



# Township of North Brunswick Department of Public Works ...working for you!



## Spring Highlights

Spring 2013 Vol. 1

45 Quarry Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

[www.northbrunswicknj.gov](http://www.northbrunswicknj.gov)

(732) 297-1134

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Brush Collection
- 2 General Yard Debris
- 3 Sewer Problems?
- 4 Grasscycle Information
- 5 Automated Trash Cans
- 6 Recycling Information
- 7 Paint Drop Off
- 8 Household Hazardous Waste
- 9 Additional Contact Information



#### *Did you know....*

*Brush is collected all year long, by appointment. Call us to make an appointment!*

## Brush collection

DPW will gladly pick up brush for you, by appointment. Please be sure that they meet the requirements: Brush/branches must be less than 4 feet long, and bundle tied in groups no heavier than 40 pounds each. Contractors working in residents' yards should prepare brush in this fashion. Loose brush/branches will not be collected. Brush is collected on Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only. Remember, nothing should be at the curb more than 24 hours prior to pick up!

Sticks too small to bundle? You can put them in a plastic bag or an open container for bulk collection. Please call us for an appointment.

## Yard debris collection

Items like small sticks, "sticky balls", last year's leaves, plant material, etc. are general yard debris. While it's tempting to use the paper leaf bags, thinking that these items can be recycled, **please DO NOT use the paper bags. Those are for use for LEAVES ONLY and are collected in the FALL ONLY.** Left over leaves in the springtime are yard debris and not formally recycled by the Township. Please put yard debris in black plastic bags and call us for a bulk pick up.

## Sewer Problems?

The North Brunswick Sewer Department is here to help! If you have a back up, and just aren't sure what to do, please do call the Sewer Department! The Sewer Department can be reached at (732) 297-1134. Always call us first before you call a plumber if you aren't sure if the problem is with the sewer main in the street or with the lateral pipe that runs from your house to the street. The Sewer Department can help you figure out whether you even need a plumber!

Questions? Call DPW  
(732) 297-1134

After regular business hours, please call Police Dispatch at (732) 545-3200 and they will get someone from the Sewer Department to help you.



### What about thatch?

*Thatch is an accumulation of dead roots, stems and rhizomes. Clippings are 95% water and decompose too quickly to contribute to thatch*

## "Grasscycle" Grass clippings

We encourage residents to mulch the grass back into your lawns, also known as "Grasscycling". Starting this process early in the season can result in a healthier lawn without the use of chemicals which could be harmful to the drinking water supply and the environment in general.

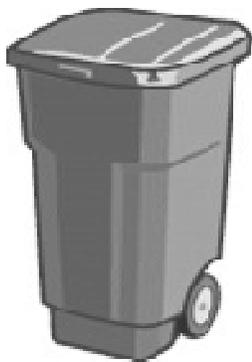
## Water and Fertilize Less!

- When grasscycling is properly done, clippings settle quickly between the blades of grass where they shelter roots from the sun and conserve moisture. As they break down, they release more moisture as well as nutrients into the soil.
- Believe it or not, clippings left on the lawn supply 1/3 more of the nitrogen needed to keep your lawn green and healthy.
- Water as early in the morning as possible. Do not over-water - too much water causes your lawn to develop shallow root systems. Water less but more deeply.

## Simple steps to Grasscycle

- ✓ Cut your lawn more frequently - only the top 1/3 of the grass blade should be cut, and leave the clippings to fertilize your lawn.
- ✓ Mow your lawn when it's dry to prevent tracking and clumping.
- ✓ Keep your lawn mower blade sharp.
- ✓ No special equipment is needed - while mulching mowers do a great job, any conventional mower can **grasscycle**. Adapter kits are available at hardware stores.

For residents unable to "grasscycle", clippings can be put in black plastic bags in your regular trash container. Loose clippings dumped in the container will mean your trash will not be collected until the clippings are bagged. Bagged grass clippings will **not** be collected as a bulk pick up.



## Your Automated Trash Container

If you are a resident with once a week, automated trash collection, you have the big blue can with wheels that we call "robo cans". The container is assigned specifically to your address and remains the property of the Township of North Brunswick. If your container is damaged, we will replace it or repair it free of charge by appointment. Residents may purchase a second container for \$60. Call DPW for details. There is a maximum of 2 containers per residential address.

## Placement of your Automated Trash Container

It is extremely important that your container be placed at the curb with the wheels facing the curb, and at least 4 feet from ANY OTHER OBJECT - another container, a vehicle, street sign, fire hydrant, etc. Failure to do this may result in your trash not being collected!

