



ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

www.oroloma.org

Spring 2004

Issue 34

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NO RATE INCREASE!

New!

Recycling Program Starts March 1, 2004

- Compressed Natural Gas Trucks Replace Diesel Trucks (See below)
- All-In-One Cart Recycling (See page 3)

New!

Two Bulky Pickups A Year

(See page 2)

Compressed Natural Gas Trucks

Starting March 1, 2004, recycling material in Oro Loma will be collected by new, automated trucks. These trucks, which use compressed natural gas (CNG) for fuel, are less polluting and have quieter engines than trucks using diesel fuel or gasoline. Because CNG trucks use an automated arm to pick up recycling, the recycling cart must be placed in the street with its wheels against the curb and it must have a three-foot clearance on both sides. (See illustration below.) If possible, for convenience and uniformity, residents are also urged to place

Continued on page 2

New Cart Setout Starts March 1, 2004



The RECYCLING CART must be set in the street with the wheels against the curb. There must be a three-foot clearance on each side to accommodate automated pickup.

When practical, please set the green waste and garbage carts in the street, with the wheels against the curb.

**If you have questions or concerns about your cart placement,
call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.**

Customers who use green recycling bins instead of carts are
not affected by the new recycling program.

San Lorenzo Village Homeowners Association residents, please see page 5.



Two Bulky Pickups A Year

As part of the District's amended contract with Waste Management, residential customers in Oro Loma can now take advantage of two bulky pickups per calendar year, instead of one. There is no increase in garbage and recycling fees for this additional pickup. Be sure to call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 at least two weeks in advance to schedule your pickup.

Before throwing out useful items from your garage or basement, consider donating them to charity or holding a garage sale. Old magazines and newspapers can be recycled, as can corrugated cardboard and many types of plastic and metal containers. For a complete list of what is accepted for recycling pickup, visit www.oroloma.org.



All of the Following Items Are Accepted for Pickup:



Trash in bags or disposable cartons (up to 2 cubic yards, which is approximately 16 large trash bags, or a stack 3'x3'x6')

+



Bundled wood, tree limbs, brush, etc. (not more than 4' in length and 6" in diameter)

+



Passenger car tires (up to 4)

+



Household furniture (up to 3 large items, including mattresses)

+



Large appliances (up to 3)

These Items Are NOT Accepted for Pickup:



Rocks, dirt, and concrete



Any single item over 75 lbs (other than furniture and appliances)



Hazardous materials, such as pesticides, paint, solvents, gasoline, antifreeze, and batteries.

Household Hazardous Waste

Call (800) 606-6606 for drop-off locations and times and for further information on safe disposal of household hazardous waste. Information is also available on the Web at www.household-hazwaste.org.

CNG Trucks continued from page 1

their green waste and garbage carts in the street with the wheels against the curb.

