$40,000.00 of our waste and that is each and every year. That's one hungry unicorn.

### The Challenge

This is basis of why recycling matters. Someone—all of us are paying for that waste. If you are one of the many people we see separating out paper and cardboard and bottles and cans (and the numbers show we are making the effort) you are making a difference, you are helping keep the costs down here which reduces The Towns expenses and so those costs do not contribute to a higher tax bill.

Of course the cry of "our taxes never go down" is used as an argument against doing anything. This is very puzzling as I know if I cut one dollar from my budget that dollar—even if that dollar appears in another

( Cont. on pg. 3

# Even If Is Not Broken, Can it Be Better ?

It is clear to those of us who work here at the Ogunquit Transfer Station that there is an awareness of the need to recycle . We see it and the numbers back it up. We are also happy to see that there is less cardboard in the paper box and more and more in the box set aside for that valuable stuff.

However we also notice that there is confusion over what a “FREE BAG” of waste is exactly and the purpose of the ordinance limiting it to ONE 33 GALLON Bag or Barrel of HOUSEHOLD WASTE—NOT construction material or rugs or mattresses etc. or umbrellas—PER VISIT.

- Two 33 gallon bags stuffed into one

- 45 gallon barrel does not count as one bag.
- Three 33 gallon Bags in a 90 gallon barrel does not count as one bag.
- Two small Hannaford bags do not count as two bags.
- Question : How many gallons do three (3) 15 gallon white bags add up to ? - Do the math.

We realize part of the confusion is a result of inconsistent enforcement on the part of the staff at the Transfer Station, though that is more a result of the difficulty in judging exactly what is a 33 gallon bag (or how much a 33 gal.

bag is filled if it is a 33 gal. bag) and our desire to be as fair as possible than it is a dereliction.

How do we charge a person with a 33 gal. three quarters full ? How about one and a half 33 gal. bags (those three 15 gal bags—plus 4 pounds) ? I am sure no one wants to see us start collecting change.

There are other complications and misunderstandings with the present system.

How do we address those who feel they should be allowed to bring 4-5 bags in one trip if they can only come to the ( Cont. on pg. 4)

## What Is The Deal, PAYT (cont.from pg.2)

The waste stream (to continue with the water analogy). Not only can money be saved by not throwing out as much, but the recycled mate-

rial is worth money—more or else according to the markets. Recycling, It's a win—win.

### Some interesting facts :

- “PAYT” was first implemented in Austria in 1945.

- 30% of Japan now has a PAYT system.
- During WW2 when raw materials were scarce 33% of all paper was recycled.

## Free Bags and Unicorns (Cont. from pg.2)

department that dollar was still kept out of the Towns operating expenses. We are able to control costs at the Transfer Station and every 10% reduction in waste is over \$6,000.00 saved.

Multiple studies over the past decade (published in Resource Recycling) show a 17% reduction of residential trash, one third of which is an increase in recycling with PAYT.

The recycling rate in San Jose , Ca. ( a city of close to 1 million people ) rose to 55% with PAYT.

Dover ,N.H. , reduced it's waste from 11,000 tons per year to 3,900 tons and it's waste disposal budget went from \$1.2 million to \$878,000.00.

In the first seven weeks of it's PAYT program Sanford (Me.) the recycling rate went from 7.5% to 41% and the amount of waste fell from 155 tons avg per week to 63 tons— a savings of \$ 275,000 in disposal costs. Since that program was ended by referendum last November the recycling rate fell back to 24% and costs

rose \$ 148,392.00.

San Francisco makes \$20,709,288.00 from the sale of recyclables, it's budget for waste removal is \$6.6 million. Boston makes \$102,000.00 and it's budget is \$36,000.000. San Francisco is PAYT—Boston includes waste as part of property taxes.

It is understood that there are a lot of complicated factors that produce those numbers, but it is clear and logical that PAYT has a very positive impact on waste reduction, recycling rates, and budget reduction.

The good news; we start from a ( relatively ) high 50% recycling rate here in Ogunquit. The bad news is that that's only half the glass and to better that number and lower costs we will all have to work harder.