## Recycling and Solid Waste...what's the difference?

*You may have heard something like this, or even thought this yourself:*

"What's the big deal about recycling cans, bottles, cardboard, grayboard, and all types of paper? So what if I forget and just throw the stuff in the trash? It hardly makes a difference anyway...."

### Nothing could be further from the truth!

Residential curbside recycling has been the law in New Jersey since 1987 when Governor Tom Kean signed the legislation, the first in the country. Prompted by dwindling landfill space, the high cost of solid waste disposal, and a desire to preserve our natural resources, this law was amongst the most comprehensive in the nation at the time.

According to Keep America Beautiful, in 2009, residents of the United States recycled **82 million tons of materials curbside**. The resulting carbon dioxide emissions reduction was equivalent to taking **33 million passenger vehicles off the road!** Quite the accomplishment!



Curbside recycling materials also contribute to the "bottom line". Solid waste costs North Brunswick money to dump, the money in labor hours, vehicle use - everything is a cost center. Recyclable materials do have costs associated but the reality is that recyclables are a "commodity", meaning the product itself generates money. The money generated helps to offset the collection costs. In addition, every item recycled is one less item that ends up in the landfill, so essentially, not only do we generate a little bit of income with each piece of recycling, we also save money in disposal costs for the same items.

*It's like getting paid twice for each piece of recycling!*



## There is work still to be done!

According to NJToday.net, New Jersey residents are largely recycling less today than in the 1990's in terms of tons recycled.

There are several reasons for the decline. Sometimes folks get complacent after many years of recycling. Perhaps the biggest reason we have seen a decrease in recycling tonnage is that manufacturers are making these products lighter and thinner than ever before. It used to take 27 aluminum cans to make a pound, now it takes 33. Water bottles are ubiquitous, and previously were made of much thicker material. Now they are so lightweight, it takes many more to equal the same tonnage fewer bottles used to generate. Newspaper used to be a recycling "heavy hitter" - they were easy to recycle, and contributed greatly to the tonnage. With more and more people getting their news from electronic sources, that recycling stream has declined significantly.

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### *Did you know....*

*Recycling toilet tissue rolls, paper towel rolls, cereal boxes, mac & cheese boxes and similar items all help the "bottom line" and the environment!*

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## How can you help?

If every household made a commitment to recycle two additional items every week for each person in the household, we would not only be helping our environment, we would be helping the "bottom line!"



In our next newsletter, we will discuss "non-traditional" recycling.

## Old paint or old varnishes? The County can help!

Middlesex County has a paint drop off program throughout the county each Saturday. The one closest to North Brunswick is located at New Brunswick Public Works, 400 Jersey Avenue the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month** from 8am until noon. Bring your latex paint, oil based paints, varnishes, lacquers, paint thinner, spray paints and driveway sealers to this location for proper disposal. The Township cannot collect these items as they need to be disposed of in an environmentally sensitive manner. If you have questions about this program, please call the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management at (732) 745-4170



## Household Hazardous Waste Day – May 18<sup>th</sup> 2013

What to do with that old anti-freeze from the garage? How about those fluorescent bulbs taking up space in the basement? Drain cleaners, adhesives, paints, thinner, mercury-containing thermostats or thermometers collecting dust in a closet or shed? The Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste is again sponsoring another Household Hazardous Waste Drop Day in North Brunswick. Bring these and many more items to the County Facility on Apple Orchard Lane (off Route 130) on **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 between 8:00 am - 2:00 pm.**



The County sponsors these drop off dates all year throughout Middlesex County. They also have other terrific drop off programs for paint and paint related items, electronics and much more! Please check their website at: <http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/>. Click on "Departments" and choose "Solid Waste Management". You can see links to all the great programs for residents plus lots of other relevant information. Feel free to check out the rest of the website while you're at it! You can always call them for more information at (732) 745-4170.

*Don't forget to check Facebook or [northbrunswicknj.gov](http://northbrunswicknj.gov) for any trash collection changes or recycling pick up changes, or call us at 732-297-1134.*

**Check our website often for Township updates and news:  
[www.northbrunswicknj.gov](http://www.northbrunswicknj.gov)**

### Additional Contacts:



- Government & Municipal Complex ..... (732) 247-0922
- American Water..... (877) 783-5560
- Waste Management (Recycling)..... (800) 633-9096
- Police Non-emergency ..... (732) 545-3200
- Sewer Dept. - Business Hours..... (732) 297-1134
- Sewer or DPW Emergency - Non Business Hours ..... (732) 545-3200