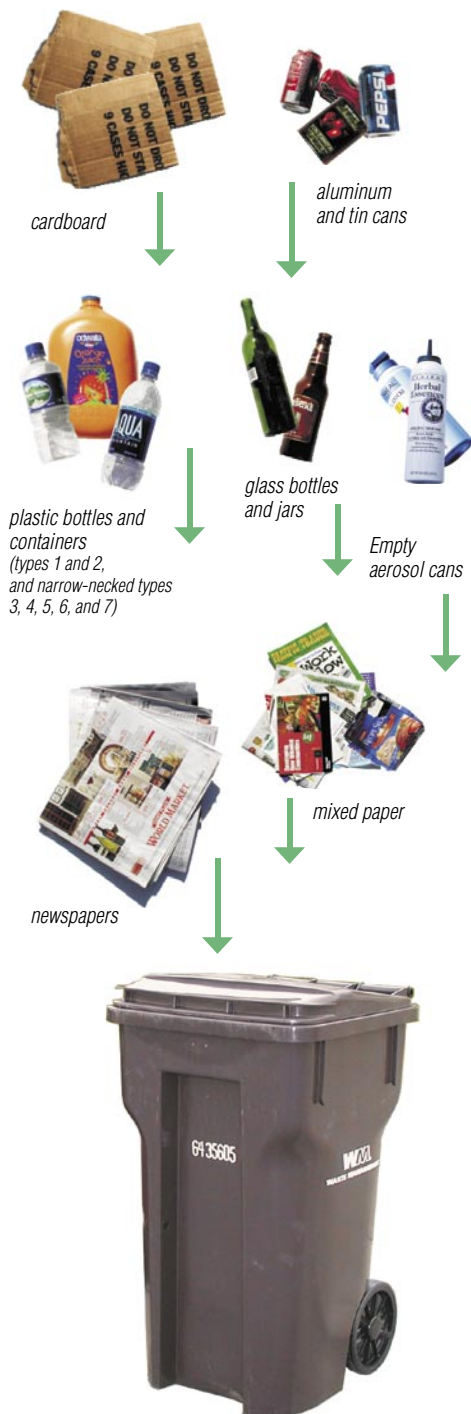
Residents who presently receive backyard pickup service will continue to receive this assistance. Customers who presently use green bins to recycle, will continue to separate their recycling materials into the bins. However, all residential Oro Loma customers will be able to take advantage of the new two bulky pickups a year. (See above.)



New CNG trucks use an automated arm to grab and lift the recycling cart. In order to grab the cart, the arm needs a three-foot clearance on both sides of the cart.

All-In-One Recycling

Starting March 1, 2004, all recyclable material goes into one recycling cart. **There is no need to separate recyclable material.** All recycling must go into one cart. Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 if you need a larger recycling cart (up to 96-gallons), which will be provided at no additional cost.



Plans Are Underway for Oro Loma's Plant Addition Project

Oro Loma is about to begin construction on the largest plant restoration project in the District's history. The \$26.5 million project is necessary to restore the plant's 20 million gallons a day (MGD) treatment capacity in compliance with newer, more stringent environmental and regulatory requirements. Following are the highlights of this ambitious and essential project.

- The engineering firm of HDR/Dodson was chosen from a field of distinguished firms to provide design and construction specifications for the plant additions. Besides providing engineering expertise, HDR has assisted District staff in ensuring compliance with numerous EPA-mandated design and environmental regulations and with obtaining required permits.
- The District will be adding a fifth raw sewage influent pump to be used during wet weather and in emergencies, such as loss of electrical power. This standby pump is rated at 30 million gallons a day and it is necessary to meet EPA redundant system requirements. The new pump will increase the total pumping capacity to approximately 130 MGD.
- An additional bar screen and grinder will be added to better filter wastewater coming into the plant. Such devices are necessary to protect plant equipment and to meet redundant system requirements.
- Ferric chloride will be added to wastewater in the first part of the treatment process to improve the settling of solids in the primary clarifiers. This will save the District millions of dollars that would otherwise be spent on increasing the oxygen supply in the second part of the treatment process.
- The District will be installing three new secondary clarifiers to replace the present three outdated units. The old 90' square, 9' deep clarifiers will be replaced with 120' round and 18' deep tanks. The new, modern design units will provide greater volume, better treatment, and clearer water.
- By heating sludge to an average of 98°, the District's digesters create beneficial and sanitary biosolids out of the solid byproducts of wastewater treatment. A new 5.2 million BTU boiler and three new spiral heat exchangers will replace the District's vintage 1957 sludge heaters, making the process both more efficient and more reliable.

Any undertaking of this size requires many modifications to the existing plant while keeping the plant operations going 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It also requires the dedication of Oro Loma staff to ensure the project is properly managed on behalf of the District's customers.



Left to Right:
Senior Project Engineer
Seyed Moeel, District Engineer Mike Cortez, and Project Manager Terry Allen review plans for the Oro Loma plant capacity restoration project.

