



# The Garbage Gazette



## City of Logan Environmental Division

Information about Recycling, Garbage disposal, the Landfill and other Environmental Issues for the Citizens of Cache County.

## Issue number 4

### Environmental Division

Environmental Director  
Issa Hamud

Environmental Engineer  
Eric Dodson

Permits & Compliance Manager  
Lynn Miller

Landfill Manager  
Richard Albiston

Solid Waste Collection Manager  
Steve Larsen

Administrative Secretary  
Karen Poppleton



716-9753

[www.cvcleanteam.org](http://www.cvcleanteam.org)

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## Doctor Garbology

*By Shalayne Merrill, Recycling Specialist*

"Dr. Garbology Rocks!" states Jordeane Dent, winner of this years Employee Earth Week Contest. Employees of Logan City have started seeing a new face around the office. The creation of Dr. Garbology has been welcomed to the City Staff by the Environmental Division.

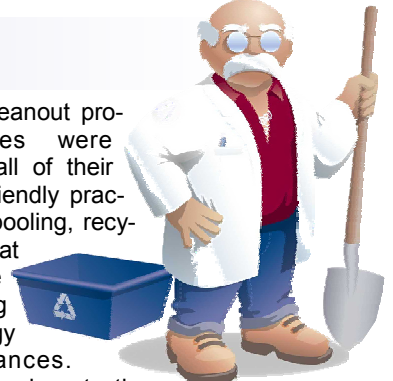
This retired professor and Doctor of "garbage" is the leading expert in landfilling and recycling. He has been given his own office and email for City staff to contact him directly about any recycling needs, questions or recycling emergencies. The Environmental Division is excited to have Garbology on board. "We are thrilled to have him here, and hope he can excite the city to recycle more and help train us in our recycling needs" said Environmental Engineer Eric Dodson.

Dr. Garbology has been assigned to head up the Recycling Task Force Operation Unit (the RTFOU), making him available to answer recycling questions and help out with the City Recycling and Office Cleanout programs. Garbology hosted an employee Earth Week contest this past April along

with the Office Cleanout program. Employees were given points for all of their environmentally friendly practices such as carpooling, recycling materials at home and in the office, and using water and energy efficient appliances.

Awards were then given to the employees with the most points. Along with the contest, each employee who participated in the Office Cleanout Program was given an Earth Day Stress Ball as well. "He has already been a great addition to our staff and has made a good impression" said Carl Francis, Recycling Programs Coordinator.

So if you see Dr. Garbology around, don't be afraid to say hello and let him know how your recycling efforts are going. Dr. Garbology can be reached at [drgarbology@loganutah.org](mailto:drgarbology@loganutah.org).



Dr. Enus Garbology, RTFOU

## Scouting Award

*By Shalayne Merrill, Recycling Specialist*

When you meet Mike Rowell, he may seem like any other 14 year old teenager, however Rowell is in the process of receiving the William T. Hornaday Scouting award, given only one other time in Utah. This past Spring Rowell worked with the Environmental Division and Mayor Hall of Millville to host a Household Hazardous Waste day for the residents of Providence & Millville.

Rowell, who likes to spend his time playing basketball, baseball and wrestling with his two brothers was just 12 when he received his Eagle Scout award, and that isn't stopping him from completing the William T. Hornaday award.

The Hornaday award is a conservation award given to Eagle Scouts who complete a total of at least 4 major projects that will

have a lasting effect on the community. Rowell has completed two of these major projects. His first project was to rebuild the White Pine hike trail near Tony Grove lake. Rowell planted shrubs, trees, and cleaned up the trail staying overnight at Tony Grove. For Rowell's second project, he organized 11 different Scout troops to help pass out information and take part in the collection of Household Hazardous waste from the residents of Providence and Millville. There were over 150 volunteers that ended up helping with this project and on May 10th these Scout troops worked hard all morning to collect used oil, paint, and other Household Hazardous Waste to be collected by the Environmental Division. "I was really impressed by how well organized this event was, even with the bad weather there was a great turn-



L to R: Scout Leader Nathan Zollinger, Mike Rowell, his father David Rowell and Charles Martineau Landfill Technician

out" said Charles Martineau, Landfill Technician for the City of Logan.