It is also understood that there are people in this community for whom an extra dollar means an awful lot—though they are probably not producing a great deal of waste and allowances could be made for those with special needs.

Of the various ways thought up to deal with this worldwide problem of reducing waste we have and will continue to look into ways such as pass cards and punch cards but PAYT is the simplest, least expensive and most effective way. This is why so many towns now use the system The individual is given control of the amount they pay.

It would be wonderful to see our numbers continue to improve without any change, but every year we wait is money thrown away.

Isn't it better to know, even if your taxes still do not go down, that the dollar saved from reduced waste might go toward another more important sector of the towns needs who's costs are much more difficult to control such as more law enforcement resources or improving our ambulance or fire services which are a far better use of any wasted tax dollars than paying for garbage—or even more of a waste—

## Additional Information on PAYT

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/payt/index.htm>  
<http://www.wastezero.com/WasteZeroImpact/Movie.html>  
<http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/>  
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/payfact.htm>  
Economist's View: Trash Talk: Pay-As-You-Throw Systems (Google)  
[http://waste360.com/mag/waste\\_payasyouthrow](http://waste360.com/mag/waste_payasyouthrow)  
<http://www.wasterecyclingnews.com/opinion2.html?cat=3&id=1300716750>  
<http://hbswk.hbs.edu/cgi-bin/print/6675.html>  
[http://www.pressherald.com/news/sanford-on-top-of-recycling-yes\\_2010-08-30.html](http://www.pressherald.com/news/sanford-on-top-of-recycling-yes_2010-08-30.html)  
<http://andoverma.gov/publish/paytreport.pdf>



**transferstation@townofogunquit.org**

## NOTICE

Effective immediately, businesses or commercial quantities (7 or more delivered at one time) of fluorescent bulbs, spiral bulbs or CFL's can no longer be accepted at the Transfer Station site.

This policy is being implemented as our contracted hauler will only accept these materials if generated by households, as well as for safety concerns associated with broken bulbs.

These materials will need to be handled by approved consolidators.

See our website for more details.

## Even If It Is Not Broken ( Cont. from pg. 2 )

Transfer Station once a week ? Understandable, logical, but beyond the measurability of all those bags it is against the intent of the ordinance which is to discourage waste and increase recycling. How can we possibly know if all those bags are from that one household or how many times that person has been here that week ?

What about those taxpayers who have more than one property ? How do we control that there are not people taking advantage of being able to bring in multiple bags each day ?

Another challenge; Those who live outside of town but have property in Ogunquit. How do we ensure that the bag they bring here is only coming from the property they are paying taxes on here. If it costs to throw out waste everywhere but here there are certainly going to be cheaters.

Not all feel the rules apply to all equally—it's only garbage—what is the harm ? What is most unbalanced in the present system is that the majority are complying and making an

effort. But with this system those that tax the system the most benefit the most. There are loopholes you can drive a garbage truck through.

We have looked into punch card systems and credit card type swipe card systems and toll pass type systems - and beside the cost of those systems , there are the additional administrative costs and inherent logistical problems.

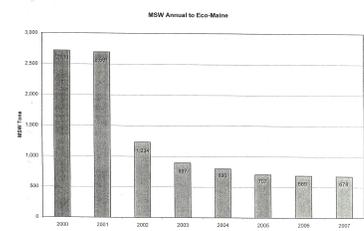
There is still the problem of the variety of bags. It would also be necessary to stop - every- single - car - (over 300 on a busy summer day) - that - enters - the-site. We can do it, if that's what is preferred.

Maybe we should just stop charging ?

If you look at the graph below you will notice the drop in waste after 2001-2002. What caused that ? Largely it was the prohibition of commercial waste from dumping here. It was also at that same time we started charging a dollar for an extra bag of waste. The

continued drop in tonnage after the commercial haulers were banned shows that charging has made a difference.

If you look at the example in Sanford ( see the bottom of page three ) you can see what might result if we were to stop charging by reading the graph from right to left.



MSW Annual to Ecomaine 2001-2011