Oro Loma Earth Day 2004 Poster Contest Ends March 15

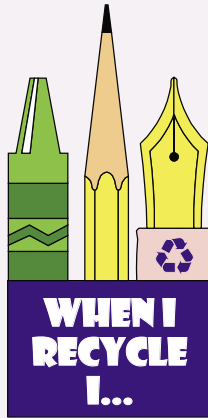
Students, don't miss out — complete the phrase, "When I recycle, I..." Then create a poster to illustrate your slogan. You could win valuable prizes for yourself and for your school in the Oro Loma Earth Day 2004 Poster Contest.

The contest is free and open to all students, grades K-12, attending a school in the Oro Loma Sanitary District. Cash prizes will be awarded in each of six grade categories in the following amounts: \$500 for first place; \$300 for second place; \$200 for third place; and two honorary mention prizes of \$100 each. The names of all the winners will be announced on Earth Day, April 22, on the contest hotline at (510) 613-2855 and on the Oro Loma Web site at www.oroloma.org, but the prizes each student has won will not be revealed until the awards ceremony, which will be held on May 11, 2004 at the San Leandro Marina Community Center. Matching cash prizes will be awarded to the winning students' schools.

Free poster paper and entry forms are available from your school, from Waste Management, and from Oro Loma.

Hurry, the contest ends March 15, 2004!

For more information, visit www.oroloma.org or call the contest hotline at (510) 613-2855.



President's Message

The year 2004 is going to be an exciting one for the District! Your sewage treatment plant, built in 1967, at the West end of Grant Avenue will undergo major renovation. Plans and specifications have been completed for this \$26.5 million project, and by the time you read this message, the bid process will have begun. The project is expected to take three years to complete.

The District's garbage contract was extended and renewed in late 2003. The extension greatly improves and expands our garbage and recycling service, while at the same time, it saves our customers money by minimizing future rate increases. Among the benefits of the revised contract: All recycling goes into a single cart with no need to separate recyclable materials. (See page 3.) New, cleaner burning, compressed natural gas trucks automatically pick up recycling carts. And the popular, on-call bulky pickup program is expanded to two pickups a year. (See page 2.)

Change, however, is not without challenges, and some residents have expressed concerns about the need to place all their carts in the street. We value the input of our customers and we wish to make the transition to the new program as seamless as possible. Therefore, we still recommend that, for ease and uniformity, all carts be placed in the street. However, the recycling cart **must** be placed in the street. Because of the automated arm, which lifts the recycling cart, this cart must be placed in the street, with its wheels against the curb, and it must have a three-foot clearance on each side.

You may have received an insert in your garbage bill describing the new cart placement. While, as I have said, the garbage and green waste carts are not required to be placed in the street, please refer to the photo on page 1 for the correct placement of your recycling cart. If you have questions or concerns about your cart placement, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.

We recognize that there may still be some potential conflicts, including street parking and street sweeping. These are not insurmountable obstacles, and we trust that the conflicts will be addressed and resolved to everyone's satisfaction. Also, your Board is aware of a recent decline in the quality of customer service provided by Waste Management. We are actively working on finding solutions, so that excellence in service can quickly be restored in Oro Loma.

The Oro Loma Sanitary District Board is always interested in hearing from its customers. If you have any ideas, concerns, or comments, you can let us know by calling, writing, or attending our Board meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 3 pm. You could also visit us online at www.oroloma.org.

Ask Sam

Dear Sam —

I'm confused. Where am I supposed to put my carts? In the street? On the sidewalk by the curb? Someplace else?



Confused

Dear Confused—

I don't blame you for being confused. The Oro Loma Sanitary District covers many areas and many different neighborhoods. All of these areas have unique needs and circumstances. What might work in one place, might not work in another. Customers who are part of the San Lorenzo Village Homeowner's Association are not taking part in the in-the-street, automated recycling pickup program at this time. Parts of Hayward don't use recycling carts at all. Their recycling program remains the same. For everyone else, recycling carts **must** go in the street with the wheels against the curb. If practical, please put your garbage and green waste carts in the street, too. It's very important that the recycling cart has a three-foot clearance on each side, so the automated arm of the new CNG truck can pick up the cart. If you can't put your garbage and green waste carts in the street, continue to do what you've been doing — put them at the curb, on the sidewalk. If you're still confused, call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 and they will help you.