The Environmental Division appreciates Rowell and all the scout troops who helped with this household hazardous waste day. Good Luck to Mike Rowell in receiving this prestigious award.

For more information about Household Hazardous Waste, please see Hazardous Waste on p.3 or call the Logan Landfill at 750-9981.



## Environmental Employees

The Environmental Division would like to introduce our new employees and congratulate those receiving awards:



Joe Terry was hired in March 2003 as an equipment operator for the environmental division. Joe is responsible for the operation on a variety of the solid waste collection trucks and routes. He is responsible for the routine maintenance and cleaning of his collection truck, as well as conducting pre and post trip inspections. Joe has been assigned to the alternate crew which means he will fill in as a substitute on the residential and commercial routes and help with the collection of bulk and Green Waste refuse.



Jim Harps was hired in April 2003 to a Pretreatment Inspector. Jim has worked for the Environmental Division for the past 2 years in charge of container maintenance. Jim graduated from Utah State University in May of 2002 in Environmental Health. His new responsibilities with Logan City will include helping industrial facilities stay in compliance by performing inspections, sam-

pling, and education. Jim will also provide technical assistance to the Permits and Compliance department within the Environmental Division.



Congratulations to Kyle Baird who was promoted to a Pretreatment Inspector in April 2003. Kyle has worked for the Environmental Division as a part time Pretreatment Inspector for the past 2 years and has been promoted to a full time inspector. Kyle graduated from Utah State University last December from the Plants, Soils, and Biometeorology Department. As a pretreatment inspector Kyle will be responsible for helping industrial facilities stay in compliance by performing inspections, sampling, and education. Kyle will also provide technical assistance to the Permits and Compliance department within the Environmental Division.



Congratulations to Jorge Gonzalez who received his 15 year service award in April for his work with Logan City. Jorge started with the Solid Waste Department on April 18, 1988 as an equipment operator. He started out operat-

ing the small truck rural route and in 1990 started driving one of the first automated trucks when we switched to the automated system. He has worked with the residential collection team ever since. Jorge always tries to provide good service to his customers and watches out for them. On several different occasions he has turned in a cell phone, a wallet and an envelope containing money that he found on the road while doing his route. In 1996, Jorge and his wife became US citizens and they were both honored in the November City Council meeting. Jorge is a very dedicated employee working hard for Cache County. Thanks Jorge for all your hard work and dedication.



Congratulations to Ivan Soroka who will receive his 10 year service award in July. Ivan started working for the Solid Waste Department on July 27, 1993 as an equipment operator. He was trained to operate one of the commercial collection roll-off trucks and has been a roll-off driver ever since. He is a very skilled operator and has an excellent safety record. Ivan often goes out of his way to take care of his customers and is on a first name basis with many of those on his commercial routes. Ivan

has a great sense of humor and his coworkers say he is easy to work with. Ivan is just one of those guys who quietly goes about doing his job day in and day out. Thanks Ivan for all you do for Cache County.

Congratulations to Charles Martineau who earned \$500



from Mayor Thompson for his idea and design of the new standardized forms for reporting accidents. Charles submitted his idea to Logan City through the employee IDEA (Innovative Development through Employee Awareness) Program. This program was created by the City of Logan to encourage employees to develop ideas which will help save the City money. Charles' new accident report data base design will help the City's Safety Department track individual accidents, equipment, and employees better. The new safety forms will be easier for drivers to fill out and will save time and money for Logan City. Thanks Charles for your innovative design and your dedication to help make the City of Logan run a little more efficient.

## Recycling Contamination: A Tricky Problem

By Carl Francis, Recycling Coordinator

Almost every day on his way home from school, Chad Higbee rides his bike to the Nibley recycle drop-site to check for contamination that needs to be cleaned up. Chad and his father Kelly are the drop-site monitors for the Nibley drop-site and are trying to help keep this site clean for the public to use. You may have read in the paper about some of the contamination problems at the Nibley drop-site. Well the truth of the matter is that contamination is a problem at every drop-site and for all of the recycling programs in the country.

The tricky thing about recycling is knowing what is appropriate to recycle and what is not. The extent of my recycling knowledge as a youngster was that aluminum could bring you a pocket full of change, and if you smashed the cans you could fit more in your bag. Now that I am older and hopefully a little wiser, I am trying to save landfill space, natural resources, energy, and money by recycling a wide variety of materials. Putting the appropriate stuff in the appropriate recycling bin can be confusing when there are hundreds of different kinds of plastic and dozens of different paper types. It's easy to get confused and put something that doesn't belong in the recycling bins. When this happens we call this contamination. Contamination can decrease the value of the recycla-

ble material, and after enough contamination the recyclables will have the same worth as garbage.

The best thing to do of course is to become informed about recycling so that you no longer have to feel confused. The first place to start would be to read the information on the recycling bins. Make sure that you read the small print. This will help clarify what is and what is not appropriate for the bin. If you still have questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 716-9794 or 716-9792. Most importantly however, if you can't reach us and you still have questions about an item please just throw it away. It is better to put that one item in the landfill than to have it cause problems for all of the good recyclables. If you see someone using a recycling drop-site for their personal dump please try to get their license plate number and description and call the Environmental Division at 716-9753. If you contaminate bins just because you can, well, shame on you. We've got people watching you.

For more information about contamination or to report an illegal dump, please call us at 716-9753 or call the Logan Police at 716-9400 or the Sheriff's Office at 753-7555. ♻️



Chad and Kelly Higbee, Drop-site monitors for Nibley.



## FREE Tours of the Landfill!

By Dr. Garbology, RTFOU

The Environmental Division began an educational program in Cache County to help educate citizens about some of the environmental issues and practices within our community. Through this program we have visited many of the 3rd and 5th grade classrooms in Logan and Cache School Districts to talk about Air Quality, Recycling and Composting. This community to schools program has been well received by many of the teachers "These presentations are fabulous ... they help change attitudes" said Sue Fredrickson, teacher at Wellsville

Elementary "I learned a lot and the kids loved it."

Along with this community to schools program the Environmental Division also offers free landfill tours to special groups such as the Cub Scouts, Home School groups, University and High School classes and various other church groups and organizations. These landfill tours are designed to educate the public about the Landfill, Recycling and also takes a special tour of the Green Waste facility showing how compost and wood chips are made.

To help with this education program, the Environmental Division

has designed an interactive display board with more information for the public. This display can be seen at different events such as the Cache County Fair, the Gardner's Market and the Bear River Celebration. So watch out this summer for the recycling display to win great prizes such as wood chips, home recycle bins and T-shirts.

For more information about our education program or to schedule a Summer Landfill tour, please contact us at 716-9792 or by email at [recycle@loganutah.org](mailto:recycle@loganutah.org).



Recycling Specialist Shalayne Merrill and Recycling Coordinator Carl Francis at the USU Earth Day event last April.

## Household Hazardous Waste

By Dr. Garbology, RTFOU

What should I do with my Household Hazardous Waste? A question the attendants at the Logan Landfill get asked quite frequently. Many are surprised to find that The Logan Landfill will accept your Household Hazardous Waste for no charge. These materials are accepted year round in a designated area at the Landfill.