Upon written request from the San Lorenzo Village Homeowners Association, automated, in the street pick-up is not being made available to San Lorenzo Village Homeowners Association residents at this time. Therefore, these residents should continue placing their carts as they currently do, and should disregard bill inserts and any other instructional information they receive related to the implementation of the new program. All other provisions of the new program, set to begin March 1, 2004, will apply. Customers can verify whether or not they belong to the San Lorenzo Village Homeowners Association by consulting the Association's map or by contacting the Association directly at (510) 276-4554.



Oro Loma Sanitary District
2600 Grant Avenue
San Lorenzo, CA 94580

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION
New
Recycling Program
Starts March 1

Bay-Friendly Gardening: From your Backyard to the Bay

Coming Spring 2004

In the Bay Area, what you do in your garden — from applying fertilizer to planting a lawn — affects the Bay. Bay-Friendly Gardening means simplifying garden care, reducing chores and minimizing the use of water, fertilizers, and pesticides.

Learn more about Bay-Friendly Gardening techniques by participating in one of the workshops offered by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and its partners: Aquatic Outreach Institute and Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program.

Bay-Friendly Garden Tour

Showcasing Natural Garden Techniques
Sunday, May 2, 2004, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Visit local examples of Bay-Friendly Gardens on this free self-guided tour. Over 30 residential gardens will be featured throughout Alameda County.



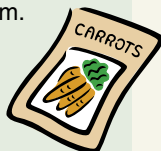
Visit www.stopwaste.org to register for the tour, or call (510) 444-SOIL for more information. The tour is co-sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Bay-Friendly Gardening Workshop Series

A series of free hands-on workshops will be offered in spring-summer 2004. Call (510) 444-SOIL or visit www.stopwaste.org to request a spring workshop schedule. Workshop participants will receive a free Bay-Friendly Gardening guide.

Discount Compost Bins

Composting is the chemical-free way to build healthy soil. Alameda County residents can purchase a top-quality Biostack bin for only \$38 (retail \$89), a Home Composter bin for just \$17 (retail \$69) or a Wiggly Wranch worm bin for \$25 (retail \$100). To purchase a bin or for more information, visit www.stopwaste.org or call (510) 444-SOIL. Order now! Prices go up on June 1, 2004.



Spotlight on Excellence: Sally Green

Sally Green's sunny voice is most likely the first thing you'll hear when you call Oro Loma. And if you stop by the District office, Sally is usually the person to greet you at the reception desk. Have a question about a sewer permit? Do you think the sewer in front of your house might be backing up? Want to know whom to call to find out more about the Earth Day Poster Contest? Sally can help you.



In addition to staffing the main phone and reception desk, Sally helps with the secretarial needs of other departments and orders all the clerical supplies to keep the front office running smoothly. This year, Sally is also helping to organize the Oro Loma Earth Day 2004 Poster Contest.

Sally's love of working with the public is evident from the cheerful way she greets customers, but the long-time Oro Loma resident has a rich and active life away from work, as well. Sally considers her three sons, Adam, Nathan, and Jared and husband, Ray, the primary focus of her life. In fact, it wasn't until the youngest, Jared, was in high school that Sally took on a position that kept her away from home during the day. Before that, she held jobs in sales and customer service that allowed her the flexibility to be with her children when they returned from school. Now that Sally is with Oro Loma, she plans to stay until she is ready to retire (which, Sally says, is a long way off).

Although she enjoys being a spectator when it comes to attending her sons' athletic competitions, Sally believes it is important to be physically fit herself. An avid walker, Sally walks three to four miles a day. And to keep her mind sharp? Why Sally talks to Oro Loma customers, of course!