Household Hazardous Waste includes items such as paint, used oil, antifreeze, paint thinners, wood polish, pool chemicals, pesticides/herbicides, contaminated gasoline, vehicle batteries, and any household product with the

words **Caution, Warning, or Poison** on the label. Because of the hazardous chemicals in these products, these materials must be separated from your regular refuse, they cannot be disposed of in your black refuse containers and cannot be dumped into the Landfill. Please bring these products to the Logan Landfill located at 200 West 1400 North in Logan. Remember to let the Scale House Attendants know what type and how much Hazardous Waste you have. There is no charge for this service.

When disposing of materials at the landfill, we would like to re-

mind you that the Landfill can only accept up to 5 gallons of used oil per day, per person and tires have a special handling fee. All Refrigerators must be tagged signifying the freon has been removed, however, the Landfill will accept your refrigerators for a special fee of \$30 to have the freon removed for you. Please also remember that all loads taken to the landfill must be tarped or covered. There is a \$10 charge for all uncovered loads.

For questions about Household Hazardous Waste please contact the Logan Landfill at 750-9981.



## Safety Training

By Eric Dodson  
Environmental Engineer

Each year the City of Logan Environmental Division employees go through a variety of training programs. A recent training meeting involved Mark Sorenson, City Attorney, and Scott Douglas the Safety Manager. Sorenson wore his traditional yellow safety shirt accompanied by a hard hat to show his dedication to safety.

This training meeting was centered around safe driving maneuvers in City Vehicles. A large portion of vehicles in the Environmental Division are Heavy Equipment vehicles and Garbage Trucks. Sorenson emphasized backing maneuvers for the Drivers

and he mentioned how easy it is to back over something or someone, even when you have used your mirrors and believe your blind spots are clear.

Sorenson discussed some of the different practices some private industry drivers use to lower or eliminate accidents caused by backing. One company places orange cones behind the rear right corner of their vehicle every time they park. This action forces the driver to walk around their truck and retrieve the cone. During this walk-around, the driver can look around their vehicle and assess the situation for any possible danger. Sorenson also mentioned how a seemingly harmless situation can become a dangerous situation in a

short amount of time if safety measures are not always followed.

Sorenson's main message was to always assess the risks involved for all your driving actions and make the appropriate decisions to minimize those risks. Douglas also reemphasized the importance of walking around your truck and driving safely. He also stated that our drivers already use good safety measures we just want to continue to improve.



Equipment Operator Darrell Johnson as he backs up while driving one of the Bin Trucks.

City of Logan Environmental Division  
950 West 600 North  
Logan, UT. 84321

Phone: 435-716-9753  
Fax: 435-716-9601  
Email: recycle@loganutah.org

Visit us on the Web:  
[www.cvcleanteam.org](http://www.cvcleanteam.org)



## GREEN WASTE FACILITY

200 North 1400 West in Logan 750-9981

Green Waste materials accepted:  
Grass clippings, branches, shrubs, leaves,  
hay & straw and Garden Waste.

Products available for sale at the Green Waste Facility:

Compost	\$15.00/ yard
Premium Mulch	\$10.00/ yard
Medium Mulch	\$7.00/ yard
Fine Screen Mulch	\$7.00/ yard
Evergreen Mulch	\$7.00/ yard
Coarse Mulch	\$3.00/ yard
Pallet Wood Chips	\$3.00/ yard
Firewood	\$5.00/ Cord

A full size pickup truck will hold 2 yards.

## Lawns & God

**GOD:** St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the USA? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles and tuft I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

**ST. FRANCIS:** It's the tribes that settled there Lord, the Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers weeds and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

**GOD:** Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with tem-

peratures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

**GOD:** The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

**GOD:** They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Not exactly Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

**GOD:** They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

**ST. FRANCIS:** No, sir -- just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

**GOD:** Now, let me get this straight.

They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Yes, sir.

**GOD:** These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

**GOD:** What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You'd better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled

away.

**GOD:** No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

**ST. FRANCIS:** After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

**GOD:** And where do they get this mulch?

**ST. FRANCIS:** They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

**GOD:** Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

**ST. CATHERINE:** Dumb and Dumber, Lord. It's a real stupid movie about ...

